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

17th May 2023

FAO: Marie Murray Senior Staff Officer – by registered post and email planning@laoiscoco.ie

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

Dear Ms Murray,

I refer to your letter dated 24th February 2023 in which you state that “*Having reviewed the documentation submitted, the Planning Authority is not satisfied that condition 11 of ABP Reg Reference VA.0015 for unit 1 has been complied with.*”

Arising from that, ESB has revised the CEMP documentation and is now submitting this to Laois County Council for agreement as required by Condition 11.

You will be aware that separately to the planning compliance issues, the Director of Services of Environment [Simon Walton] has also been corresponding with ESB in relation to details required by him as part of an Independent Risk Assessment as detailed below.



As you are aware, Laois County Council has appointed Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers, to undertake an independent risk assessment regarding the construction and operation of the site at Coolnaback. The risk assessment is to ensure robust, reliable construction, containment, and operational measures, such that planning conditions are appropriately discharged and implemented, in a manner appropriate to the effective management of risk. In the absence of an approved CEMP, together with other details requested in email dated 19th December 2022, Malone O'Regan cannot proceed with the Risk Assessment.

We wish to advise you that due to programme constraints, the construction of Coolnaback Substation development is planned to take place in two phases.

- Phase 1 will include the construction of the 110 kV building. All construction issue drawings and detailed equipment designs are in place for these works.
- Phase 2 will include the 400 kV building and Transformer Bunds, these are subject to detailed design of the transformers, which is not yet finalised. As such, indicative detail where available has been provided. However, for the avoidance of doubt, all drainage detail and surface water protection measures are sized according to the structures intended for construction on site, these are not anticipated to change during detailed design.

This submission to LCC includes both the CEMP and a detailed response to the issues raised in the email from Simon Walton dated 19th December 2022. We have made every effort to address the queries raised with the information currently available, however if more specific information is required please advise us. Following consideration of the information by LCC we are keen to meet with you and your consultants to review in detail and discuss any additional queries/feedback that you may have. 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