

## Delivery of Meath-Tyrone 400 kV Interconnector Will Bring Benefits to Ireland

Carrickmacross, May 10 - Delivery of the proposed Meath-Tyrone 400 kV Interconnection Development will bring a range of benefits to Ireland, the Oral Hearing into the Development heard today.

Tomás Mahony, EirGrid Project Manager, told the Bord Pleanála hearing that the Development will

- Encourage the growth of renewable energy in Ireland
- Ensure a reliable supply of high quality power
- Reduce the need for capital investment in power stations and other associated infrastructure
- Reinforce electricity supplies in the North East of the Republic of Ireland
- Enable the country meet its national obligations for the Single Electricity Market

He said: “The proposed higher voltage overhead line infrastructure is entirely similar to that of the existing 439 km of 400 kV lines that extend between Moneypoint Power Station on the west coast and Woodland and Dunstown sub-stations in Counties Meath and Kildare. In addition, it is not a significant departure, in terms of visual appearance, from the 1,729 km of existing 220 kV network that crosses the country.”

Mr Mahony delivered EirGrid’s opening statement to the hearing in Carrickmacross. His statement was the first of a number of statements on behalf of the applicant that are scheduled to be heard over the next four days.

They include submissions relating to the project’s strategic overview and technical need; alternative technologies; design, construction and siting of towers; landscape and cultural heritage; traffic; and electric and magnetic fields.

In December EirGrid submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Act for the Development.

The route submitted for planning approval runs from Woodland, Co. Meath to Lemgare, Co. Monaghan and includes a proposed new sub-station at Moyhill, Co Meath.

In the course of examining options for this project, EirGrid has carried out extensive technical and environmental analysis and has reviewed international practice and experience.

The hearing is scheduled to run from May 10<sup>th</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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Note to editors – EirGrid statements to the Oral Hearing will be made available on [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)