

PROPOSED MULLINGAR ELECTRICITY REINFORCEMENT SCHEME PUBLIC CONSULTATION

EirGrid is the state-owned independent electricity Transmission System Operator and Market Operator in Ireland. It is EirGrid's role to develop quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system.

It is in this capacity that EirGrid is proposing this Mullingar electricity reinforcement. This project is essential for underpinning the region's security of supply.

The proposed new transmission infrastructure will consist of a new 110 kV circuit from:

- The existing Mullingar 110 kV substation in Irishtown, County Westmeath;
- To either the existing Derryiron 110 kV substation in Rhode, County Offaly, or to the existing Kinnegad 110 kV substation at Killaskillen townland in County Meath.

This stage in the planning process is to identify any existing constraints within the study area that could affect route selection. This will result in a 'Constraints Map.' We are now seeking public input into this stage by way of comments, information, submissions or queries. The input into the constraints will allow us to proceed to the next stage in the process which is to identify potential route corridors within the study area.

It is anticipated that a planning application will be lodged with the relevant planning authority in late 2010.

You are now invited to view the study area and additional information at our website www.eirgrid.com and any submissions, comments, information or queries on the stage 1 constraints consultation should be made through the following communications channels before **Friday the 8th of January**.

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