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**APPENDIX
(Refer to EIAR Volume II)**

Appendix 6A An Bord Pleanála Pre-Application Submission

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6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter details consultation undertaken prior to submission of the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in relation to the Proposed Development.

6.2 Strategic Infrastructure Development Pre-Application Consultation

6.2.1 The Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, have been considered in making this application, with a formal Pre-Application Consultation (refer to Appendix 6A EIAR Volume II) carried out between the applicant and An Bord Pleanála (ABP) prior to the finalisation and submission of this application (Reference PC07.315313).

6.2.2 A request was submitted to ABP on 22 November 2022 to enter into pre-application consultation and the request provided an overview of the Proposed Development including the following:

- The proposed development's power output will be 350MW and it will connect to electricity and gas infrastructure that serve the existing Tynagh Power Station. As the energy output of the proposed development will be in excess of 300MW it constitutes 'Seventh Schedule' development under the Planning and Development Act (the 'Act')¹.
- It is considered that Proposed Development constitutes 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the terms of Section 37A of the Act as it is of strategic economic importance to the State and the region in which it is situated.
- It was noted in the submission that the Departmental Circular letter issued to An Bord Pleanála in December 2021², in light of the ongoing and severe risk to the security of electricity supply for the State identified by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), emphasised that "the development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gasoil distillate-fired generation) is a national priority" and that the determination of applications for such infrastructure "should be prioritised as much as possible".
- Furthermore, with reference to Section 37A of the Act, it was highlighted that the proposed development - by helping to maintain security of supply and facilitating the integration of more renewable generation into the electricity network - would contribute significantly to the fulfilment of national and regional objectives to deliver a "secure and reliable electricity network" and will have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority (Notwithstanding that the site is located entirely within the administrative area of Galway County Council).

¹ i.e. Infrastructure development for the purposes of Sections 37A and 37B of the Act

² Circular Letter PL 12/2001

- 6.2.3 Following the submission of the request, a meeting was held with representatives from EP Energy Developments Limited, their consultants and An Bord Pleanála on the 18 January 2023.
- 6.2.4 During this meeting a presentation was made to the Board's representatives addressing the need for the proposal, the planning history of the site, alternatives considered and the issues pertaining to the development in terms of planning policy and potential environmental impacts, as well as the applicants' opinion as to the SID status of the proposed development (i.e. that it does not constitute SID).
- 6.2.5 The main points discussed during the meeting included:
- The proposed development's power output will be 350MW and it will connect to electricity and gas infrastructure that serve the existing Tynagh Power Station. As the energy output of the proposed development will be in excess of 300MW it constitutes 'Seventh Schedule' development under the Planning and Development Act (the 'Act')³.
 - It is considered that proposal constitutes 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the terms of Section 37A of the Act as it is of strategic economic importance to the State and the region in which it is situated.
 - It was noted in the submission that the Departmental Circular letter issued to An Bord Pleanála in December 2021⁴, in light of the ongoing and severe risk to the security of electricity supply for the State identified by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), emphasised that "the development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gasoil distillate-fired generation) is a national priority" and that the determination of applications for such infrastructure "should be prioritised as much as possible".
 - Furthermore, with reference to Section 37A of the Act, it was highlighted that the proposed development - by helping to maintain security of supply and facilitating the integration of more renewable generation into the electricity network - would contribute significantly to the fulfilment of national and regional objectives to deliver a "secure and reliable electricity network" and will have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority (Notwithstanding that the site is located entirely within the administrative area of Galway County Council).
- 6.2.6 Following the meeting a written record of it was issued to the applicant on 24 January 2023. Formal closure of the Pre-Application Consultation process was then requested by the applicant on 25 January 2023.

6.3 Statutory Consultation and Public Notices

- 6.3.1 In accordance with the requirements of An Bord Pleanála and Section 214 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the applicant has notified the public of this application by means of:
- Site Notices:

³ i.e. "A thermal power station or other combustion installation with a total energy output of 300MW or more"

⁴ Circular Letter PL 12/2001

Site notices have been erected on the relevant lands. The location of these notices are shown on the submitted planning application drawings. A copy of the notice is included in the planning application pack.

- Newspaper Notices:

A newspaper notice has been published in 2 no. newspapers in circulation in the area of the application. A copy of the newspaper notices is included in the application pack.

6.3.2 In addition, an application website has been set up, which is referenced in the public notices and contains a full set of the submitted application documents for ease of inspection by members of the public.

6.4 Sectoral Stakeholders

Eirgrid

6.4.1 The Applicant met with EirGrid three times through its 'Customer Clinic' initiative to discuss proposals for the Tynagh site. Those clinics gave the Applicant an opportunity to have informal discussions regarding potential developments at the site.

6.5 References

Planning and Development Act 2000 (Revised) Updated to 23 June 2022

Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Irish Statute Book. Government of Ireland.

Galway County Council (2022), Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028
<https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/adopted-galway-county-development-plan-2022-2028>

Government of Ireland, (2015). Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015.