

EirGrid Outage Prioritisation Guidance Document

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	Approvals		
Date	Description	Author	Approved by
Jan-22	Final Version	PMO Outage Coordinator	EirGrid Internal Governance Board Members



1. Introduction

In order to deliver on the EirGrid [Group Strategy](#) to transform the power system by 2030 in accordance with the [Climate Action Plan 2021](#), it is necessary to update our current approach to outage planning and prioritisation to improve end-to-end delivery.

Over the next decade, there is a clear need to increase the amount of generation on the system while also reinforcing and maintaining the system, the strategy for which is detailed in EirGrid's "[Shaping Our Electricity Future](#)". In practice this means that the approach to how we currently prioritise outages needs to change.

EirGrid has determined that there are insufficient outage opportunities to carry out all of the work planned for the Transmission System without a change to the current approach. COVID-19 has also reduced the number of outages completed over the last two outage seasons. The ability to provide the increased number of outages is not expected to improve in future years and the provision of outages has therefore been identified as a key risk to delivering on our strategy of transforming the power system.

Sequencing and delivery of electricity transmission infrastructure is very complex as it involves incorporating multiple interacting outages, where prioritisation decisions may be required. This guidance document sets out the general basis employed by EirGrid in fulfilling its statutory mandate. It is a guideline and therefore while it sets out the general approach there can, and will, be exceptions to this as would be expected with any complex infrastructure programme. This guidance document replaces previously published documents on outage prioritisation.

2. EirGrid Role

EirGrid, in its role as Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland, is responsible for coordinating a programme of outages of the transmission system, to facilitate works including maintenance and construction activities that reinforce the system and/or connect customers.

Consequently, EirGrid must determine, on an objective and proportionate basis, which works are deferred and which should go ahead during each outage season. The impact of delaying projects is taken into account when making such decisions and our goal is to operate, maintain and develop the transmission system as efficiently as possible for the benefit of all users of the system.

3. Governance

EirGrid's internal governance boards are responsible for approving the transmission outage plan on an annual basis which will also include projects which are prioritised in accordance with the guidance below. They will also approve priority calls during the outage season as required and have the discretion to override this guidance on a case by case basis or request changes to any related document or process.

4. Outage Prioritisation

The objective of the transmission outage planning process is to maximise the amount of outage related work that can take place to reinforce the system, connect customers and ensure the required level of maintenance of the transmission system while ensuring a safe and secure system. This process must be completed in accordance with the [Operating Security Standards](#) (OSS). All outages are scheduled on the basis that the OSS are not breached for any outage or combination of outages.

Where the need to prioritise work does arise, the following guide is used by EirGrid in determining which works should be prioritised. EirGrid has formed this guide by objectively assessing the prioritisation of outages in a proportionate and reasonable manner and, importantly, in a manner that protects the security of the system. When deciding on outage prioritisation, EirGrid will consider and seek to balance its licence and statutory obligations with customers' requirements, cognisant of security of supply issues, the need to transform the power system, our Climate Action Plan targets and other relevant factors. Priority has been given to works that align with delivering on our EirGrid Group Strategy to transform the power system by 2030.

Outage Priority to meet 2030 Goals	
	Outage Priority
Works to ensure safety of people, plant & equipment & Operating Security Standards (OSS) including Priority Maintenance ¹ (Excluding upgrades or replacements that are not deemed essential to operating the system over the next year)	1
Works to connect new useable generation greater than 50MW (which do not fall within the above) and Associated Transmission Reinforcements (ATR) exceeding 100MW	2
New generation, refurbishments or general backbone transmission reinforcements of existing assets not associated with the above	3
Works to connect new demand	4
Other (diversions, etc.)	5

¹As per [EirGrid's Guide to Transmission Equipment Maintenance](#)