



## Engagement process for development and update of technical standards and policies

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**11 November 2020**

# 1. Introduction

EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator (TSO), plays a critical role in the economy of Ireland. EirGrid is responsible for ensuring that the lights stay on for homes and businesses across the country.

As part of its fulfilment of these responsibilities, EirGrid establishes technical standards and policies for electrical equipment that form part of the transmission network, ensuring the provision of a safe and secure transmission system, considering future system needs etc. EirGrid considers it appropriate to engage with stakeholders when the development of new or changes to pre-existing technical standards and policies pertaining to transmission equipment are proposed which could result in a significant increase in customer project costs or planning requirements. This document sets out the engagement process that EirGrid will follow in these circumstances.

# 2. Process design

The process of stakeholder engagement will involve six steps, as illustrated in Figure 1. The frequency of technical standard review will vary depending on factors such as technological developments, health and safety requirements and economic considerations.

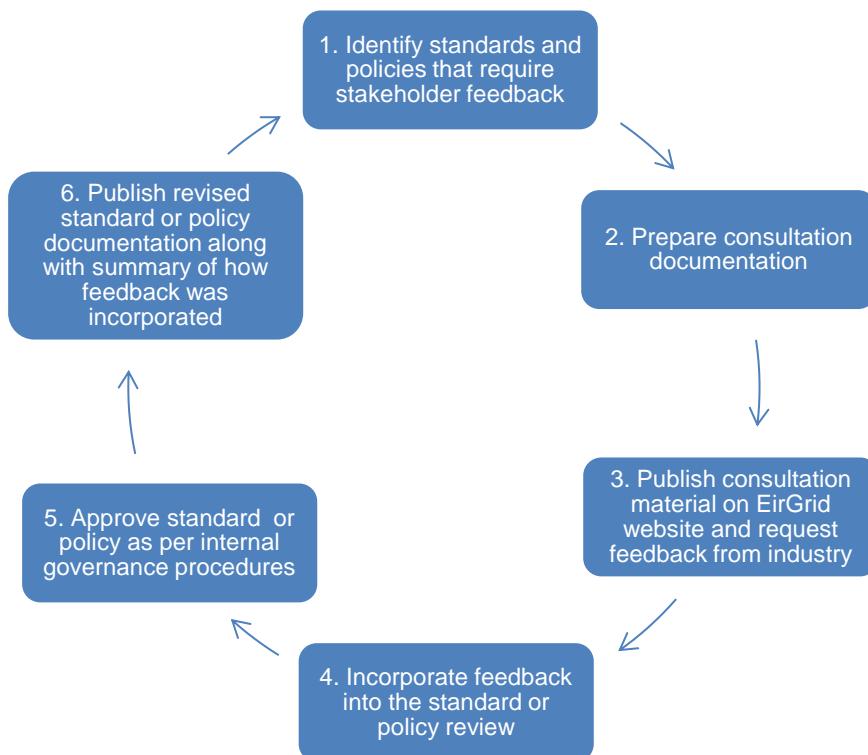


Figure 1 – Technical standards and policies engagement process

## **2.1. Step 1**

EirGrid considers it appropriate to engage with stakeholders when the development of new or changes to pre-existing technical standards and policies could result in a significant increase in customer project costs and/or planning requirements.

Proposed changes to technical standards and policies that are likely to result in customer project cost increases in excess of the thresholds set out in Table 1, will require industry engagement. When applying these thresholds to circuits (i.e. overhead lines/underground cables), a circuit length of 10km will be assumed.

Voltage	Threshold ( $\geq$ )
110 kV	€ 500,000
220 kV	€ 1,000,000
400 kV	€ 2,000,000

Table 1 – Cost increase thresholds

Development of new or changes to pre-existing technical standards and policies that could result in a significant increase in planning requirements will also require consultation. Typical examples include changes resulting in a significant increase in the height of equipment or the footprint of a station. EirGrid will perform a technical assessment to determine if a change in technical standard or policy causes a significant increase in planning requirements and would, therefore, require industry engagement.

Development of new or revision of pre-existing technical standards and policies that do not meet the criteria above shall be developed or revised without industry engagement. Additionally, the development of new or revision of pre-existing technical standards and policies required for health and safety reasons will not be consulted on. Stakeholders will be notified via EirGrid's [Standards and Policies webpage](#) of updates to a non-exhaustive list of technical standards and policies even if industry consultation is not required. If industry consultation is not required, there will be no progression to Step 2 as set out below.

## **2.2. Step 2**

EirGrid shall prepare material in support of a stakeholder consultation. The material required will vary depending on the technical standard or policy and may include:

- Complete versions of technical standards or policies,
- Drawings,
- Functional specifications,
- Summary of technical standards or policies,

- Summary of changes to technical standards or policies, and
- Comment registers.

Consultation material shall be subject to internal EirGrid review.

### **2.3. Step 3**

Consultation material shall be published on EirGrid's dedicated [Standards and Policies webpage](#) on the EirGrid website. EirGrid shall notify all relevant customers and stakeholders about the consultation via EirGrid information mailing lists and via the [Standards and Policies webpage](#). Webinars and/or information briefing sessions may take place as part of Step 3, if deemed appropriate by EirGrid.

### **2.4. Step 4**

EirGrid shall collate all feedback received as part of the consultation and incorporate this, as appropriate, into a revised version of the technical standard or policy. A comments log report detailing the feedback received and its application to the revised technical standard or policy, or otherwise, shall be prepared as part of Step 4. EirGrid will consult further on a revised version of the technical policy or standard if the changes identified as part of the consultation process are deemed, in EirGrid's view, to be substantial.

### **2.5. Step 5**

Internal EirGrid approval processes shall apply to technical standard and policy reviews. EirGrid will notify the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) of the intention to seek approval for new or revised technical standards or policies. The use and application of stakeholder feedback shall be demonstrated as part of the technical standard and policy internal approval process as applicable.

### **2.6. Step 6**

New or revised technical standard and policy documentation shall be published, on the dedicated [Standards and Policies webpage](#) on the EirGrid website. A report detailing the feedback received and its application as part of the engagement process shall be published for each technical standard and policy, if applicable.

## **3. Conclusion**

This document sets out the process that EirGrid will follow when developing and revising technical standards and policies, incorporating industry engagement where proposed changes may significantly increase project cost or planning requirements. EirGrid considers consultation and engagement to be core, essential business activities.