



## North-South 400kV Interconnection Development



# Community Update Brochure

June 2015



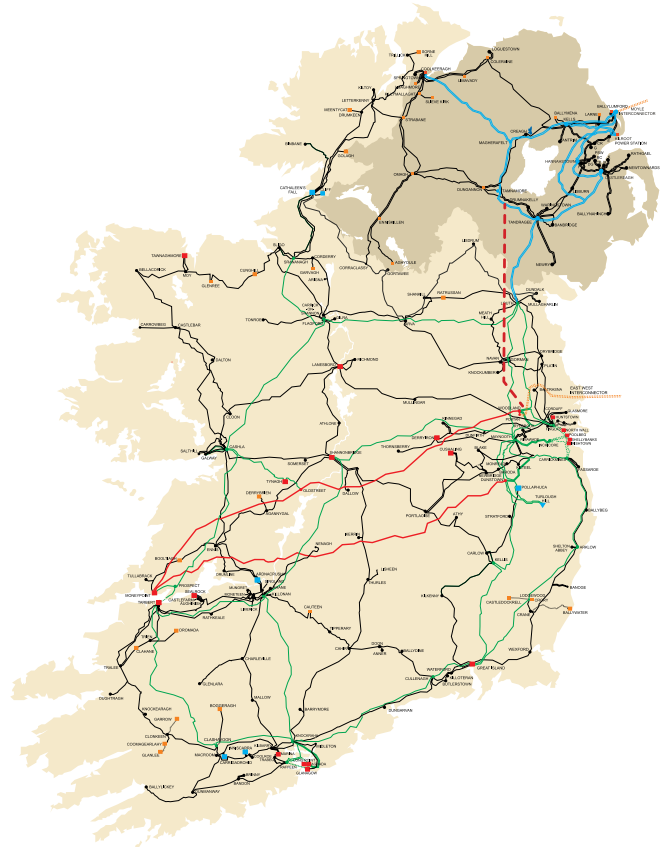
Part Funded by the EU-TEN-E Initiative

Application for Planning Approval to An Bord Pleanála

## Project Background

The North-South 400kV Interconnection Development is part of a strategic cross-border electricity transmission infrastructure scheme undertaken jointly by EirGrid and System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI) – the “proposed interconnector”. The application for planning approval by EirGrid to An Bord Pleanála relates to that portion of the overall proposed interconnector within Ireland (which runs through counties Monaghan, Cavan and Meath) from the existing ESB 400kV substation at Woodland, County Meath to the border at Lemgare, County Monaghan.

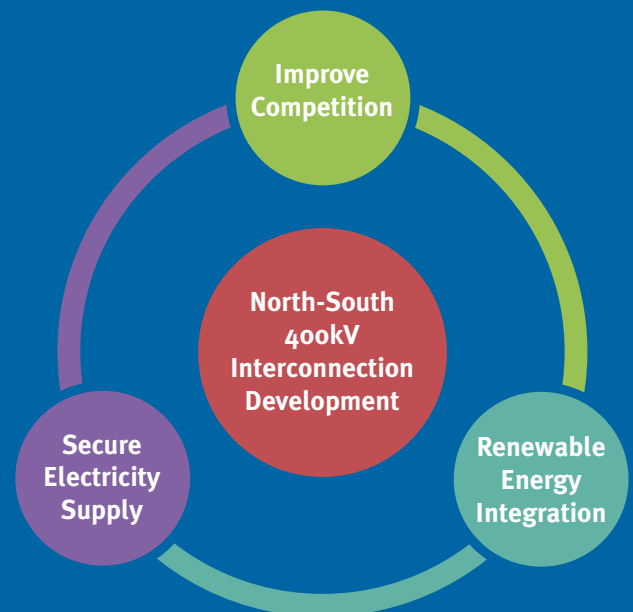
The application by SONI for that portion of the proposed interconnector in Northern Ireland (from the border to a planned substation on the Northern Ireland transmission network, in Turleenan, County Tyrone), is currently with the DOE Planning Service in Northern Ireland.



## Project Drivers

The project will provide a second high-capacity interconnector between the two transmission systems on the island of Ireland, delivering benefits to householders, communities, businesses and the economy.

- Improve competition – the proposed interconnector will improve the efficiency of the all-island single electricity market.
- Secure supply of electricity – enhance the security of the electricity supply throughout the island of Ireland which is essential for economic growth, the creation of jobs and improving the standard of living and quality of life for all.
- Help Ireland meet its 40% renewable electricity target – allow more renewable energy to be connected to the electricity network, reducing our production of greenhouse gases and our reliance on imported fossil fuels.



# EirGrid is Submitting its Application for Approval to An Bord Pleanála

EirGrid is in the process of submitting an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála for the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development. A ten week period of statutory public consultation will commence one week after the date of submission. This brochure provides a summary of the planning process and the documents that EirGrid is submitting to An Bord Pleanála.

An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority responsible for assessing and determining applications for strategic infrastructure developments. If you wish to make a submission in relation to the application for approval you can do so in writing to An Bord Pleanála directly. An Bord Pleanála has the discretion to conduct an oral hearing during which members of the public may also make submissions and observations with regard to the project.

The development comprises:

- A new single-circuit 400kV overhead transmission line in counties Monaghan, Cavan and Meath
- Modifications to three existing 110kV overhead lines
- A new 400kV circuit along the unused northern side of the Oldstreet to Woodland 400kV line
- Associated works within and immediately adjacent to the existing Woodland substation in Meath
- An associated temporary materials construction storage yard in County Monaghan
- Associated permanent and temporary construction and excavation works

In March 2015 EirGrid published a proposed line route for the project that forms the basis of the planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. The line design has taken into account requests from stakeholders, mostly landowners, for localised changes to the line design. These were evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in the Preferred Project Solution Report, published in July 2013, and many were accommodated. The proposed line route is described in a series of maps contained in **Volume 3B Figures** of the EIS. These detailed maps show the location of all towers (intermediate, angle and transposition) in addition to many of the constraints that the proposed line seeks to avoid.

## Mitigation Measures

The proposed mitigation measures are extensive. The EIS and NIS should be reviewed for a full understanding of the measures proposed in relation to the development. By way of example, these include a Construction Environmental Management Plan; Traffic Management Plan; appointment

of a wayleave agent; appointment of an ecological clerk of works; temporary silt screens; controlling work practices; supervision of construction works; and appointment of a project archaeologist.

## Public Display

**The application documentation, including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), will be placed on public display during the ten week period of public consultation as follows:**

### On-line:

The application documentation (including the EIS and NIS) may be viewed/downloaded at [www.eirgridnorthsouthinterconnector.ie](http://www.eirgridnorthsouthinterconnector.ie)

### Hard copies may be viewed at the offices of:

- An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- Meath County Council, County Hall, Navan, County Meath
- Cavan County Council, Cavan Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan, County Cavan
- Monaghan County Council, County Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, County Monaghan

### EirGrid Project Information Centres:

- **Navan Information Centre**, 10a Kennedy House, Kennedy Road, Navan, County Meath **every Tuesday and Friday between 12 noon and 7pm.**
- **Carrickmacross Information Centre**, Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan **every Monday and Thursday between 12 noon and 7pm.**
- **Cootehill Information Centre**, Cootehill Enterprise & Technology Centre, Cootehill, County Cavan **every Wednesday between 12 noon and 7pm.**

In addition, the Navan, Carrickmacross and Cootehill Information centres will be open every day between **12 noon and 7pm** for the following two weeks:

- **Tuesday 16th to Monday 22nd June 2015 between 12 noon and 7pm.**
- **Monday 17th to Friday 21st August 2015 between 12 noon and 7pm.**

## Submissions/Observations

Submissions and/or observations in relation to the application for the proposed development may be made in writing **only** to An Bord Pleanála, from Tuesday 16th June to Monday 24th August 2015, and shall be accompanied by the statutory fee of €50.

### Post:

An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

# Guide to the Planning Application Documents

The application documentation is presented in five volumes, all of which are available for review at the specified locations as detailed on the previous page. In addition, the application documentation is available in the Irish language at each of these locations.

## VOLUME 1 Statutory Particulars and Drawings

- Volume 1A** Statutory Particulars – Notices, Forms, etc.
- Volume 1B** Planning Drawings (showing proposed development)

## VOLUME 2 Reports

- Volume 2A** Planning Report
- Volume 2B** Public and Landowner Consultation Report
- Volume 2A** **Appendices** associated with the Planning Report
- Volume 2B** **Appendices** associated with the Consultation Report

## VOLUME 3 Multi-Volume EIS VOLUME 3A & 3B

- Volume 3A** Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 3B** Common Chapters (CMSA & MSA)

**Volume 3A Non-Technical Summary** provides a non-technical summary of Volumes 3B, 3C and 3D.

**Volume 3B Common Chapters** is a document which deals with strategic issues arising in respect of the proposed development, including Consideration of Alternatives, Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interactions and Transboundary Impacts

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Strategic Need

- 03** Scoping the EIS
- 04** Transmission & Technology Alternatives
- 05** Route Alternatives
- 06** Description of Development – Transmission Circuit and Substation Works
- 07** Construction
- 08** Electric Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- 09** Transboundary
- 10** Cumulative and Impact Interactions
- 11** Summary of Mitigation Measures

**Volume 3B** **Appendices** associated with Volume 3B.

**Volume 3B** **Figures** including the 1:5,000 mapping for the proposed development at A1 scale.

## VOLUME 3 Multi-Volume EIS VOLUME 3C & 3D

**Volume 3C** Cavan Monaghan Study Area (CMSA)

**Volume 3D** Meath Study Area (MSA)

**Volume 3C of the EIS considers the Cavan Monaghan Study Area.** This volume provides an appraisal of the proposed development from the area of two crossing points of the jurisdictional border with Northern Ireland at Lemgare, County Monaghan to the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan.

**Volume 3D of the EIS considers the Meath Study Area.** This volume provides an appraisal of the proposed development, from the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan to the existing Woodland 400kV Substation in County Meath.

Volume 3C and Volume 3D each contain the following individual chapters specific to the particular study area being focused on in each volume:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>01</b> Introduction                           | <b>07</b> Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology |
| <b>02</b> Human Beings – Population and Economic | <b>08</b> Water                           |
| <b>03</b> Human Beings – Land Use                | <b>09</b> Air – Noise                     |
| <b>04</b> Human Beings – Tourism and Amenity     | <b>10</b> Air – Quality and Climate       |
| <b>05</b> Human Beings – EMF                     | <b>11</b> Landscape                       |
| <b>06</b> Flora and Fauna                        | <b>12</b> Material Assets – General       |
|  | <b>13</b> Material Assets – Traffic       |
|  | <b>14</b> Cultural Heritage               |

**Volume 3C** **Appendices** associated with Volume 3C

**Volume 3C** **Figures** associated with Volume 3C

**Volume 3D** **Appendices** associated with Volume 3D

**Volume 3D** **Figures** associated with Volume 3D

## VOLUME 4 Joint Environmental Report

This report is a summary of the overall proposed interconnector from Turleenan, County Tyrone to Woodland, County Meath, jointly prepared by EirGrid and SONI, and focussing primarily on environmental issues, including transboundary impacts and cumulative effects. The SONI Consolidated Environmental Statement (ES) and Consolidated ES Addendum is included as an appendix to this report.

## VOLUME 5 Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

This is a document prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directives to inform the appropriate assessment (AA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála as to the likely impacts of the proposed development on a European site or sites.

## About EirGrid

EirGrid, a state-owned company, is the national operator of the electricity transmission grid.

The national transmission grid is an interconnected network of high-voltage power lines and cables, comparable to the motorways, dual carriageways and main roads of the national road network. It is operated at three voltage levels; 400kV, 220kV and 110kV and is approximately 6,400km in overall length within Ireland.

It is the backbone of Ireland's electricity system and is vital to ensuring that all industrial, commercial and residential customers from both rural and urban areas have a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient electricity supply.

## Contact Details

For further information about where the application or maps are on display or to purchase documents please contact the project team as follows:

**Phone:** Lo-call **1890 25 26 90** (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)

**Email:** [northsouth@eirgrid.com](mailto:northsouth@eirgrid.com)

**Website:** <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment>

**Please note, submissions and/or observations in relation to the application for planning approval should NOT be sent to EirGrid but should be made directly to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Malborough Street, Dublin 1 by 5.30p.m. on Monday 24th August 2015.**

Printed copies of the full application, or parts thereof, can be obtained at a price not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy upon request. Copies are available in both the English and Irish languages.

