



Energy for
generations

esb.ie

Tionscail Innealtóireachta agus Mórthionscail,
Aon Lárcheantar Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Clochrán, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, K67 XF72, Éire
Fón. +353 1 703 8000

Engineering and Major Projects,
One Dublin Airport Central, Dublin Airport,
Cloghran, Co. Dublin, K67 XF72, Ireland
Phone +353 1 703 8000

**Laois County Council,
Planning Department,
County Hall,
JFL Avenue,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois,
R32 EHP9.**



2nd October 2023

FAO: David O'Hara – Senior Planner – by post

**Re: Discharge of Planning Permission Conditions for Unit 5 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, the letter from Laois County Council (LCC) dated 28th March 2023 to ESB, in which LCC stated:

Having reviewed the documentation submitted, the Planning Authority is not satisfied that condition 11 of ABP Reg Reference VA.0015 for unit 5 has been complied with.

For the avoidance of doubt this submission relates only to unit 5 (Unit 5 is described as follows:
Unit 5: The construction of a new 110 kV overhead line between Ballyragget and Coolnabacky (c. 26km).

We note the LCC comments and have revised the documentation and are resubmitting it to LCC.



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 23rd April 2014 – this approved the Laois – Kilkenny Reinforcement projects Units 1 – 8.
- VM0012 dated 31st 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 Coolnabackey townland, Co. Laois (Unit 1).
- 305108 dated 6th 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.

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 Coolnabackey 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 Upgrade 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 Coolnabackey (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.

Noting the comments in the LCC letter dated 28th March 2023, the Unit 5 CEMP has been updated to provide comprehensive responses to Condition 11 items (a) to (o). The key amendments from the one submitted on 28th March are as follows:

- Expanded details on Surface water management, Traffic management and Typical site compound layout.
- Specific details on the interface with Unit 1 – Coolnabacky 400/110 kV GIS substation.

5. Conclusion

I would be obliged if LCC could acknowledge receipt of this submission. 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,

Brendan Allen FIPI
Planning Team Leader