



EirGrid Report Identifies Route Corridor Options for the Grid Link Project

New Power Line to Facilitate Job Creation and Investment in the South and East

Tuesday 3rd September 2013: EirGrid today published a significant report on the Grid Link Project identifying a number of feasible 1km wide route corridor options for a new 400kV overhead power line linking Leinster and Munster.

The publication of the Stage 1 Report coincides with the beginning of a twelve week public consultation period and members of the public are encouraged to provide feedback on the report to EirGrid by 26th November 2013. The report containing the route corridor options is available to download at www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridlink and is on view at the Grid Link Project Information Centres in Carlow, Carrick-on-Suir, Kilcullen, Middleton and New Ross. Members of the public are invited to attend upcoming Open Days in their area to discuss the project with the team.

The €500 million Grid Link Project will connect substations in Knockraha in Cork to Dunstown near Kilcullen in Kildare via Great Island in Wexford ensuring a reliable and high quality electricity supply for the homes, farms and businesses in the region for the future.

John Lowry, the Grid Link Project Manager, commented "The Stage 1 Report is an important milestone for the project team and is the culmination of months of work to identify the route corridor options which was helped by the public's input to date. The Grid Link Project will provide a platform for economic growth and job creation in the south and east. A region with a high quality, secure supply of electricity is best placed to attract inward investment that will bring employment and prosperity. EirGrid encourages participation from all interested parties in this public consultation and welcomes feedback to inform the next stage of the project."

Feedback gathered from the first and second consultations, as well as desktop studies and expert input, all fed into the completion of the Stage 1 Report, which identifies a number of route corridor options and substation zones. Feedback from this third consultation will help the project team in identifying a 'least constrained' corridor. The least constrained corridor is considered to be the corridor which best avoids social, environmental, technical and other constraints. In further stages of the project EirGrid will continue to consult with and provide

information to members of the public and other stakeholders. A planning application for the identified route will not take place before 2015.

People can contact the project in a number of ways:

- Twelve Open Days will be held in counties Carlow, Cork, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow during September and October at which the public can meet the project team, view the potential route corridors and provide feedback.

(Full details of these Open Days are contained below.)

See www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridlink for further information.

- For written feedback or queries the public can contact The Grid Link Project Manager, EirGrid, PO Box 12213, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland or email gridlink@eirgrid.com
- To receive SMS updates on the Grid Link Project, text Grid Link to 51444. For updates in your area, text Grid Link and the name of your county (e.g. Grid Link Carlow) to 51444 (standard SMS rates apply).
- Grid Link Project Information Centres will be open in Middleton, Co. Cork and Kilcullen, Co. Kildare each Monday; Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary each Tuesday; New Ross, Co. Wexford on Wednesday and Carlow town on Thursday. Office opening hours are 12noon - 6pm (Not open on bank holidays).

ENDS.

For further information: Dan O'Boyle (085) 7216283

Notes to Editor

The Grid Link Project is a key element of EirGrid's Grid25 strategy - a €3.2 billion investment in developing and upgrading Ireland's electricity transmission grid.

The Grid Link Project will:

- Help secure a future electricity supply for homes, businesses, farms, factories and communities in Leinster and Munster.
- Provide a platform for economic growth and job creation in the south and east of Ireland.
- Help Ireland to meet its 40% renewable electricity target.

Open Days will take place as follows:

September 2013

Wednesday 11th	Kildare - Kilcullen Heritage Centre	1pm – 8pm
Thursday 12th	Wexford - Campile Parochial Centre	6pm – 10pm
Friday 13th	Kilkenny - Springhill Court Hotel	1pm – 8pm
Monday 16th	Cork - Knockraha Community Hall	6pm – 10pm
Tuesday 17th	Waterford - Dungarvan Park Hotel	1pm – 8pm
Wednesday 18th	Tipperary - Clonmel Park Hotel	1pm – 8pm
Thursday 19th	Carlow - Step House Hotel, Borris	1pm – 8pm
Friday 20th	Wexford - Millrace Hotel, Bunclody	1pm – 8pm
Monday 30th	Waterford - Granville Hotel, Waterford City	1pm – 8pm

October 2013

Tuesday 1st	Cork - Corrin Hill Mart, Fermoy	1pm – 8pm
Wednesday 2nd	Laois/Carlow - Talbot Hotel, Carlow	1pm – 8pm
Thursday 3rd	Wicklow - Germaine's of Baltinglass	1pm – 8pm

Consultation to date:

The Grid Link Project was launched by Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte, T.D. in April 2012 and public consultation has been underway since then. Reports on focused stages of public consultation on the study area and constraints mapping can be viewed at: www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridlink