



EIRGRID INFORMATION IN RELATION TO TWO PROPOSED OVERHEAD POWER LINES

A number of questions have been raised with us about the proposed 400kV power line projects from Woodland to Kingscourt, and from Cavan to Tyrone. EirGrid is currently undertaking a consultation process on a number of possible routes, with a view to lodging a planning application in 2008.

There may be incorrect information in circulation in relation to these projects and EirGrid wishes to clarify a number of points:

- We wish to emphasise that EirGrid has not already applied for planning permission for any portion of these projects. A preferred route for each project will be chosen in early 2008. Public consultation will continue on these projects until planning applications are made later in 2008 to the independent planning authorities, who will in turn examine all issues.
- It has been stated that other countries in Europe do not use overhead lines or have banned overhead lines. This is not the case. Overhead lines are the main form of electricity transmission in Europe and approximately 97% of all electricity transmission in Europe is overhead lines.
- It has been stated that the voltage at which these lines will operate is unprecedented in Ireland and would be the highest voltage level in Europe. In fact there are 439km of 400kV lines operating in Ireland for over twenty years. Internationally transmission lines at 700kV are in use in a number of countries.
- EirGrid aims to build the power lines a minimum distance of 50 to 60 metres from existing dwellings to the centre of the line and not 25 m as has been claimed. In many cases the distance will be much greater than 50 to 60 metres.
- No time restrictions exist for employees working in the vicinity of overhead lines. The EirGrid network is designed and operated in compliance with international and EU guidelines for EMF exposure.
- No plans for any EU Directive banning overhead line construction have been announced or proposed by the European Commission, to our knowledge.

The overhead power line projects will bring economic benefits to counties Meath, Monaghan and Cavan. The lines involve an investment of over €200 million and will facilitate more competitive and reliable power, servicing all customers – household, farming, commercial and industrial. The proposed new lines will play a major role in keeping the north east region on a level playing field in its ability to attract and retain high tech industries. EirGrid would encourage people who have questions to contact us. You can do so in a number of ways:

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