
TO: Rory O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer

FROM: Ann Marie Callan, Executive Scientist

SUBJECT: Site Inspection/ Meeting at New 400/110KV ESB Substation at Coolnabacky

DATE: 30th May 2022

On 23rd May 2022 Laois County Council met with representatives from the ESB, IE Consulting and Killen Civil Engineering at the site of the proposed new 400/110KV Substation site at Coolnabacky to carry out a site inspection and to agree a Water Quality (Surface Water & Groundwater) Monitoring Programme for the constructional and operational phases of the development.

In attendance were:

- Environment Section – Rory O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer & Ann-Marie Callan, Senior Executive Scientist
- ESB – Brendan Allen (ESB Planning & Major Projects), Donal O'Shea (ESB Site Manager), Rose Walsh (ESB Environmental) & Willie O'Dwyer (ESB Project Manager)
- IE Consulting (ESB Hydro-Consultant) – Jer Keohane
- Killeen Civil Engineering – Gordan Kerrigan

During the site inspection the following was noted:

- Road construction operations on-going
- Satisfactory road drainage and sediment containment measures in place
- Satisfactory storage of excavated soils on site
- No unauthorised discharges to surface waters
- All watercourses on and adjacent the site was inspected and noted to be of good quality with no evidence of unauthorised discharges/contamination

Matters Discussed:

1. Access Road & Land Drainage Work:
Approximately 1km of access roadway has been constructed (Contractor – Killeen Engineering). The first 500m starting at the junction with the Regional Road (R426) is to be finished with blacktop with the remaining 500m being a Clause 804 roadway.

It was noted that adequate measures were in place for the prevention of sediment loss to waters. Sediment curtains and stone were noted in the land drains at the entrance to site. It was noted that the land drains were dry and that there was no run-off from the road to the drains.

2. Works Programme:
The general works programme was discussed. All road construction works (construction, road crossings and drainage) will be completed in the coming months. It is anticipated that construction works on the surface water settlement ponds and the substation structures will commence on the site in Quarter 3 of 2022. The surface water settlement ponds will be constructed prior to any construction work on the substation building structures.

The only work activity on the site was road construction work.

3. Groundwater Monitoring:

Jer Keohane explained that the 4 yellow markers on the site represented the locations of the site assessment groundwater boreholes. Sampling of these boreholes to date has indicated a slight elevation in nutrients which is representative of free draining agricultural lands. It was agreed that the boreholes will be sampled twice per year and results submitted to Laois County Council via Ann Marie Callan. It was agreed that all the sampling locations for groundwater will be clearly marked on-site and will be mapped. This map to be submitted to Laois County Council.

4. Surface Water Monitoring:

Surface water samples are currently being taken upstream of the site, from the stream within the site boundary and downstream of the site. The sampling programme will include a sample from the outfall of the settlement ponds following construction. In total, there will be 4 surface water sampling locations. All sampling results will be submitted to Laois County Council. It was agreed that all the surface water sampling locations will be clearly marked on-site and will be mapped. This map to be submitted to Laois County Council.

5. Reporting:

It was agreed that the ESB will submit a formal Water Quality Monitoring Programme to Laois County Council detailing agreed actions and a location map for all sampling points. It was agreed that all quarterly sample results will be submitted to Laois County Council.

6. Incidents:

There was a discussion regarding any potential incidents on the site, and it was agreed that any incidents relating to water quality at the site shall be reported to Laois County Council on the day of the incident by telephone and email with an appropriate follow-up in writing. ESB also confirmed that the Water Quality Monitoring Locations will be reviewed as construction work progresses.

7. Site Ecologist:

The Ecological Clerk of Works will be appointed when the contract has been awarded for the next phase of works and will be on site for the appropriate level of monitoring. His/her contact details will be forwarded to Laois County Council when appointed.

Agreed Actions

Construction Phase:

a) Groundwater Monitoring

- Sampled 2 times per year
- Sampled at 4 Boreholes identified by Jer Keohane
- Sampling locations to be mapped and clearly marked on site

b) Surface Water Monitoring

- Surface water monitoring of the watercourse at the Coolnabacky site
- Sampled 4 times per year
- Sampling locations to be mapped and clearly marked on site
- Sample at the following locations - Upstream of site; Stream at boundary of site; Stream downstream of site and Outfall from Settlement Pond following construction

c) Sampling Results to be submitted to Laois County Council Environment Section each quarter

d) Site Engineer to visually monitor all watercourses and outfall from the settlement ponds on a daily basis during construction works

- e) Increased levels of sampling if determined necessary during construction phase
- f) Ecological Clerk of Works (when appointed) to monitor all waterbodies on site and manage same. Name and contact details of Ecological Clerk of Works to be forwarded to Laois County Council when appointed.
- g) All incidents regarding environmental issues to be reported immediately to the Environment Section on the day of the incident.
- h) Laois County Council will carry out groundwater quality monitoring on the Kyle Spring public water supply source. This monitoring will be carried out twice a year.

Operational Phase:

Water Quality Monitoring Programme will be reviewed.



Site Photographs – 23/05/2022