

The Grid West Project

Guide to Stage 1 Lead Consultant's Report

March 2013

TOBIN CONSULTING ENGINEERS



What is the Stage 1 Report?

As part of the Grid25 strategy to develop the Irish electricity transmission network, EirGrid proposes to install a new high voltage electricity transmission line from the Bellacorick area of County Mayo to connect to the existing national grid, at either the existing Flagford substation in County Roscommon, or the existing Cashla substation in County Galway.

The Stage 1 Lead Consultant's Report is the output of the first Stage of EirGrid's Project Development and Consultation Roadmap - Information Gathering (see Roadmap below). It presents the evaluation by EirGrid's consultants of the technical and environmental information gathered by the project team to date. The report identifies a number of potentially feasible route corridor options and substation site options and ultimately, a least constrained route corridor and substation site. The report includes details of the evaluation process used to identify feasible and least constrained corridors and substation sites. It also describes the public consultation which contributed to various elements of the Stage 1 work.

The Stage 1 Report is being published and made available widely to stakeholders including the public, communities as well as statutory and non statutory agencies. The project team is seeking to engage with all stakeholders to discuss the report and ensure that any views and observations received will be taken into consideration in Stage 2 of the project, where the emerging preferred route corridor is identified.

How is the report laid out?

Volume 1

Chapter 1 – sets out the purpose of the report, overviews the need for the Grid West project and explains how it fits within EirGrid's Grid25 strategy and its roadmap for project development and consultation.

Chapter 2 - sets out key national, regional and local policy, legislative and planning frameworks within which the project is being developed.

Chapter 3 – summarises a number of the founding reports (Technical and Electric and Magnetic Fields) on which the project has been based.

Chapter 4 – explains the rationale for the selection of the study area within which the Grid West project is sited. It also describes how the first round of public consultation on the project was undertaken and the feedback received.

Chapter 5 – describes how a Constraints Report on the project was compiled - lists the constraints categories, explains how the information was gathered and the main findings for each constraint. It also describes how the second round of public consultation on the project was undertaken and the feedback received.

Chapter 6 – presents and evaluates the information gathered to date, including the technical and environmental studies and sets out how these studies were used to support identification of a number of potentially feasible route corridor options.

Chapter 7 – presents and evaluates the information gathered to date, including the technical and environmental studies and sets out how these studies were used to support identification of a number of potentially feasible substation sites.

Chapter 8 – sets out the Lead Consultant's recommendations for the least constrained route corridor and substation site.

Chapter 9 – details reports previously published and referenced in the report.

Volume 2

Contains detailed maps of the study area and the route corridor and substation site options.

Volume 3

Contains a number of appendices. In order to allow readers of the report to focus on the key issues, a significant amount of more detailed and technical information has been placed in appendices. For the most comprehensive understanding of the report and the issues covered it is recommended that readers refer to the appendices, where appropriate.

Where can I view the report?

The Stage 1 Report is available on the project's dedicated website

www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridwest

Copies of the report and maps are available at the Grid West Information Centre at Linenhall Street, Castlebar and will also be available at open days held throughout the region.

Can the public comment on the Stage 1 Report?

Yes. EirGrid is asking the public, communities and all stakeholders to engage with the project, to view the work which has been carried out to date and to share their views with the project team. No decisions regarding the final corridor or route have been made about the project. Feedback on all the indicative corridors and substation sites is very important at this stage and it can influence the next step in the project which is the identification of a preferred corridor for this new development. EirGrid welcomes comments and questions on any aspect of the report.

Lead Consultant's Stage 1 Report

Volume 1 Stage 1 Report	Chapter 1 Introduction	Chapter 2 Strategic Planning Context	Chapter 3 Technical Founding Report	Chapter 4 Study Area	Chapter 5 Constraints	Chapter 6 Route Corridor Identification, Description and Evaluation	Chapter 7 Substation Site Identification, Description and Evaluation	Chapter 8 Lead Consultants Recommendations
Volume 2 Mapping				Figure 4.1 Study Area	Figure 5.1 Constraints Within Study Area	Figure 6.1 Heat Mapping of the Study Area		Figure 8.1 Route Corridor Options with Study Areas
					Figure 6.2 Heat Mapping of the Study Area with Route Corridor Options			Figure 8.2 Bellacorick Route Corridor Options with Substation Study Area
Volume 3 Appendices								Figure 8.3 Bellacorick Route Corridor Options with Substation Study Area and Constraints
								Figure 8.4 Cashla Route Corridor Options with Substation Study Area
								Figure 8.5 Cashla Route Corridor Options with Substation Study Area and Constraints
								Figure 8.6 Flagford Route Corridor Options with Substation Study Area
								Figure 8.7 Flagford Route Corridor Options with Substation Study Area and Constraints
								Figure 8.8 Route Corridor Options and Substation Study Areas with the Least Constrained Route Corridor
			Appendix 3.1 Grid West Initial Technical Studies' Report	Appendix 4.1 Report and Feedback on First Round of Public Consultation	Appendix 5.1 Report and Feedback on Second Round of Public Consultation	Appendix 6.1 Route Corridor and Substation Site Identification and Description	Appendix 7.1 Substation Site Evaluation Report	
			Appendix 3.2 Technical Foundation Report			Appendix 6.2 Route Corridor Evaluation Report		
			Appendix 3.3 Technical Report on Electromagnetic Fields					

Project Development & Consultation Roadmap

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