

# COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL



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R32 EHP9

Laois County Council  
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16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Re. 400/110KV Substation at Coolnabacky  
11.VA0015

A Chara,  
I refer to Strategic Infrastructure Development approved by An Bord Pleanála (ref 11.VA0015).

The following points pertain to various environmental, ecological, hydrological and hydrogeological matters that arise in line with the 11 planning conditions, as set out by An Bord Pleanála, together with commitments contained with the Environmental Impact Statement and other documents supporting the application for development.

The following points are relevant to the new 400/110KV Substation at Coolnabacky.

1. **Ecological Clerk of Works**

Please confirm the name and contact details of Eirgrid's Ecological Clerk of Works for the development. Take note that the principal Laois County Council contact points for various environmental, ecological, hydrological and hydrogeological matters arising in connection with this development are Rory O'Callaghan SEE (rocallaghan@laoiscoco.ie) and Ann Marie Callan ES (amcallan@laoiscoco.ie)

2. **Surface and Ground Water Monitoring**

Page 639 of the EIS states *'In order to ensure that ongoing works are being carried out in accordance with the Construction and Environmental Management Plan, water monitoring will be undertaken during the Construction Phase. Sampling points will be located at the following designated locations:*

- *Upstream of the construction site discharge points (surface water)*
- *Outlet from the proposed settlement ponds (surface water)*
- *Downstream of the construction site discharge points (surface water)*
- *Up gradient of the construction site (BH1 – ground water)*
- *Down gradient of the construction site (BH4 – ground water)'*

Further to this Notice you are required to submit to Laois County Council a Ground and Surface Water Monitoring Programme (Construction and Operational Phase) to ensure that mitigation measures identified in the EIS are appropriately monitored in both phases. The focus for surface water monitoring will be for potential spills, to monitor the outlet from settlement ponds and downstream monitoring of discharge points. Similarly, the focus for ground water monitoring will be to detect any spillages from the Hyvolt I, including monitoring from BH1 (upgradient) and BH4 (downgradient), or alternative to be agreed.

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The Ground and Surface Water Monitoring Programme shall include:

- A site map clearly identifying all proposed Monitoring Locations at the site,
- A list of proposed parameters to be tested for both groundwater and surface water monitoring on site

Sampling/Testing frequency for the Water Monitoring Programme is:

- Groundwater – Biannual Testing (2 tests per annum)
- Surface Water – Quarterly Testing (4 tests per annum)

Details of any ground and/or surface water monitoring completed to date should also be submitted to Laois County Council

### 3. Transformer Structures

You are hereby required to confirm;

- Details (including depths, thicknesses etc) of all reinforced concrete curtain walls, reinforced concrete sump walls, reinforced concrete sump floors,
- Roofing and enclosure details for Transformers,
- Specific details of bunding in keeping with volume commitments set out in the EIS and acknowledging that the supplier of the transformers is to hand

You are required to provide confirmation as to the following:

- In the Construction Phase, bund integrity tests will be undertaken by a suitably qualified Engineer to confirm the integrity of the bund as constructed,
- In the Operational Phase documented weekly inspections of the Bunds and the Class 1 Retention Interceptor will be undertaken, with additional inspections provided following heavy rainfall.
- In the Operational Phase a maintenance programme will be submitted to the Council for the Class 1 Retention Interceptor.

In conclusion I request a response to the matters raised above by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and invite you and/or your representatives to contact Mr. O'Callaghan and Ms. Callan for any items of clarification.

Regards,

Simon Walton,  
Director of Services,  
Laois County Council.

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Phone:0578674307

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