

Issued by EirGrid

News Release

EIRGRID WITHDRAWS PLANNING APPLICATION

29, June 2010 - EirGrid has today written to An Bord Pleanála to notify it of the withdrawal of its application for the Meath-Tyrone 400 kV Interconnection Development, following an issue which arose at the planning hearing last week in relation to the public notice for the development.

EirGrid will submit a new application in respect of this development in the near future.

Last week, on the 21st day of the oral hearing, one of the observers at the hearing drew the Inspectors' attention to an error in the public notice. That was the first time the issue had been raised at the oral hearing, and the first time EirGrid and other parties became aware of the issue.

EirGrid stated that in view of this issue it regrets that it has no option but to withdraw its application for planning permission.

The inadvertent error in the public notice related to the height of a number of the towers proposed. While full details of the correct heights of the towers concerned were fully described in the Environmental Impact Statement and in the accompanying planning drawings, EirGrid has been advised that under the applicable legislation, there is no mechanism to correct the error within the context of the current application and therefore it has no option other than to withdraw the application.

The decision to withdraw the application was made after careful consideration and with regret by EirGrid, given the vital nature of the project

The project was the subject of an extensive public consultation and information process before and after the lodging of planning permission last December.

EirGrid remains committed to the development of this project, which is vital for the region and for consumers in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

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