

North-South 400kV Interconnection Development Project Activity - 2014

December 2014

On 16th December 2014 ABP informed EirGrid that it has reviewed the DAF and that certain specified missing information is required to be submitted. Further this request for missing information does not preclude ABP from seeking additional or further information should this be deemed necessary during the Strategic Infrastructure Development planning process.

The project website was updated on 23rd of December 2014 and a record of the content at that time can be found in the project summary report of same date.

November 2014

On 07th November 2014 EirGrid submitted its draft application file (DAF) to the competent authority (ABP) for review. This is administrative and does not involve ABP making any judgment as to the merits of the application. Instead its purpose is to allow the competent authority to assess the extent of the information provided in the DAF and, as set out in the Regulation, request any "missing information" that it deems necessary.

October 2014

On 13th October 2014 ABP identified to EirGrid by letter the scope of material and level of detail of information to be submitted by EirGrid as part of the application file. This followed the submission by EirGrid, at ABP's invitation, of EirGrid's proposal on these matters.

September 2014

In accordance with the Regulation EirGrid submitted a Concept for Public Participation (CPP) to ABP. On 10th September 2014 ABP notified EirGrid by letter that it had modified the concept. The modification requires that EirGrid publish an information leaflet in relation to the project and the PCI process and place an advertisement in national newspapers notifying the public of the publication of the leaflet.

July 2014

The community updated brochure published in July 2014 can be accessed here: [Community Update Brochure - July 2014](#).

In July 2014 the Independent Expert Panel (IEP), which is made up of Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, Chairperson, Professor Keith Bell, Professor John Fitzgerald, Dr Karen Foley and Mr Colm McCarthy, provided its opinion on "the compatibility of the methodologies to be employed on the GL and GW projects with what has already been done on the North South Transmission Line project". The IEP is of the opinion that the work completed to date on the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development is compatible with the Terms of Reference that they have specified for the Grid West and Grid Link projects. This opinion has been published by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Following a decision by ABP that the portion of the North-South project within the Republic of Ireland does not fall within the transitional provisions of the PCI regulation, EirGrid commenced engagement

with ABP in accordance with the "Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures" for Projects of Common Interest (PCI). The PCI Pre-application Process commenced on 02nd July 2014.

On July 31st EirGrid submitted a Concept for Public Participation report as part of this engagement. The objective of this report was to present to ABP, as the Competent Authority, the consultation carried out on this project to date as well as proposing a plan for future consultation

May 2014

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as the designated competent authority for PCI projects in Ireland published a "Manual of Permit Granting Process Procedures" for PCIs. The Manual was published on 15 May 2014. ABP also considered whether or not the "transitional provisions" of the European PCI regulation should apply to the North-South project. Under the PCI regulation, the transitional provisions would apply to projects where an application file has been submitted before 16 November 2013.

Having considered the history and complexity of the North-South project, submitted and withdrawn in Ireland and currently within the planning process in Northern Ireland, ABP decided that the portion of the North-South project within the Republic of Ireland does not fall within the transitional provisions of the PCI regulation and so the provisions of Chapter III relating to the Permit Granting and Public Participation, apply.

January 2014

In January 2014 the Government appointed an Independent Expert Panel (IEP) to oversee and facilitate a "comparative analysis of underground and overhead alternatives for the Grid West and Grid Link projects." In addition, the IEP was tasked with providing an opinion to the Minister for Energy on "the compatibility of the methodologies to be employed on the GL and GW projects with what has already been done on the North South Transmission Line project".