

Our Ref: 2219/JK/4888

Your Ref:

Date: 26th February 2021



Attention: Seamus Boland CEO

**Irish Rural Link
Moate Business Park,
Old Clara Road,
Moate,
Co. Westmeath.**

Seamus,

Re: Clarification of Impact of Proposed Enabling works on Recommendations of IE Independent Hydrogeological and Hydrological Review-Proposed Coolnabackey Sub-station site

IE Consulting were engaged to undertake an independent review of hydrogeological and hydrological issues in regard to the proposed development of a Sub-Station at Coolnabackey, Timahoe, Co. Laois. A report was issued in January 2021 (DOCUMENT REF: IE2219_Report_4840) which included a number of recommendations for further investigation aimed at clarifying the conceptual ground model of the site, together with a more detailed assessment of the Tufa springs in proximity to the site.

It should be noted, that these recommendations do not suggest any deficiency in the information that was available to An Bord Pleanála in coming to a decision to approve the scheme, but rather, are aimed at developing a more complete understanding of the dynamics of the shallow perched groundwater environment on the site and its interaction with the Tufa springs which in turn discharge into a local watercourse.

We have been advised that ESB need to undertake some enabling works for the proposed development in advance of the main contract, and which may need to commence before the works outlined as part of our report can be commissioned. I understand that if this is the case, that ESB commits to undertaking the recommended studies in conjunction with or immediately following the enabling work.

I have reviewed the extent of the proposed enabling works, and am satisfied that progressing the proposed enabling works as planned, will not unduly impact/influence the recommended studies.

If you have any queries on our submission, please contact the undersigned

Yours Sincerely

Jer Keohane

Director

For IE Consulting