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R32 EHP9.**

17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

*FAO: David O'Hara – Senior Planner – by post and email*

**Re: Discharge of Planning Permission Conditions for Unit 1 of Laois Kilkenny  
Electricity Reinforcement Project – ABP Reg. Refs. VA0015.**

Dear David,

### **1. Introduction**

I refer to the above project, ABP Reg. Ref. VA0015, and in particular to previous correspondence, two letters from Laois County Council (LCC) dated 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to ESB, in which LCC confirmed that the proposals to discharge the requirements of conditions 3, 9, 10(a) and 11 were agreeable to LCC. A number of further compliance submissions were made and approved for specific elements of the project since that date.

For the avoidance of doubt this submission relates only to unit 1 which is described as follows:

**Unit 1: New 400/110kV GIS substation at Coolnabacky townland, Co. Laois.**

### **2. Planning History**

Subsequent to the granting of planning approval by ABP under VA0015, two amendment applications were approved by ABP under VM0012 and 305108. There were no additional conditions attached to VM0012 and 305108.

The planning approvals are summarised as follows:

- VA0015 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 – this approved the Laois – Kilkenny Reinforcement projects Units 1 – 8.
- VM0012 dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 – this approved an additional temporary angle mast structure and localised diversion of the existing Athy - Portlaoise 110kV overhead line and provision of a temporary site compound for the storage of materials and to facilitate site offices construction and other details in the vicinity of the GIS substation at Coolnabacky townland, Co. Laois (Unit 1).
- 305108 dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – this approved amendment to the existing Kilkenny 110 kV substation consisting generally of modifications of the existing busbar (Unit 7).

### 3. Current Project Status

The project has now progressed and Units 4, 6, and 7 (including the modifications approved under ABP Reference 305108) in February 2020 have now been completed and some accommodation works related to Unit 1. Unit 5 will commence construction in the coming weeks. The project was planned and the EIS was prepared on a “unit” basis.

- **Unit 1 is described as follows: Unit 1: New 400/110 kV GIS substation at Coolnabacky townland, Co. Laois.**
- Unit 4 is described as follows: Unit 4: A new 110kV / 38kV / MV substation in Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny.
- Unit 6 is described as follows: An Uprate of the existing Ballyragget-Kilkenny 110kV overhead line (c. 22km).
- Unit 7 is described as follows: Unit 7: A New Bay in the Existing Kilkenny 110kV station. Under ABP Reference 305108 additional works to Unit 7 were approved.
- Unit 5 is described as follows: Unit 5: The construction of a new 110 kV overhead line between Ballyragget and Coolnabacky (c. 26km).

### 4. Compliance with Planning Conditions

Compliance with planning conditions to date is detailed in this letter under point 1 - Introduction.

In relation in particular to Condition 11, a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) Revision 0 was submitted as part of the planning compliance submission approved by LCC in April 2018. It was stated in the CEMP (page 6) that:

*2.1 Purpose of Report: This Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared to address Condition No.11 (refer to text below) of the grant of permission dated 23rd April 2014 for the Laois - Kilkenny Reinforcement Project (Reference 11.VA0015) which states:*

*“The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan, which shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development”...*

*This document sets out the construction and environmental management practices and procedures to be followed during all construction phases and units. It is based on information available and known at this time. As the project progresses it is likely that the CEMP will be revised and updated. This is normal for a CEMP for any project where the construction period is over a number of years.*

*3.2 Scope of Works: The scope of works considered in this CEMP relates to all aspects of the project and all units.*

In this regard, the previously approved CEMP has been updated a number of times as the project has progressed as relevant to the works at the time.

This current CEMP has been prepared by Kilwex Civil who have been appointed by ESN as the main contractors for Unit 1. This CEMP (Kilwex Civil Document Reference CEMP – Reinforcement Project Coolnabacky – R001) is different to the previous CEMPs which were generally focussed on overhead line and other ancillary works. This CEMP is focussed specifically on the civil engineering works required for the Coolnabacky substation. As the project will be ongoing for a number of years and will involve electrical fit out when civil works are complete, it is anticipated that there will be revisions as required. Any revisions will be submitted to LCC so that the most current information is available on the public file.

While some detail is still being finalised, the main content of the CEMP is complete and it was felt prudent to issue as is to LCC, to allow the LCC review to commence. The outstanding appendices are detailed below:

- **Drainage Layouts**

The drainage drawings are currently under final review and the finalised versions will be issued along with the subsequent CEMP sub-plans. This detail will later be updated in the live document under Appendix 3 of the CEMP.



- **Site Logistics Plan**

The site logistics plan is currently depicted on a map featuring the original drainage layout (Figure 2 & Appendix 1) This will also be amended upon receipt of the finalised drainage detail but the actual content and layout will not differ substantially from what is currently shown.

- **Emergency Response Plan**

The ERP as referenced in the current CEMP is being finalised and will issue in the coming week.

## **5. Conclusion**

I would be obliged if LCC could acknowledge receipt of this submission. As this project is due to commence as soon as possible we would be obliged if LCC could review and respond to this CEMP as expeditiously as possible. In the event any aspect of the compliance documentation is unclear or if additional copies of previous submissions are required, these can be provided. If you have any queries please contact me on 086 8336990.

Yours sincerely,

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**Brendan Allen FIPI**  
**Planning Team Leader**