

North-South 400kV Interconnection Development Project Activity – 2012

July 2012

On 18 July 2012 the Minister for Energy published a memorandum on security of energy supply. The memorandum was approved by Government as a formal Government Policy Statement on 17 July 2012. It can be accessed here - [Energy Infrastructure Policy Statement](#).

The publication of the Policy Statement concluded the independent review of the North – South Interconnector project that had been initiated by the Minister twelve months previously. The headline message from the Minister to EirGrid, in the press release announcing the publication of the Government policy statement is that the “North South Interconnector Project should return to planning as soon as possible”.

June 2012

On 14 June 2012 the Joint Oireachtas Committee (JOC) responsible for Energy matters published a report which summarised the feedback received during its consultation process that had commenced in February 2012. The report of the JOC can be accessed here [Report on Meath Tyrone Interconnector 2012](#) .

Following publication of the JOC report EirGrid wrote to the Committee to provide some comments on matters raised in the report. A copy of that letter can be viewed here – [EirGrid’s letter of 10 July 2012 to JOC](#)

March 2012

On 5th March 2012 EirGrid attended a meeting of Monaghan County Council, at the invitation of the elected members, and presented its position on the report by the Government appointed International Expert Commission that was published in January 2012. [Presentation to Monaghan Co. Council](#)

February 2012

Consultation with interested parties, on the findings of the International Expert Commission, was carried out by the Joint Oireachtas Committee (JOC) responsible for Energy matters at the request of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The consultation consisted of two JOC meetings held on the 21st and 29th February 2012 respectively, both of which were open to the public.

The members of the JOC, other interested members of the Oireachtas, EirGrid, ESB and representatives of community based groups attended and spoke at the first meeting. EirGrid gave a presentation on its position regarding the report of the IEC at the meeting. A full transcript of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

A copy of the information pack that was provided to the JOC by EirGrid in advance of the meeting of 21 February 2012 can be accessed through the links below:

[EirGrid Statement for JOC](#)

EirGrid Pres for JOC

EirGrid Note to JOC

Following the meeting EirGrid provided the JOC with some further clarifications on matters raised at the meeting. Clarifications for JOC

The JOC meeting of 29 February 2012 was between officials from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, JOC members and other interested members of the Oireachtas. The transcript of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

January 2012

On 17 January 2012 the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Mr. Pat Rabbitte published the report by the International Expert Commission (IEC). A copy of the Report can be viewed [here](#).

When publishing the IEC Report the Minister announced, in the associated press release, that after “a brief period of consultation I will revert to Government with a memorandum on Security of Energy Supply, to which Eirgrid and the planning process will have regard”.

It was clear from the Minister’s announcement that his Memorandum was going to be a statement of Government policy and that it would have important implications for the development of the proposed North South Interconnector as well as the wider national grid.