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Sent by e-mail to: licence@mara.gov.ie

15 April 2025

Re: Request for additional information in accordance with section 117(3) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 in respect of licence application reference number MUL240036

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to your letter of 11 April 2025 requesting additional information from EirGrid plc in respect of licence application reference number MUL240036.

I reply to your queries as follows, adhering to the numbering used in your letter of 11 April 2025:-

Query 1 part 1 from MARA: Clarify whether the overall purpose of the application is marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation (Schedule 7(3)).

EirGrid plc's reply to Query 1 part 1: Yes, the overall purpose of the application is marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation (Schedule 7(3)).

Query 1 part 2 from MARA: Clarify whether the other Schedule 7 usages listed in Section 2.2 of the Application Form are ancillary to site investigations or are for another purpose other than site investigations.

EirGrid plc's reply to Query 1 part 2: The other Schedule 7 usages listed in Section 2.2 of the Application Form are ancillary to site investigations. They were included to ensure that all the proposed activities required for site investigation, including incidental activities, are included in any Maritime Usage Licence that MARA may grant to EirGrid plc in respect of licence application reference number MUL240036. Some of the rationale for including these activities in Section 2.2 of the Application Form are provided in *Table 1* below.

Ancillary Activities to Schedule 7(3) Activities	Reason for inclusion
5.The installation of non-permanent platforms, pontoons or slipways.	The site investigation works will involve the deployment of a jack-up-barge within the Maritime Usage Licence boundary. This was considered to be a non-permanent platform from which works will be undertaken for the purposes of site investigation.
6.The deposit of any substance or object, either in the sea or on or under the seabed, from— (a) a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft or marine structure (other than a pipeline),	The site investigation works include the deployment of up to two buoys, two ADCP and SAM devices which will be moored to the seabed. These devices and moorings will be deployed from site investigation vessels.
7.The use of a vehicle, vessel (including a craft capable of travelling on, in or under water, whether or not self-propelled), boat, aircraft, marine structure (other than a pipeline) or floating container to remove any substance or object from the seabed.	The site investigation works include the use of vehicle and vessels (e.g. boats, JUB) for the purposes of taking samples and cores from the seabed during geotechnical, environmental and archaeological sampling campaigns.
11.The deposit, construction or removal of any mooring not requiring authorisation under any other enactment.	The site investigation works include the deployment of up to two buoys, two ADCP and SAM devices which will be moored to the seabed.
12.(a) The removal of beach material from, or the disturbance of beach material in, the maritime area otherwise than in the course of the ordinary or reasonable recreational enjoyment of the maritime area. (b) In this paragraph, “beach material” means sand, clay, gravel, shingle, stones, rocks, mineral substances, seashells, coral and maerl and any flora, in or on the surface of the seabed or suspended in the water of the maritime area, and includes outcrops of rock or any other mineral substance above the surface of the seabed.	The site investigation works include the taking of samples and cores from the beach areas and above the surface of the seabed within the Maritime Usage Licence boundary during geotechnical, environmental and archaeological sampling campaigns.

Table 1

Query 2 from MARA: Figure 2.2 in the Project Description Report gives an overview of the locations of the proposed site investigations.

Appendix A of the report provides drawings of indicative locations of where each of the activities is proposed to take place.

Section 2.2 of the report notes that *‘as information from the SI works is collected, processed and analysed, it will inform whether additional areas of investigation are required. Therefore the Aol has been created to provide a wide enough area over which the required SI works can be completed in order to identify preferred locations for all of the PUOSC infrastructure’*.

Clarify this statement and whether it is intended to carry out site investigation activities in areas other than those shown on Figure 2.2 of the Project Description Report and indicated in the Appendix A drawings, including the seven proposed landfall areas.

EirGrid plc’s reply to Query 2: The Area of Interest provides for site investigation activities for each of the seven potential landfall areas, the cable corridors and potential OSS locations. We confirm that it is intended to carry out site investigation activities in the indicative areas shown on Figure 2.2 of the Project Description Report and also indicated in the Appendix A drawings. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not intended to carry out the proposed site investigation activities outside the Maritime Usage Licence boundary.

The boundary of the MUL application area reflects the potential landfalls at East Waterford and Wexford, and also in Cork. The boundary reflects these potential landfalls, and therefore does not hug the coastline in areas where landfalls are not proposed.

Query 3 from MARA: The Application Form (Item 3.4) lists a number of folios registered as in private ownership within the Area of Interest redline boundary.

Clarify what site investigation works, if any, you intend to conduct within those folios under private ownership listed.

EirGrid plc’s reply to Query 3: Typical survey scopes include the following:-

(a) Topography & Imagery:

- i. Conventional land survey techniques and/or airborne:
 - LIDAR;
 - 3D laser scanning;
 - Photogrammetry;
 - Total station:
 - automatic level;

- barcode staff;
- data logger.

(b) Geophysical:

- i. Seismic refraction;
- ii. Ground penetrating radar;
- iii. Electrical resistivity;
- iv. Magnetometer or electromagnetic survey.

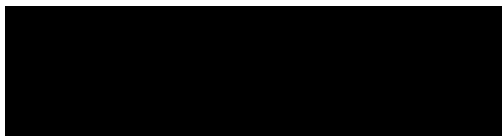
(c) Geotechnical:

- i. Onshore borehole at each landfall zone, extending 15 metres below ground level;
- ii. Onshore CPTs drilled adjacent to (within 50 metres of) the onshore borehole;
- iii. Trial pits;
- iv. Shallow geotechnical probing.

Landowner engagement is ongoing and any site investigation works within folios under private ownership will only be conducted following engagement with the relevant landowners and with the consent of the relevant landowners. Landowner engagement is undertaken by EirGrid Agricultural Liaison Officer to ensure that agreement is in place with relevant landowners prior to accessing any relevant private lands.

Should you have any queries or questions regarding the above replies, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Offshore Planning and Consent Lead
EirGrid plc