



The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dubbin 1

29 August 2023

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Application to An Bord Pleanála for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) consent for a proposed 2 n o . 110kV electrical substations with customer and Eirgrid compounds and 110kv grid connections on a site of c1.75 hectares at Toomes and Monvallet, County Louth.

Applicant: Hazelboro Limited.

Introduction

On behalf of Hazelboro Limited and further to a determination of An Bord Pleanála on 1st June 2023 confirming the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) pursuant to Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), we hereby submit this planning application in respect of the proposed 2 n o . 110kV electrical substations with customer and Eirgrid compounds and 110kv grid connections on a site of 1.75 hectares at Toomes and Monvallet, County Louth.

Please note that the Pre-Consultation with the Board in respect of this application (ref: ABP-315972-23) was made in the name of Strategic Power Projects Limited. Hazelboro Limited was set up by Strategic Power Projects as a Special Purpose Vehicle subsidiary to deliver this project. Therefore, Hazelboro Limited is now the applicant for this SID application.

Five hard copies of the documents listed below have been sent to the Chief Executive of Louth County Council plus two electronic copies. Two hard and eight electronic copies are enclosed herewith for the Board, as requested.

The application website address is <https://movalletsolar110.info>

Update since 6th June 2023

Strategic Power Projects Limited awaits a decision on the proposed 220kV sub-station development on this site (ABP SID ref: ABP-315456-23). A revised date for a decision on or before 29th August 2023 was set. However, the applicant was invited by the Board to make submissions on referral responses, and this has since been submitted and will require consideration. No revised target date for a decision has issued.

Background to the current proposal

The background to this current 2 x 110kV substation development is as follows.

Initially, it was considered by the technical advisors to Strategic Power Projects Limited that the 2 no. 37kV substations permitted under planning permission ref: 21/631 (Phase 1) and planning permission ref: 21/1478 (Phase 2), would facilitate connection of both phases to the national grid.

However, after the grant of planning permission ref 22/534 (Phase 3) the 37kV substation design solution was determined to be no longer capable of connecting all phases of the solar and battery storage development to the national grid.

The technical advisers, therefore, designed a 220kV substation and grid connection to cater for all phases of the solar and battery storage development under one connection. As noted above, the 220kV substation design and associated SID Planning Application is currently under consideration by the Board (ABP SID ref: ABP-315456-23).

In support of the Pre-Consultation for this current SID application, the Board was advised that the final connection design is dictated by EirGrid. In September 2021 Strategic Power Projects Limited entered into the Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) process with EirGrid seeking a connection for Phase 1 of the development, as permitted under planning permission ref: 21/631.

Having progressed through this EPC process successfully, Eirgrid made a connection offer to Strategic Power Projects Limited for Phase 1 which proposes a 110kV connection, this offer was only made in January 2023. Hazelboro Ltd. has now accepted the offer and this has now started EirGrid's design process. EirGrid consider that a 220kV connection is, at this juncture, oversized for Phase 1 in isolation. It is EirGrid's policy not to take into consideration future phases until such times as they have successfully passed through an ECP process. Phases 2 and 3 will take part in the ECP 2.4 process scheduled for Q4 this year, after which there will likely be two potential connections methods, i.e. either one single 220kV substation and connection or 2 no. 110kV substations and associated 2 no. underground connections.

To provide further context, in June 2022 Phase 1 of the project was also successful in the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme 2 (RESS2) auction and is now considered an urgent construction project. This is the reason why this current SID application is required by Hazelboro as it needs to have the option to implement this option as soon as possible, especially given it will not know the outcome of the ECP process for phases 2 and 3 until Q1 2024. We trust the above explanation provides justification for this most recent SID application.

Site Access -

Site access can be arranged for the Board Inspector by contacting myself (086 819 6856) or Charlie von Schmieder (0044 7968385589).

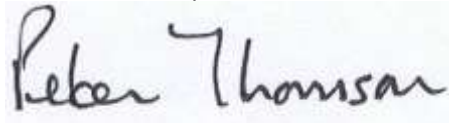
Documents

The following documentation accompanies this application:

- 2 no. copies of the completed planning application form;
- 2 no. copies of the site notice;
- 2 no. copies of each newspaper notice (2 no.);
- 2 no. copies of the letter form the Applicant confirming Statutory Undertaker status authorised to carry out works for the supply of electricity under the public road.
- 2 no. copies of the letter of consent from the landowner;
- 2 no. copies of Planning Application Notification Letter to Louth County Council;
- 2 no. copies of sample Planning Application Notification Letter to the prescribed bodies and the schedule of prescribed bodies notified;
- 2 no. copies of each of the Notification Letter sent to the prescribed bodies;
- 2 no. copies of the Planning Application Drawings (see Schedules of Drawings attached to Planning Application Form);
- 2 no. copies of the Natura Impact Statement;
- 2 no. copies of the Environmental Report Vol.1;
- 2 no. copies of the Environmental Report – Appendices Vol.2;
- 2 no. copies of the Decommissioning Plan;
- 2 no. copies of the Engineering Planning Report; and
- 2 no. copies of the Preliminary Construction Environmental Management Plan.

If you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Peter Thomson, MSc, MIPI