

Our Ref: CO/23268
10th October 2024

Planning Department,
Laois County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
JFL Ave,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois,

Re: Planning Application for Strategic Infrastructure Development under Section 182A of the Planning and development Act (As Amended)

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client Statkraft Ireland (applicant) please find enclosed a planning application for the construction of a 110kV Substation and Underground Grid Connection within the townlands of Barranaghs, Garryhinch, Annamore in County Offaly and Forest Upper, Forest Lower, Coolnavarnoga, Coolaghy, Kilbride, Ballymorris, Cooltederry and Bracklone Co. Laois. The purpose of this application is to connect the consented Dernacart Wind Farm (LCC Ref 20/78 & ABP 310312-21) to the National Grid by connecting the proposed substation to the consented Bracklone 110kV substation (LCC Ref- 20638).

The project has been the subject of a Pre-application Stage consultation for Strategic Infrastructure with An Bord Pleanála (Ref: ABP-317395-23). An Bord Pleanála has determined that this proposed project falls within the Strategic Infrastructure Development consent process under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. A copy of the determination is enclosed with this application.

The Applicant is therefore applying to the Board under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the following:

- One (1) 110kV substation with associated compound, including Two (2) single storey control and operational buildings, electrical plant, equipment, cabling, lighting, CCTV, lightning masts, diesel generator and diesel tank, security palisade fencing,
- 2.45km underground electric cabling systems between the wind farm site and the proposed 110kV substation overlain with 5.5m wide stone access track

- 10.85km of 110kV underground electrical cabling from the proposed 110kV substation to the consented Bracklone 110kV substation including enabling works, services diversions, joint bays, along the grid route
- New entrance and access road to substation site from the R423.
- New clear span and box culvert/piped water course crossings
- Peat/spoil deposition areas
- and all associated felling, drainage and ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development

The applicant is seeking a ten-year permission for the purposes of construction of the proposed development as outlined above.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompanies the application.

As required by An Bord Pleanála, you are requested to keep this planning application available for public inspection/purchase from the **14th October 2024** in accordance with the terms of the public notice.

Any submissions/observations must be received by the Board not later than 5.30pm on the **29th November 2024**.

The full application is available for viewing and download on the dedicated SID project website at the following address: www.dernacartwindfarmsid.ie

The application includes the following:

- 1) Completed Application Form
- 2) Landowner consent letters
- 3) Schedule of planning application drawings
- 4) Planning application drawings
- 5) Copy of Newspaper notice (Leinster Express dated 8th October 2024)
- 6) Copy of Newspaper notice (Irish Independent dated 8th October 2024)
- 7) Copy of Site Notice
- 8) Copy of pre-application Determination
- 9) Schedule of Prescribed bodies to whom notification of the application has been sent
- 10) Copy of the notification to the prescribed bodies
- 11) Statutory Undertaker Letter
- 12) Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
- 13) AA Screening Report & Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- 14) 2 no. hard copies and 1 no. Memory stick with a copy of all application documents

Should you have any queries in relation to the enclosed please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Caitiona Fox

Caitríona Fox
for and on behalf of MWP