

01<sup>st</sup> July 2021

## RE: North Connacht 110 kV Project

Dear Resident,

I am writing to you from EirGrid, the semi-state company that is responsible for developing, managing and operating the electricity transmission system in Ireland (the “grid”).

We are currently developing a project, known as the North Connacht 110 kV Project, that will provide a 110 kV electricity link between Moy substation in Ballina Co. Mayo and Tonroe Substation in Ballaghaderreen Co. Roscommon. The project will involve the laying of an underground cable between these substations.

### Why are we contacting you?

We want to make contact with all stakeholders along the cable route to ensure you are aware of the development, give you an update on the project and inform you of ways you can engage with us.

### The North Connacht 110 kV Project to date:

The North Connacht project has been in development since late 2017. In 2018, having assessed numerous possibilities, we ultimately considered four technology options. These four options included two overhead line (OHL) options and two underground cable (UGC) options - to both Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon and Srananagh, Co. Sligo. The options, all of which involved a connection to the Moy substation in Ballina, were brought to the public for review during the summer of 2018. In early 2019 we concluded that Ballaghaderreen was the optimum destination and we continued to consider both OHL and UGC solutions for the project. In early 2020 we produced seven options (four OHL and three UGC Corridors), to bring to the public for consultation. The Covid- 19 pandemic slowed progress in the early part of 2020; however, we managed to begin our public consultation in September; we concluded this in December last year. Earlier this year we announced that the Emerging Best Performing Option (EBPO) was an underground cable. We hope to announce a Best Performing Option (BPO) in the coming months with a view to seeking planning permission before the end of the year.

### Cable Route

The EBPO, for the most part, utilises the existing road network between Ballina and Ballaghaderreen. This includes local roads and the N5 near Ballaghaderreen, the N26 near Swinford Church Road, the N26 and the N59 near Ballina. The project will involve work at both stations to

**STIÚRTHÓIRÍ:** Brendan Tuohy *Cathaoirleach*

An Dr Theresa Donaldson *Leaschathaoirleach* • Mark Foley *Príomhfheidhmeannach*

Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Lynne Crowther, Michael Hand, Eileen Maher

Liam O'Halloran, John Trethowan • Martin Corrigan *Rúnaí Cuideachta*

*Seoladh Cláraithe:* EirGrid cpt, An tUbhchruth, 160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28, Éire • *Uimhir Chláraithe na Cuideachta No. 338522*

**DIRECTORS:** Brendan Tuohy *Chair*

Dr Theresa Donaldson *Deputy Chair* • Mark Foley *Chief Executive*

Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Lynne Crowther, Michael Hand, Eileen Maher

Liam O'Halloran, John Trethowan • Martin Corrigan *Company Secretary*

*Registered Address:* EirGrid Plc, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28, Ireland • *Company Registration No. 338522*

facilitate the connection of the proposed underground cable, however both stations will not increase in voltage – they will remain 110 kV stations. Every 650-750 meters we will have a joint bay, where the cable is pulled after the ducts have been laid. The attached map below shows here the areas we are currently reviewing. You will see from the map, there are many pinch points along the route, and while it is our preference to install cable in the public road, in some instances, it is necessary to route the cable through private land.

#### **Project Next Steps:**

- In-line with Covid-19 restrictions, members of our liaison team will be out engaging with landowners and stakeholders along the route of the proposed cable.
- EirGrid will confirm the BPO later this summer, which we will in-turn bring the BPO forward to the planning stage.
- Subject to planning being granted for the project, construction is expected to commence in 2023.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement:**

Due to on-going Covid 19 restrictions we will continue to use an online platform to provide key project updates and engage with all stakeholders and members of the community. We are hosting 2 online webinars via zoom platform, which will give a project update on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of July at 7pm or Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 1.30pm. To register to attend please email [NorthConnachtProject@Eirgrid.com](mailto:NorthConnachtProject@Eirgrid.com)

When the BPO is finalised, we welcome you to attend the following:

- A series of webinars – which will provide a project update
- Online virtual exhibition of the projects BPO
- An online clinic where the project team can address any queries you may have.
- We will also be hosting an information evening to update you of the planned community forum and community benefit for this project.

When dates and times for these events are confirmed we will advertise via local press, media, project website and via the project mailing list.

#### **Community forum and community benefit:**

The Community Fund recognises the importance of the local communities who support our work. Under this initiative, we create a fund in proportion to the scale of the project. We intend to deliver a community fund at the same time as the construction programme.

The Community Forum will bring together people and organisations across the project area so that stakeholder and community views can be discussed, understood and properly considered during

project delivery. This community forum will create the opportunity for dialogue between stakeholders with diverse and direct interest in the project and the EirGrid project team. Members will be invited to input on the design and implementation of the Community Benefit Fund.

**Keep in touch:**

If you have any questions or queries regarding the projects development, construction or timelines, etc. our liaison team are available to meet with you. See contact details below.

To receive regular updates on the project and information on our next webinars please join our mailing list by emailing the North Connacht project inbox at [NorthConnachtProject@Eirgrid.com](mailto:NorthConnachtProject@Eirgrid.com).

All up-to-date documentation, including reports, brochures, maps, etc., are available at <https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/north-connacht/the-project/>

An interactive map of the study area, which recognises eircodes can additionally be found here - <https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/north-connacht/related-documents/>

We look forward to engaging with you as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely,

*Jason Kenna*

---

Jason Kenna

Project Manager

**North Connacht 110 kV Project**



**Agricultural Liaison Officer**  
**Aidan Naughton**  
**086 172 0156**



**Community Liaison Officer**  
**Eoghan O' Sullivan**  
**087 247 7732**

Map of the area:

