



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

AN BORD PLEANALA	
Received:	24/08/15
Fee:	€
Receipt No:	

Environmental Health Service
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Ref/ IMcC/CO'D/CMcE

20 August 2015

An Bord Pleanala
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANALA	
TIME _____	BY _____
24 AUG 2015	
LTR DATED _____	FROM _____
PL _____	

Re: Strategic Infrastructure Development – Proposed Electricity Transmission Development:
The North-South 400kV Interconnection Development.

Applicant: EirGrid plc, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Planning Authority: An Bord Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

EHIS Ref: 0334

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed the Health Service Executive consultation report in relation to the above application.

If you have any queries regarding the report, the initial contact is Ms. Claire O'Dwyer, Principal Environmental Health Officer.

The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the above application on 17 June 2015:

- Emergency Planning
- Estates
- Assistant National Director for Health Protection
- CHO Manager



The Environmental Health service response to the application is in the attached consultation report.

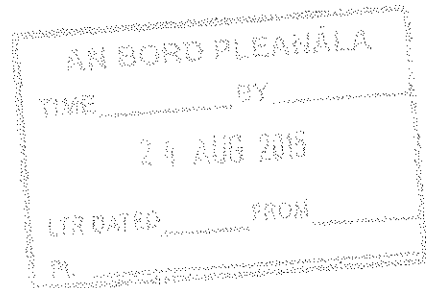
- The assessment is based on an assessment of documentation submitted to this office.
- Environmental Health was included at the Scoping stage of this application.
- All commitments to future actions including mitigation and further testing have been taken as read and all data results have been accepted as accurate.
- No additional investigations / measurements were undertaken.
- This report refers only to those sections of the documents which are relevant to the HSE.

All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report including acknowledgement of this report should be forwarded to Ms. Claire O'Dwyer, Principal Environmental Health Officer.

Yours sincerely,



Claire O'Dwyer
Principal Environmental Health Officer



HSE EIS SUBMISSION REPORT

Environmental Health Service Consultation Report

(as a Statutory Consultee (Planning and Development Acts 2000,
& Regs 2001 made thereunder).

Report to: An Bord Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

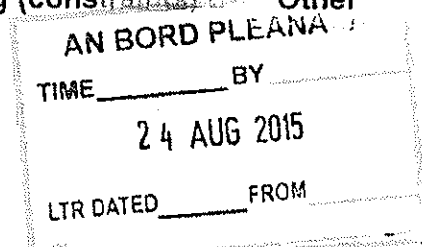
Type of consultation: EIS Scoping Screening (constraints) Other
(please specify) _____

Planning Authority: An Bord Pleanala

EHIS Reference No: 0334

Applicant: EirGrid plc, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Proposed Development: Strategic Infrastructure Development – Proposed
Electricity Transmission Development : The North-South 400kV Interconnection
Development.



This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the proposed development as outlined in this EIS and the adequacy of the EIS from an EH viewpoint. We have made observations and submissions on the following specific Environmental Health areas:

Electromagnetic Fields

A number of papers were reviewed when researching the potential adverse health impacts of exposure to electromagnetic fields. The "Expert Group on Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields, Report 2006" provides science based policy advice to an Irish Interdepartmental Government Committee. The World Health Organisation established the International EMF Project and reports of their findings were reviewed. The EU Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks published a report on potential health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields in 2013 which was also looked at.

Based on the weight of research we are satisfied that as long as the development complies at all times with the international exposure limit guidelines as established

by the International Commission on Non –Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) there will be adequate protection for the public from any Electromagnetic Field Sources.

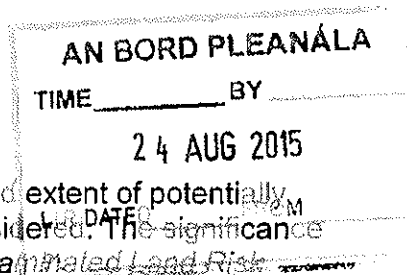
Drinking water Supplies:

It is stated there are no existing public water supplies or inner source protection of public groundwater supply schemes within 200m of a pylon tower therefore there should be no adverse impact on these supplies resulting from the development.

It is hard to locate information on existing private boreholes within the EIS, all information appears to be taken from data from the GSI and is not site specific to the pylon tower locations. **All wells and boreholes in the vicinity of the pylons should be identified prior to construction work commencing on site.**

It is stated it is only the construction phase that has the potential to impact on groundwater resources with a reduction in groundwater levels and deterioration in groundwater quality being identified as the main possible impacts. Any impacts are predicted to be limited to the short period of pumping during construction works – 5-10 days (if piling occurs). As a remedial measure it is stated that "where groundwater is identified within 100m of houses, monitoring and evaluation of groundwater and water levels will be undertaken". **It is recommended that specific details of this proposed monitoring should be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan for approval prior to commencement of construction work. Specific details of mitigation for affected householders should their water supply be adversely affected by the development should also be specified.**

It is recommended that all other mitigation measures proposed to protect the water environment during construction are implemented in full. It is stated that there will be no significant impacts on drinking water supplies associated with the operational phase of the proposed development.



Contaminated land

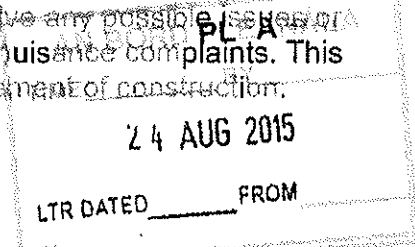
An evaluation was undertaken to determine the presence and extent of potentially contaminated land. Sites within 200m of the route were considered. The significance of potential impacts were evaluated using guidelines in *Contaminated Land Risk Assessment, A Guide to Good Practice (CIRIA 2011)*. No significant potential contamination risk was identified. Mitigation measures are outlined within the EIS of what procedure to follow should contaminated land be unexpectedly encountered. This department has no further concerns once those measures are complied with.

Pest Control

We could not locate within the EIS an assessment of potential pest control issues arising from construction of the development. It is recommended that a rodent control programme be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan to address and alleviate any potential issues arising from construction works.

Complaints Procedure

We could not locate within the EIS any procedure to deal with complaints from members of the public should they arise either during the construction or operational phase. It is recommended that formal complaints procedure should be outlined in the Construction Environmental Management Plan to resolve any possible issues or community concern in relation to traffic, dust, noise or nuisance complaints. This should be agreed and approved prior to the commencement of construction.



Noise

In relation to noise it was noted that it states in the EIS that the study area for the evaluation considers an area in excess of 100m either side of the proposed alignment. The nearest noise sensitive locations are located at least 50m from North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development. Background noise measurements were conducted in line with the British Standard BS4142 *Method of Rating Industrial Noise Affecting Mixed Residential and Industrial Areas* (1997) and the Environmental Protection Agency 2003, *Environmental Noise Guidance Document*.

Assessment of proposed traffic and construction related noise was carried out in accordance with the *International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) ISO 1996: Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise* standards and World Health Organisation's (WHO) *Guidelines for Community Noise* (1999), BS5228 *Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites – Part 1: Noise* (2009), and BS4142 *Method of Rating Industrial Noise Affecting Mixed Residential and Industrial Areas* (1997).

Mitigation measures have been outlined with regard to construction activities. Mitigation measures to be included in the Construction Traffic Management Plan have been outlined. Eirgrid have concluded that during the operational phase it is not expected that noise arising from the proposed development will cause significant noise impact.

Vibration

In relation to vibration it was noted that it states in the EIS that the study area for the evaluation considers an area in excess of 100m either side of the proposed alignment. There is potential for ground vibration due to the construction phase works, this will mainly be derived from excavation and from piling works (in the unlikely event that this is required). Any construction works that have the potential to cause vibration at sensitive receptors will be carried out in accordance with the limit values as specified in the National Roads Authority guidance. Mitigation measures have been outlined with regard to construction activities. Mitigation measures to be included in the Construction Traffic Management Plan have been outlined. It is stated that there will be no significant operational phase vibration impacts associated with the proposed development.