

Our Ref: PCI0001

**Mr. Aidan Geoghegan,
Eirgrid,
The Oval,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.**

29th May, 2015.

Re: North-South Electricity Interconnector/Projects of Common Interest

Dear Mr. Geoghegan,

I refer to the above and the meeting of 25th May, 2015 concerning the North-South Electricity Interconnector project.

Article 10.4(b) of Regulation 347/2013 requires that a detailed schedule for the permit granting process be drawn up in close co-operation between the Competent Authority and the project promoter (EirGrid), in line with the guidelines set out in Annex VI(2) (which requires the specification of the following):

(a) The decisions and opinions to be obtained;

An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Development).

(b) The authorities, stakeholders and the public likely to be concerned;

- Department of Environment Northern Ireland

- Meath County Council
- Cavan County Council
- Monaghan County Council
- An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division).

The "Stakeholders" are defined as in section 7 of the PCI Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures. Your attention is also drawn to the list of prescribed bodies as provided to the prospective applicant at the pre-application consultation by An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Development).

"The Public" is defined as in Article 2 of the (Aarhus) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

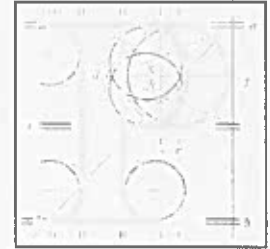
(c) The individual stages of the procedure and their duration;

These are defined as the Pre-application Procedure and the Statutory Permit Granting Procedure as referred to in Article 10 of the Regulation 347/2013. The Pre-application Procedure is intended to be finished in early June 2015. The regulation allows 18 months for the Statutory Permit Granting Procedure, plus an additional 9 months extension to the deadline at the discretion of the Competent Authority. An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) does not envisage at this stage that this additional period permitted by Article 10.2 will be availed of.

(d) Major milestones to be accomplished and their deadlines in view of the comprehensive decision to be taken;

The major milestones identified are as follows:

1. Submission of the Application File to An Bord Pleanála (SID).
2. Public Comments, for a duration of ten weeks subsequent to the lodgement of the application file.
3. It is noted that a possibility for further information being sought by An Bord Pleanála (SID) must be allowed for.
4. There is a working assumption that an oral hearing will be held by An Bord Pleanála (SID).
5. The Strategic Infrastructure Development decision will take in excess of 12 months but is likely to be closer to 16 months in duration.
6. The PCI Comprehensive Decision will be taken within 18 months – An Bord Pleanála (Competent Authority) does not envisage at this stage that the 9 month extension period permitted by Article 10.2 will be availed of.



(e) Resources planned by the authorities and possible additional resource needs;

We have been advised that An Bord Pleanála (SID) has considered this and identified the required resources (Inspectorate and Administrative Support) and has put in place arrangements for the processing of the application.

In accordance with our discussion in the interests of public participation and transparency EirGrid is requested to put a copy of this letter on the North South Interconnector project website.

Yours faithfully,

**Seamus Grant,
Executive Officer,
PCI Unit.**

