



Galetech Energy Services
Cavan: Clondargan, Stradone, Co. Cavan, Ireland, H12 NV06
Cork: Unit 2 Airport East Business Park, Farmers Cross,
Kinsale Road, Cork, Ireland

t: +353 (0)49 555 5050
e: info@galetechenergy.com
w: www.galetechenergyservices.com

Shane Tiernan
Chief Executive
Roscommon County Council
Áras an Chontae
Roscommon
County Roscommon
F42 VR98

12 November 2024

Our Ref: SEV001SS
Your Ref: --/--

Dear Sir/Madam,

Location: Moyvannan, Feamore, Lisbaun, Carrownolan, Carrowncloghan, Carrowkeeney, Ardmullan, Curraghboy, Gortnasythe, Derryglad, Eskerbaun, and Brideswell, County Roscommon.

Re: (i) **A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS)** electricity substation, including a single-storey control building (with a Gross Floor Area of 450 square metres) and all associated electrical equipment and services within a 2.6 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of approximately 8,500 square metres); (ii) Replacement of 1 no. existing wooden pole-set with 2 no. lattice-type interface masts, each of which will be between 15 and 18 metres in height, to facilitate connection of the 110kV underground electricity lines to the existing Athlone-Lanesborough 110kV overhead electricity transmission line; (iii) Approximately 270 metres of 110kV underground electricity line between the electricity substation and the interface masts; (iv) Approximately 630 metres of access tracks with associated upgrade works to an existing agricultural entrance from the L7551 local road; (v) Approximately 7.5 kilometres of 110kV underground electricity line between the electricity substation and the junction of the L7636 local road and R363 regional road where the electricity line will connect to electricity cables permitted as part of the Seven Hills Wind Farm (An Bord Pleanála Reference ABP-313750-22). The electricity line will be placed within private lands and within the carriageway of the L7551, L7556, L2018, L7731, R362, L2023, and L7636; and, (vi) All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works and the provision of site drainage infrastructure and surface water protection measures.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

1.0 Introduction

On behalf of our client, Energia Renewables ROI Limited ('the Applicant'), please find enclosed a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application for the abovementioned proposed development in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act').

2.0 Pre-Application Consultation

The Applicant entered into pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanála ([Reference ABP-319042-24](#)) pursuant to Section 182E of the Act. On 30 October 2024, An Bord Pleanála served notice of its determination that the proposed development constitutes a SID and that a planning application for same must be made directly to it.

3.0 Description of the Proposed Development

The planning application seeks a 10-year planning permission for a proposed development generally described as follows:-

- i. A 110 kilovolt (kV) 'loop-in/loop-out' Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electricity substation, including a single-storey control building (with a Gross Floor Area of 450 square metres) and all associated electrical equipment and services within a 2.6 metre high fenced compound (with a total footprint of approximately 8,500 square metres);
- ii. Replacement of 1 no. existing wooden pole-set with 2 no. lattice-type interface masts, each of which will be between 15 and 18 metres in height, to facilitate connection of the 110kV underground electricity lines to the existing Athlone-Lanesborough 110kV overhead electricity transmission line;
- iii. Approximately 270 metres of 110kV underground electricity line between the electricity substation and the interface masts;
- iv. Approximately 630 metres of access tracks with associated upgrade works to an existing agricultural entrance from the L7551 local road;
- v. Approximately 7.5 kilometres of 110kV underground electricity line between the electricity substation and the junction of the L7636 local road and R363 regional road where the electricity line will connect to electricity cables permitted as part of the Seven Hills Wind Farm (An Bord Pleanála Reference ABP-313750-22). The electricity line will be placed within private lands and within the carriageway of the L7551, L7556, L2018, L7731, R362, L2023, and L7636; and,
- vi. All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works and the provision of site drainage infrastructure and surface water protection measures.

4.0 Environmental Impact Assessment

A full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been submitted with this planning application to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála.

The EIAR is presented as 2 no. volumes, which should be read in conjunction with each other, as follows:-

- Volume I comprises the main EIAR text and follows a 'grouped format' structure where each environmental factor is assessed and presented as a separate chapter. The EIA Directive prescribes the range of environmental factors which should be used to organise descriptions of the environment and likely environmental effects. These have been supplemented with additional

environmental factors owing to the characteristics of the proposed development/project under assessment, as follows:-

- Chapter 1: Introduction;
- Chapter 2: Assessment of Project Alternatives;
- Chapter 3: Description of the Project;
- Chapter 4: Population & Human Health;
- Chapter 5: Biodiversity;
- Chapter 6: Land & Soils;
- Chapter 7: Water;
- Chapter 8: Air Quality & Climate;
- Chapter 9: Landscape;
- Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage;
- Chapter 11: Noise & Vibration;
- Chapter 12: Material Assets; and,
- Chapter 13: Interactions of the Foregoing; and,
- Volume II comprises a range of annexes, including technical data and reports, which informed the impact assessment provided in Volume I so as to ensure the EIAR is transparently supported by evidence. All environmental mitigation measures, as prescribed within the EIAR, have also been compiled into a standalone document and submitted at Volume II.

A Non-Technical Summary of the EIAR is also provided as a separate standalone volume in order to facilitate the wider public concerned in their involvement in the statutory consultation during the planning application determination stage.

5.0 Appropriate Assessment

Following the completion of a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening Assessment, a full Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (Stage 2) has been prepared and submitted with this planning application. The NIS is presented as a separate, standalone document and submitted to inform a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Bird Directive 2009/147/EC. The NIS addresses the entirety of the proposed development, including relevant cumulative, off-site, and secondary developments.

The NIS concludes that the proposed development will not, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, undermine the conservation objectives of any European site or adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site either directly or indirectly.

6.0 Planning Application Documentation

This planning application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of Section 182A the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). An Bord Pleanála has instructed the Applicant to notify Roscommon County Council, as a prescribed body, of the lodgement of the planning application and to furnish you with a copy (or copies) of the planning application documentation. As requested, 1 no. hard copy and 1 no. digital/soft copy of the planning application documents have been provided.

In addition, all planning application and associated documentation is available to view at the dedicated website www.moyvannansubstation.ie, which includes:-

- Planning Application Notification Letter issued to An Bord Pleanála;
- Planning Application Notification Letter issued to each Prescribed Body, including Roscommon County Council;
- Completed Planning Application Form;

- Site Notice;
- Newspaper Notice (2 no.);
- EIA Portal Confirmation Notice;
- Planning Application Drawings (see Schedule of Drawings attached to Planning Application Form);
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report;
 - Volume I – Assessment of Proposed Development;
 - Volume II – Technical Annexes in support of Volume I;
 - Non-Technical Summary; and,
- Natura Impact Statement.

In accordance with the terms of the public notices, Roscommon County Council shall make available a copy or copies of the planning application and accompanying documentation for inspection or purchase by the public for the duration of the currency of the planning application.

7.0 Planning Application Procedure

You are advised that An Bord Pleanála may, in respect of an application for permission, decide to:-

- (a) (i) grant the permission/approval; or
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified; or
- (iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions; or
- (b) Refuse to grant the permission/approval.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1; or via the An Bord Pleanála website www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/observations; relating to:-

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
- (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations from Roscommon County Council must be received by An Bord Pleanála no later than 5.30p.m. on 5 February 2025.

8.0 Conclusion

This planning application is being lodged with An Bord Pleanála following a determination that the proposed development constitutes a SID.

Government policy recognises that onshore wind energy will continue to be the major contributor to Ireland's renewable electricity generation to 2030. As the purpose of the proposed development is to facilitate the connection of the permitted Seven Hills Wind Farm to the national electricity network, it will, in combination with the Seven Hills Wind Farm, make a substantial contribution to the achievement of Ireland's binding renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas abatement targets.

The EIAR and NIS submitted with this planning application provide a comprehensive assessment of the likelihood of significant adverse environmental effects arising as a result of the proposed development individually and in combination with other

existing, permitted and proposed developments. Overall, it is assessed that any likely adverse environmental effects resulting from the proposed development can be managed and mitigated and that there are lasting social and environmental benefits as a result of the proposed development.

We trust that the documentation provided is in order and is sufficient for your consideration of this proposed development. Should you have any queries in relation to any of the information enclosed, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

Galetech Energy Services

Galetech Energy Services

