

EIRGRID ANNOUNCES PLANS TO FACILITATE CONNECTION OF TWO NEW POWER GENERATING PLANTS IN CORK HARBOUR

April 18th, 2008 - EirGrid, the independent Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Ireland and the Market Operator in the wholesale electricity trading system, today announced details of the development of the energy transmission system in the Cork Harbour area.

The project will proceed in three main stages between summer 2008 and spring 2011. The plans involve connecting two new power stations to the national grid via underground cable, the laying of two cables under the seabed of Cork Harbour and reinforcing the transmission system in Munster.

The two new power stations are being constructed in the Aghada/Whitegate area. The first plant is being built on the grounds of the existing Aghada generating site by ESB. The second plant is being built by Bórd Gáis Eireann at Glanagow, Whitegate, a short distance away from the existing Aghada power generating facility.

In order to ensure security of supply an underground and underwater cable will be installed between Aghada and Cowcross to complete the Aghada to Raffeen circuit, and a second circuit will be constructed between Glanagow and Raffeen, also via underground and underwater cable.

Brian Mullins, Project Manager for EirGrid, confirms that these developments are vital to facilitate this new power generation access to the national grid and ensure security of supply. "These projects will ensure that bulk power is readily available in the Munster area and that energy supply is secured for the future for Ireland as a whole. This will facilitate growth and development of the region and helps attract business and inward investment".

-ENDS-

Issued on Behalf of EirGrid by:

O'Sullivan PR, Part of the H+A Marketing Group,
Emmett House, Barrack Square, Ballincollig, Co. Cork.
Tel: 021 4666 290 Fax: 021 4666 299

For further information, please contact:

Tina Quinn:

E-mail: tina@osullivanpr.ie Mob: 087 9881890

Tom O'Sullivan:

E-mail: tom@osullivanpr.ie Mob: 086 3021286

Editor's Note:

The project, due to commence in July 2008, is due to be completed in three main stages.

Stage 1

- Connection of the ESB station at Long Point to the National Grid - July 2008 to Jan 2009 (circa 1km)
- Connection of Bórd Gáis Eireann station at Glanagow to the national grid - Feb 2009 to July 2009 (circa 4km)

Stage 2

- Installation of Cow Cross to Cuskinny Bay underground cable - Winter 2009 (circa 3km)
- Installation of under seabed cable from Cuskinny Bay to Aghada - Spring 2010 (circa 3km)
- Completion and commissioning of Aghada to Raffeen circuit - Autumn 2010

Stage 3

- Installation of underground section of Glanagow to Raffeen cable - Spring 2010 (circa 4km)

- Installation of under seabed cable section of Glanagow to Raffeen cable - Autumn 2010 (circa 4km)
- Completion and commissioning of Glanagow to Raffeen circuit - Spring 2011