



# North Connacht 110 kV Project

**Project Information Brochure  
Autumn 2019**



**The current. The future.**



## Who are EirGrid and what do we do?

EirGrid is responsible for a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity – now, and in the future.

We develop, manage and operate the electricity transmission grid. This brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland. We use the grid to supply power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity. The grid also powers the distribution network. This supplies the electricity you use every day in your homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and farms.

# Background to this project

**The level of renewable generation is greater than the capacity of the local electricity network. This means we have to look at ways of improving the electricity infrastructure in the region.**

There is a large amount of electricity generated by wind farms in the North Connacht region with more planned over the coming years.

EirGrid is legally obliged to connect those who generate electricity. This means we must develop the grid in response to plans for new electricity generation, such as the aforementioned wind farms.

Our original proposal was the Grid West project in 2012, a large scale development to facilitate the level of renewable generation planned at that time. However, by June 2017 the amount of planned renewable generation capacity in the region had dropped by half and Grid West was no longer required. We anticipated then that the reduced amount of renewable energy could be met through a smaller scale of development. That remains the case and we are now progressing with the North Connacht 110 kV project.

The project will be either a 110 kV overhead line or an underground cable. If an overhead line is used the majority of the line will be carried on twin pole sets, with steel angle masts where required.

The need is for a 110 kV project and there are a number of possible technology options to consider. The start point for the North Connacht 110 kV project will be at Moy substation near Ballina, Co. Mayo. The end point will be at Tonroe substation near Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. During Step 4, technology and corridor options will be assessed. The best performing technology option and corridor will be identified.



## Why do we need this project?

Currently, just 30% of the electricity that we use comes from renewable energy. The Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 has set the target of achieving 70% of electricity consumption via renewable energy sources by 2030. The vast majority of this renewable energy will come from wind farms and EirGrid is required by law to connect them to the national grid.

The North Connacht project will facilitate the transport of this energy across the country. It will also ensure security of supply for customers and provide the robust electricity infrastructure required by industry across North Connacht.

This project supports plans to boost business and investment in the region.

## Technology Options

As part of our six-step approach to developing the grid, as illustrated on page 5, we have considered a range of technologies and developed two options to meet the need of this project.

Each option was assessed and compared against five criteria: technical, economic, environmental, socio-economic and deliverability.

Full details of the assessments are available on our website.

The two best performing options were as follows;

- 1 – Moy (Ballina) – Tonroe (Ballaghaderreen) 110 kV – overhead line plus 32 km upgrade from Tonroe to Flagford (Carrick-on-Shannon);
- 2 – Moy – Tonroe 110 kV – underground cable plus 32 km upgrade from Tonroe to Flagford;

## Feedback

We will assess and compare the different technology options and corridors against five criteria. Feedback from landowners and stakeholders will feed into this assessment process. This process will ultimately identify the best performing technology option and associated corridor/route.



# How we develop projects

Many people might not take an active interest in this type of project until a precise route has been identified. However, it is important that we gather your views before reaching this point.

We want you to know how and why we plan our projects, so you can give us your feedback as early as possible.

Designing an electricity transmission project can be a complex and lengthy process.

Because of this, we use a consistent project planning process to explore options and make decisions.

The decision-making tools we use, and the amount of engagement we carry out at each step, depends on the scale and complexity of each project.

## Step 1

How do we identify the future needs of the electricity grid?

## Step 2

What technologies can meet these needs?

## Step 3

What's the best option and what area may be affected?

## Step 4

Where exactly should we build?

## Step 5

The planning process

## Step 6

Construction, energisation and benefit sharing

**Step 1** How do we identify the future needs of the electricity grid?

**Step 2** What technologies can meet these needs?

**Step 3** What's the best option and what area may be affected?

**Step 4** Where exactly should we build?

**Step 5** The planning process

**Step 6** Construction, energisation and benefit sharing

## Step 4 At a glance

### What's happening?

Following a number of studies carried out in Step 3, EirGrid identified two technology options (overhead line and underground cable) that would address the need in North Connacht. These were assessed on five criteria. EirGrid identified the best performing technology option as being the overhead line from Moy to Tonroe. However as a commitment to the Framework for Grid Development, EirGrid are carefully assessing the cable technology option and the overhead line option. We have developed a refined study area for the proposed new 110 kV circuit and we are developing corridors for both the overhead line and underground cable options. We will seek feedback from the community and stakeholders in North Connacht on the corridor options in early 2020.

### How long will this take?

Until the end of Autumn 2020.

### What can you influence?

You will be able to influence our choice of technology, and the corridor/route which will be ultimately chosen to develop the project.

### How can I get involved?

We are holding Public Information Days on the following dates and times;

**Tuesday October 15th, Cultural Centre, Swinford 1-8pm,**

**Wednesday October 16th, Oak Suite Great National Hotel, Ballina 1-8pm,**

**Thursday October 17th, North and Western NWRA Chamber, Ballaghaderreen.**

If you would like further information on this project, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop into any of the above meetings or get in touch via the contact details listed on this brochure.

### What have we decided at the end of this step?

At the end of Step 4 we will have selected the best performing technology option and corridor/route.

**We want to hear from you. If you would like to feedback on this project, or find out more information contact: +353 (0)1 677 1700, or northconnachtproject@eirgrid.com**

**You can also contact our Community Liaison Officer, Eoghan O'Sullivan on: +353 87 247 7732 or eoghan.osullivan@eirgrid.com or our Agricultural Liaison Officer, Aidan Naughton on: +353 86 172 0156 or aidan.naughton@eirgrid.com**

## Future Plans

We will gather all stakeholder views at this step of the project and together with the results taken from the criteria previously outlined, we will be able to make a well informed decision on the best performing corridor and technology option for the project. We will then publish a report containing the details of our assessments that will be available on the EirGrid website. It will include a summary of all information we receive and how that feedback was considered. We publish this report to demonstrate transparency in our approach. The planning process takes place at Step 5. At present, we expect to lodge a planning application by Spring 2021. It is envisaged that ESB Networks will start a two year construction programme beginning early in 2023, with a view to the project being energised in 2024.

# Project Timelines and Next Steps

## What's happening on the project now?

We now have two possible options on which we are seeking your views. We are developing feasible corridors for both the overhead line and underground cable options. This is in addition to the related upgrade works that are required on the existing lines and substations.

As part of this process, you can give feedback to the team at the public consultation days being held in October 2019 and at future consultation events that will be held throughout 2020. These will take place in towns within the study area.

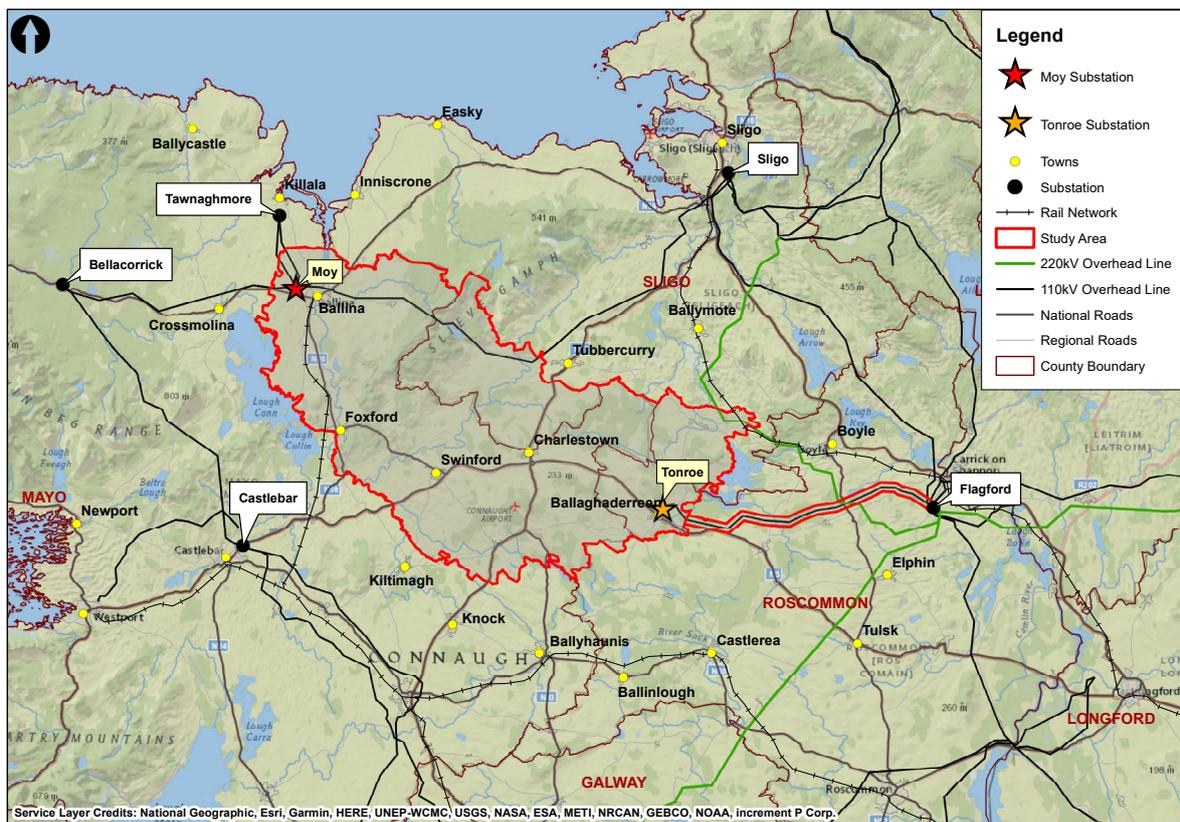
You can also contact us directly via email [northconnachtproject@eirgrid.com](mailto:northconnachtproject@eirgrid.com).

## Feedback

We will assess and compare the different technology options and corridors against the five criteria outlined on page 4. Feedback from landowners, stakeholders and the public will feed into this assessment process. This process will ultimately identify the best performing technology option and associated corridor.

Feedback at this stage of the project is essential for EirGrid to understand the various issues and concerns of all stakeholders.

# Study Area for North Connacht 110 kV Project



## Contact Details for: North Connacht 110 kV Project

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