



Grid West project announces preferred corridor for high capacity power line

- New line will link North Mayo to Flagford in County Roscommon
- €240 million investment for the region
- Narrowed down from 16 options to 1 preferred corridor
- Huge levels of public engagement to date
- Next step: further consultation and locating a line route within the chosen 1km wide corridor

Today, 7th October, EirGrid announced the emerging preferred route corridor for the Grid West project. The chosen 1km wide corridor, which will accommodate a new power line, starts north west of Moygownagh, runs west of Ballina, east of Foxford and Swinford, south of Charlestown and Ballaghaderreen before linking into the existing Flagford substation, near Carrick-on-Shannon.

The €240 million Grid West project will develop a new high capacity power line linking North Mayo to Flagford in County Roscommon. By connecting the electricity generated by the region's huge renewable energy resources, the project will facilitate significant job creation and investment as well as contributing to national recovery and growth. The Grid West project is part of EirGrid's Grid25 plan to upgrade the national grid between now and 2025 to deliver a sustainable, competitive and secure electricity supply to homes, businesses and industries.

Five public open days will be held over the next two weeks along the emerging preferred route corridor. We encourage the public and communities to further engage with the project. EirGrid will then commence engagement with landowners within the corridor to identify a possible line route and substation locations, which will be the subject of further public consultation next year.

The Grid West Project Manager, Sean Meagher said: “This is another important step for the Grid West project as today we have announced the corridor within which we will now seek to locate a new transmission line. During March of this year, we published the Grid West project Stage 1 Report and invited feedback from the public on the different route corridor options. Today we confirm that the option identified as the least constrained corridor in the Stage 1 Report has now become the preferred option. Changes were made to this corridor based on feedback received along with further technical studies, while other feedback will be considered as a line within this corridor is designed over the coming months.

Since May 2012, there have been three rounds of public consultation, an extensive evaluation of the feedback received and consideration of a range of technical, environmental, community and economic factors. A total of 16 route corridor options were studied in the Grid West Study Area, which covers parts of the counties Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo.

EirGrid also announced that there are some changes to the planned substation in the Bellacorick area of North Mayo. The 400kV power line will run from the existing Flagford substation near Carrick-on-Shannon to a proposed new substation in North Mayo, approximately 2.5km north west of Moygownagh. The connection of this new substation to the existing regional 110kV network will now be subject to further technical studies and subsequent consultation once the studies have been completed.

Sean Meagher explained: “The next steps in the project will involve EirGrid contacting landowners within the emerging preferred route corridor to commence land surveys. Following this consultation with landowners and further technical work, EirGrid will set out an indicative line route and substation and tower locations within the emerging preferred corridor in the next report, the Stage 2 Report, in the middle of 2014. This report will then be presented for further consultation with the public.”

Sean Meagher emphasised that no decision regarding the final route has been made. EirGrid asks the public and communities to view the work which has been carried out and share their views with the Grid West project team.

Five open days will be held from 1pm - 8pm along the corridor route (see details below) at which the public can meet the project team and view the work which has been done.

- Wednesday 16th October – Moygownagh Community Hall
- Thursday 17th October – The BMW Assembly, Ballaghaderreen
- Tuesday 22nd October – The Gateway Hotel, Swinford
- Wednesday 23rd October – The Mayfly Hotel, Foxford
- Thursday 24th October – The Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon

Full details of the emerging preferred route corridor and substation locations can be accessed on the dedicated Grid West project website www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridwest.

Ends

7th October 2013