



# **Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) Guidance Document**

**January 2023**

# 1. Introduction

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Our Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) is simply the most ambitious programme of works ever undertaken on the transmission system in Ireland. The Q4-22 NDP includes 357 projects for completion from now until 2030, which will connect significant volumes of offshore and onshore wind, solar and conventional generation. This work will also reinforce the power system and implement Shaping Our Electricity Future to support the future economic and social development of our country.

EirGrid is required to publish quarterly updates on the progress of all its transmission infrastructure projects as set out in CRU/20/154, the CRU's PR5 Regulatory Framework, Incentives and Reporting Decision Paper. Publication of the NDP forms part of our enhanced reporting obligation under the regulators decision CRU/20/154. Project dates and timelines provided in the NDP are based on an unconstrained scenario and are, therefore, indicative in nature and subject to change for a variety of reasons. EirGrid is focused on completing reinforcements which give us most benefit and have the highest degree of deliverability.

The objective of the NDP is to deliver on the [EirGrid Group Strategy](#) to transform the power system by 2030 in accordance with the [Climate Action Plan 2023](#). We do this by providing a clear and transparent programme over multiple years which maximises the amount of project related work that can take place to reinforce the system, connect customers and ensure the required level of maintenance of the transmission system while ensuring a safe and secure system.

## 2. EirGrid's Role

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EirGrid, in its role as Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland, is responsible for operating, planning and developing Ireland's electricity transmission grid.

Within the context of the NDP, our focus is on completing reinforcements which give the country the most benefit while also having the highest degree of deliverability. In addition we aim to deliver demand and renewable customer connections which support economic and social development while meeting government targets.

## 3. Purpose of NDP

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The NDP publication provides a quarterly status update on 3 key milestones, EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB and Energisation for ca. 350 projects. From September 2022, ATR system reinforcement updates will be contained in EirGrid's NDP. Generator customers will continue to receive direct ATR related communications from their System Operator, should the need arise. The ATR projects are identified using a double asterisk (\*\*).

## 4. Key Challenges and Dependencies

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There are significant challenges associated with delivering complex infrastructure projects. For clarity and transparency we set out here a number of key challenges and dependencies which have the potential to impact on the delivery of NDP. EirGrid continues to engage with all stakeholders and customers to maximise the delivery of grid infrastructure while minimising the impact of challenges.

### Transmission Outages

The majority of system reinforcements and customer connections to the transmission system require an outage to complete the work and energise the equipment. The duration of these outages varies depending on the project. In practice this means that outages are required to connect the Onshore and Offshore Wind, Solar, System Reinforcements, Conventional Generators and Demand Customers up to 2030 and beyond.

TOP23 will be published in early February 2023. There is a risk that a number of project schedules will change due to outage constraints. Final TOP23 analysis is currently underway therefore additional information will not be available prior to publication.

The sequencing and delivery of electricity transmission infrastructure is very complex as it involves incorporating multiple interacting outages, where prioritisation decisions may be required. EirGrid has published an [Outage Prioritisation guidance document](#) which sets out the general basis employed by EirGrid in fulfilling this statutory mandate. The approach to the provision of outages must be completed in accordance with the [Operating Security Standards](#) (OSS). All outages are scheduled on the basis that the OSS are not breached for any outage or combination of outages which may be required to complete specific projects.

The delivery and completion of NDP is dependent in part upon the provision of outages. The Energisation timelines provided in NDP are therefore subject to change where the underlying circumstances change. When deciding on outage prioritisation, EirGrid will consider and seek to balance its licence and statutory obligations with customers' requirements, cognisant of security of supply issues, the need to transform the power system, our Climate Action Plan targets and other relevant factors. Priority has been given to works that align with delivering on our EirGrid Group Strategy to transform the power system by 2030.

### **NDP Timelines**

Project dates and timelines provided in the Network Delivery Portfolio are based on an unconstrained scenario and are, therefore, indicative in nature and subject to change for a variety of reasons. EirGrid is focused on completing reinforcements which give us most benefit and have the highest degree of deliverability.

Customer connection programmes are provided to us by our customers and incorporated into the NDP. Customer timelines are also subject to change for a variety of reasons, and we are focused on working with our customers to deliver demand and renewable connections which support economic and social development while meeting government targets.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Consents**

The development of projects in the NDP is subject to standard statutory and regulatory approval and consents. In developing the NDP EirGrid has used its experience and judgement to forecast project timelines. The Completion of our projects to these timelines is subject to our projects receiving the necessary statutory approvals and consents required to proceed.