

Solar Farm Clearances to Transmission Overhead Lines

Interim Approach

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Interim Approach

There is an increasing requirement to consider the placement of photovoltaic panels/solar farms directly below or adjacent to existing 110 kV, 220 kV and 400 kV overhead transmission lines and in proximity to transmission assets. EirGrid is currently developing a policy on this matter, to inform and provide guidance to industry, in line with our licence obligations.

EirGrid proposes to consult with key stakeholders in relation to this draft policy to ensure key concerns are taken into account. All stakeholder responses will then be collated and addressed prior to final publication of the policy. The target delivery of the policy is Q4 2017.

Until this policy on standard clearances for solar farms from overhead transmission lines is developed and approved, the following will apply:

- Electrical clearances as per EirGrid Functional Specifications must be maintained at all times.
- EirGrid requests that any developer proposing to construct a solar farm within 23 metres¹ of the centre-line of a transmission line shall engage with EirGrid directly (info@eirgrid.com) and each case will be reviewed and assessed.
- Each development will be assessed taking into account safety clearances, access for maintenance, repair and any other local considerations, to ensure that the line safety, security and reliability are not impacted by any proposed development.

¹ Reference Electricity (Supply) (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 1934.