



Southern Regional Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Deiscirt



Fisheries Ireland

Our Natural Heritage

24 July 2007
Angelika Grohmann-Worle,
ERM Ireland,
Suite 508,
The Capel Building,
Mary's Abbey,
Dublin 7.
By email: angelika.grohmann-woerle@erm.com

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Proposed Endesa CCGT Power Plant Great Island, Co. Wexford

Dear Ms. Grohmann-Worle,

I refer to your letter and attachments regarding the Proposed Endesa CCGT Power Plant Great Island, Co. Wexford. The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the Waterford estuary fishery.

The Waterford estuary contains a huge variety of fish, many of whom are highly protected species. Salmon, Sea trout, River and Sea Lamprey, Twaite and Allis Shad are listed species under Annex 2 of the Habitats Regulations. The three rivers which enter Waterford estuary are below their conservation limit for Salmon and Sea Trout with the River Barrow being 80% below its conservation limit, and the Rivers Nore and Suir being 20% below their conservation limit. The eel population of the rivers and the estuary is also thought to be highly at risk and there are currently detailed surveys being undertaken in an effort to address the requirements of the European Eels Directive. The Estuary also contains a variety of other important species including Smelt, Flounder, Herring, Whiting and Sea Bass. In a survey the 'Investigation of Salmon Smolt Impingement at six ESB Thermal Generating Stations' (Central Fisheries Board, 2006) twenty species of fish were recorded at the Great Island power station in 2006.

The Board considers it essential that the EIS should consider the impact of the proposed abstraction and discharge of cooling water on all fish species during all operating conditions. The impacts during the construction phase also need to be considered. The report on the 'Investigation of Salmon Smolt Impingement at six ESB Thermal Generating Stations' (Central Fisheries Board, 2006) recommended the installation of a fish deterrent at the intake point at Great Island. Although the report was principally focusing on the impact of the intake on Salmon smolts it also raised concerns about the large number of smelt and other fish species entering the intake screens at Great Island. The EIS should consider the impact of the development on all fish species.

Yours sincerely,

David Mc Inerney,
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

The Southern Regional
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Our Ref: 26.PC0078

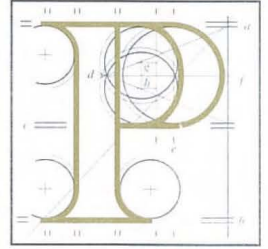
Your Ref: 0100952

Angelika Grohmann-worle
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7th July 2009

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An Bord Pleanála



Re: Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant At Great Island,
Co. Wexford

Dear Madam,


I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to your scoping report regarding a proposed CCGT Power Plant.

Please be advised that the Board will not be making a submission on the scoping request at this juncture.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Kieran Somers
Executive Officer.

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64 Marlborough Street,
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Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann
Tor an Bhacaigh
Bóthar Haddington
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Geological Survey of Ireland
Beggars Bush
Haddington Road
Dublin 4

Irish Geological Heritage Section
Tel: 01-6782741/Fax 01-6782559
Email: sophie.preteseille@gsi.ie
http://www.gsi.ie

Angelika Grohmann-Wörle
ERM Ireland
Suite 508
The Capel Building
Mary's Abbey
Dublin 7

28th July 2009

Re: Proposed Endesa CCGT Power Plant, Great Island, Co. Wexford.

Ref: 0100952

Dear Ms Grohmann-Wörle,

With reference to your letter of the 3rd July 2009, concerning the above proposed development, the Irish Geological Heritage Section (IGH) would like to make the following comments.

For your information, the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is being addressed under 16 different geological themes. For each theme a larger number of sites from which to make the NHA selection are being examined, in order to identify the most significant scientifically. Our criterion of designating the minimum number of sites to exemplify the theme means that many sites of national importance are not selected as the very best examples. However, a second tier of County Geological Sites (CGS) (as per the National Heritage Plan) means that many of these can be included in County Development Plans and receive a measure of recognition and protection through inclusion in the planning system. Please note that we are still in the process of finalizing these proposed sites.

We have one site listed near the proposed development: the gorge of **River Suir from Cheek Point to Ballyhack** has been proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology Theme.

Generally, should any developments go ahead (all other factors considered), GSI would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to GSI's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector.

GSI would also request notification of ground excavations, etc. undertaken that might provide good geological exposures for our examination. This would allow recording, fossil or rock sample collecting and gathering of new data in order to enhance our understanding of the area.

Should any significant bedrock cuttings be created, we would ask that they be designed to remain visible as rock exposure rather than covered with soil and vegetated.

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Please note that some maps/databases are available on the GSI website under "Online Mapping" or "Web Mapping"- direct link: <http://www.gsi.ie/Mapping.htm> . Data currently available is for Bedrock, Groundwater, Karst, Geotechnical boreholes, Mineral locations and the Quarry Directory. Geological Heritage data is in the process of being migrated to this website, but please continue to contact me at sophie.preteseille@gsi.ie or Sarah Gatley at sarah.gatley@gsi.ie directly for any specific geological heritage enquiry.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if the GSI can be of any further help, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Préteseille
Irish Geological Heritage Programme

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An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta
National Roads Authority

Mr. Walter Bruton

Consultant

Environmental Resources Management

Ireland Ltd.

Suite No. 508

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Dáta | Date

8th July 2009

Ár dTag. | Our Ref.

EDMS 73401

Bhur dTag. | Your Ref.

Re: EIS Scoping for Proposed CCGT Power Plant at Great Island, Co. Wexford

Dear Mr. Bruton

The Authority wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. The Authority will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by the Authority in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in our Circular 6/2006 "Policy Statement on Development Management and Access to National Roads" and other relevant circulars, which are available at www.nra.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice the NRA's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIS scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of EIS, which may affect the National Roads Network. However, we wish to advise that no new access should be provided to the national road network outside where a 50kph speed limit applies, in line with official policy, only established public road access points should be utilised to access the national road network.

The developer should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following;

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- The Authority would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on any national roads in the proximity of the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.

- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to the NRA's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2006);
- The EIS should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004));
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria, a Traffic and Transport Assessment be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines and best practice, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. The Authority's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2007) should be referred to in this regard;
- The designers are asked to consult the National Roads Authority's *Road Safety Audit Guidelines* (NRA HA 42/04) and *Road Safety Audit* (NRA HD 19/04) to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practise.

I hope that the above comments are of use in your scoping process.

Yours sincerely

pp. Olivia Morgan
Michael McCormack
Policy Adviser (Planning)

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Keith Grant
ERM
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August 27, 2009

**RE: Draft Scoping Report for Natural Gas Fired CCGT Power Plant,
Great Island, County Wexford**

Dear Mr Grant,

Thank you for your email concerning the above-mentioned scoping report.
Comments on the draft report are as follows:

- As part of the proposed site is within the boundary of a Special Area of Conservation, the development should be assessed, as per Articles 6.3 and 6.4 of the Habitats Directive.

- Surveying of flora and fauna must take into consideration the species and habitats for which the site is designated, as per NPWS's site synopsis available at http://www.npws.ie/en/media/Media_4175.en.pdf, for instance, surveying for birds and otters should also be considered and included.

- The Biodiversity Maps of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, available at http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/index2.php?page_id=1&tab_id=10 should also be used as an information source.

- With regard to the proposed habitat mapping, the Heritage Council will be publishing Best Practice Guidelines for Habitat Survey and Mapping in Ireland before the end of 2009. Should the survey work take place after its publication, we would strongly recommend that the methodology follow these guidelines. Should the survey work be planned prior to this, please do not hesitate to contact us directly in case a pre-publication draft may be made available for your use. Habitat surveying to a more detailed level than Level I should be considered, and it should be undertaken at an appropriate time of year for the habitats to be surveyed.

In relation to Archaeology, Architectural Heritage and Cultural Heritage we draw your attention to the significance of the large ecclesiastical enclosure (RMP no.WX039-018) which is located approximately 1km to the north of the existing power station. Any proposals for road widening to facilitate access or new services etc to serve the power station and using the existing road network should bear the significant archaeological potential of this ecclesiastical enclosure.

Council Members

Conor Newman
Chairperson
Betty Coffey
Dr. Billy Colfer
Prof. Gabriel Cooney
Ted Creedon
Dr. Brendan Dunford
Dr. Caro-lynn Ferris
Ríonwen Hayes
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Noel Keyes
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The paper by M. Ni Dhonnchadha (2002) 'Inis Teimle, between Uí Chennselaig and the Déissi', *Peritia* 16, 451-58 describes the historical background to this establishment. Similarly, a cluster of archaeological monuments located immediately north of the existing power station WX039-028 (leper hospital, Anglo-Norman castle, enclosure etc) indicate a considerable Anglo-Norman presence in this area. An exceptional series of thirteenth century manorial accounts describe a manor and medieval borough, possibly located in this area of Great Island (see B. Colfer (2002) *Arrogant Trespass: Anglo-Norman Wexford 1169-1400*, Duffry Press).

The Suir and Barrow estuaries are also rich in vernacular cultural heritage and traditions, relating to extinct ways of life. The "prong", a flat bottomed boat developed to exploit the estuary and its mud flats, being one example. Where the proposed works or ancillary works impact on the estuary and intertidal areas, the survey of these areas must include the recording of physical remains of these traditional ways of life e.g., fish traps, boundary markers, boat pens, submerged boats etc. and assess the potential impact of the works on same.

Finally, please also take due regard of the recently published Planning Guidelines: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management in the policy review.

Yours sincerely,



Cliona O'Brien
Wildlife Officer

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ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA hÉIREANN
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY

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11 November 2009

Mr. Walter Bruton, Consultant
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Re: Endessa project re natural gas plant at Great Island, Co. Wexford

Dear Walter

I refer to your pre-planning query of 2 November 2009 to the Irish Aviation Authority concerning proposals to include a stack of 60m as part of the Endessa power plant project.

I wish to advise that we have no aeronautical obstacle lighting requirements for this stack.

If you wish further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely

Tom Cooney
Corporate Affairs

Angelika Grohmann-Worle
Principal Consultant
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20th July 2009

Re: Proposed Endsea CCGT Power Plant Great Island, Co. Wexford

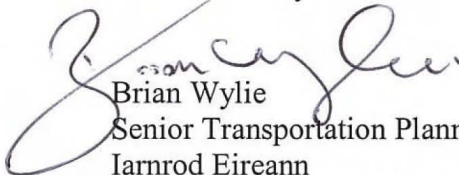
Dear Angelika,

I refer to your letter of 3rd July regarding the preparation of an EIS for the proposed replacement power plant at Great Island, Co. Wexford.

Iarnrod Eireann is broadly supportive of the proposed development, subject to two conditions as follows:-

1. That the construction and operation of the proposed Power Plant does not in any way impinge upon Iarnrod Eireann's operation of the railway
2. That the construction and operation of the proposed Power Plant does not impact or encroach in any way upon lands in CIE / IE ownership, including the rail alignment.

Yours sincerely,


Brian Wylie
Senior Transportation Planner
Iarnrod Eireann
Connolly Station
Dublin 1