



EirGrid Extends Public Consultation for North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development

June 17 – EirGrid is extending the period of public consultation for the North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development for a further two weeks.

Over the past six weeks, EirGrid has been consulting with stakeholders on its *Preliminary Re-Evaluation Report*, which contains the findings of a comprehensive review of the project. This period of non-statutory consultation was due to finish on Friday, June 17.

Aidan Geoghegan, EirGrid project manager, said “we are happy to extend the period of consultation as there is considerable interest in the process and there are indications that some stakeholders would welcome more time to prepare a submission”.

Feedback from the consultation will be considered, and will be addressed, by the EirGrid team as the process evolves towards a “preferred project solution” that will form the basis of a new application to An Bord Pleanála.

Mr. Geoghegan said that landowner consultation will also continue during this additional two week period.

“To date we have had a good level of engagement with landowners. It is always best for a landowner, regardless of whether you are for or against the proposal, to engage constructively during the pre-planning phase of the process.

“A landowner who would prefer that the line not be located on his or her land should therefore tell us, or better still show us, why this is the case. All landowners should however consider the possibility that the line might ultimately pass through their land and advise us of their preferences for how the line should be routed through their land in that event,” said Mr Geoghegan.

“I would also like to emphasise that granting access for a walkover survey of your land will not be taken or presented in any way by EirGrid as you indicating support for the project.” he added.

The Preliminary Re-evaluation Report is available for viewing on the internet at www.eirgridprojects.com and can be downloaded and printed at any time. In addition printed copies have been circulated for display in county council offices, in county libraries and in some community centres. EirGrid has also opened two Information Centres, one in the Workhouse in Carrickmacross and the other in Kennedy Road, Navan, where members of the public can drop in and discuss the project with EirGrid’s representatives. Printed copies of the Report are also available to individuals, on request, by calling the project lo-call number 1890 252690, by calling in person to one of the Information Centres or from our representatives who have been calling on landowners and homeowners along the indicative line route.

ENDS

Note to editors: The North-South 400 kV Interconnection Development will facilitate cross-border sharing of electricity; improve the efficiency of the electricity market, resulting in lower electricity bills for customers; allow more renewable energy to be connected to the network, reducing Ireland’s dependency on imported fossil fuels; and ensure a future secure supply of electricity throughout the North East.