

Achoimre Neamh-theicniúil

Réamhrá

Tá iarratas á dhéanamh ag Gréasán BSL ar chead pleanála chun an Stáisiún 38kV i Scríb i mbaile fearainn Ghlinn Chatha a uasghrádú go stáisiún 110kV/38kV agus chun líne dáileacháin leictreachais 110kV lastuas nua a thógáil ó bhaile fearainn an Léana Bhodhair (siar ó Chathair na Gaillimhe) go dtí an Stáisiún i Scríb. Beidh an líne chumhachta 110kV lastuas riachtanach chun ceangal a dhéanamh leis an Stáisiún i Scríb ón Stáisiún 110kV i mBóthar na Trá a fuair cead pleanála le déanaí. (Tag: 07604 - Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe). Is cábla faoi thalamh a bheidh sa chéad 4km ó fhostáisiún Bhóthar na Trá go dtí an Léana Bodhar, a bheidh díolmhaith ón bpróiseas pleanála faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt. Tá 380 méadar tosaigh na líne i mbaile fearainn na Ceapaí agus an Léana Bhodhair faoi dhlinse Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe agus bronnadh cead pleanála den chuid seo in 2006 – An Bord Pleanála tag: PL61.210778

Is forbairt líneach í an líne dáilte 110kV a bheidh comhdhéanta de thrí shreang lastuas le tacaíocht ó struchtúir dhéchuailí adhmaid, ina mbeidh na cuailí 5 mhéadar ó chéile agus 20 méadar ar airde ar an meán. Beidh tuairim is an 2.8km deiridh den líne isteach go fostaísiún Scríbe comhdhéanta de thrí shreang lastuas agus dhá sciathshreang lastuas. Úsáidfeadh túir chruach laisté 15 méadar ar airde ar an meán agus le meánachar boinn de 5 mhéadar cearnach san áit a n-athróidh an líne treo. Féadfar cuaille adhmaid snaidhmthe a úsáid i ndáil le hathrú treo 25 céim nó níos lú, ag brath ar choinníollacha deartha. Beidh thart ar 170 méadar i bhfad ar an meán idir na struchtúir. Is é 48km fad iomlán na líne beartaithe.

Reachtaíocht Infheidhme

Titeann an fhorbairt bheartaithe faoi réim Alt 182A den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 ama leasú faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt (Bonneagar Straitéiseach) 2006 de bharr gur forbairt chun críocha leictreachais a iompar trí bhithin líne voltais 110kV atá inti.

Ullmhaíodh an EIS de réir fhorálacha alt 94 agus Sceideal 6 na Rialachán um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2001-2007. Ordaíonn forálacha na Rialachán thuasluaite na tionscadail sin nach mór Measúnú Tionchair Timpeallachta (EIA) a dhéanamh ina dtaobh. Tá forbairt na líne 110kV lasmuigh de scóip Sceideal 5. Tá sé mar rogha ag na húdaráis phleanála, áfach, EIA a éileamh ar thionscadail atá faoi thairseacha Sceideal 5. Chuir an Bord Pleanála in iúl do Ghréasán BSL in mí Iúil 2007 go mbeadh EIA de dhíth air agus d'iarr go ndéanfaí EIS ar thionchar na líne 110kV beartaithe agus ar thionchar uasghrádú fhostáisiún Scríbe ar an gcomhshaoil. Ó tharlaíonn go mbeidh an fhorbairt bheartaithe laistigh do limistéar Gaeltachta, tá na fógraí poiblí ar fad, na doiciméid chomhairleacháin phobail ar fad agus an EIS aistrithe go Gaeilge.

Comhchomhairlí

Chuir Gréasán BSL fógraíocht lánleathanaí i bhFoinse, sa Galway Tribune agus sa Galway City Tribune ag déanamh cur síos ar chonair-bhealach na líne atá beartaithe. Chuir an fhógraíocht an pobal ar an eolas maidir leis an gconair-bhealach atá le teacht agus iarradh orthu aighneachtaí agus tuairimí a dhéanamh ina thaobh. Cuireadh fógraí ar www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/connemara chomh maith. Chuathas i gcomhchomhairle le grúpaí gnó agus pobail i rith na céime forbartha den tionscadal.

Bhí cainteanna le geallsealbhóirí áitiúla i rith an phróisis deiridh le bealach an líne a roghnú le súil agus aghaidh a thabhairt ar na hábhair inmí maidir le suíomh na forbartha.

Sular cuireadh isteach an t-iarratas, eisíodh fógra suirbhé agus léarscáileanna 1:10560 chuig úinéirí talún nó a ngníomhairí ag léiriú an ionaid bheartaithe don líne laistigh dá dtailte. Rinne ionadaithe de chuid Gréasán BSL iarracht dul i dteagmháil dhíreach leis na húinéirí talún ar fad chun an tionscadal a phlé. Tugadh aghaidh ar aon inmí a bheadh ag na húinéirí talún agus rinneadh athruithe ar bhealach na líne a mhéid ab fhéidir nuair a hiarradh é sin a dhéanamh.

Chuathas i mbun comhchomhairle mionsonraithe le go leor grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí i rith ullmhú an EIS lena n-áirítear An Bord Pleanála, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúra (NPWS), Coillte agus Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Iarthair.

Roghanna eile

Ainmníodh agus rinneadh measúnú ar roghanna eile le bonneagar leictreachais Chonamara a atreisiú agus is féidir na mionsonruithe a fháil sa "Tuarascáil Pleanála". Aithníodh trí rogha atraisithe:

Rogha 1: Na línte 38kV atá ann cheana féin a atógáil ar mhéid seoltóra níos mó agus seoltóir alúmanaim 300sqmm le croí cruach.

Rogha 2: Líne 38kV nua a thógáil ó Ghaillimh go Fostaísiún 110kV Scríbe agus na línte 38kV atá ann cheana féin a atógáil go dtí seoltóir alúmanaim 300sqmm le croí cruach.

Rogha 3: Líne chumhachta 110kV nua a chur ar fáil ar an lúblíne 38kV atá ann cheana féin trí cheangal 110kV a thógáil ó bhFostaísiún 110kV atá beartaithe do Bhóthar na Trá go dtí an Fostaísiún 110kV/38kV atá beartaithe do Scríb.

Aithníodh gurb é an réiteach is fearr ná nasc 110kV nua a thógáil ó Bhóthar na Trá go Scríb agus cumas fhóstaísiún 38kV Scríbe atá ann cheana féin a uasghrádú go 110kV. Cinneadh go nascaí iad ag úsáid líne lastuas.

Conair-bhealaí na línte

Ainmníodh agus rinneadh measúnú ar roghanna conair-bhealaigh eile do línte a bheadh nasctha le fostaísiún Scríbe agus is féidir na mionsonruithe a fháil sa "Tuarascáil um Chonair Bhealaigh a Shainaitheint".

Roghnaigh ESBI ceithre chonair-bhealach leathana. Conair A a leanann an cósta agus R336 go ginearálta, conairí B agus C a leanann bealaí níos díri chuig fostaísiún Scríbe agus conair D a leanann N59 agus R336 go ginearálta. Rinneadh tuilleadh measúnaithe comhchomhairleacha agus sainanailísithe ar na roghanna conair-bhealaí do línte ag féachaint ar na hábhair seo - Daoine, Flora & Fauna, Geolaíocht agus Hidrigeolaíocht, Uisce, Torann, Tírdhreach, Oidhreacht Chultúrtha agus Sócmhainní Ábhar. Ainmníodh na critéir a bhain go speisialta le tréithe an limistéar staidéir i gConamara agus a n-úsáidí chun an chonair-bhealaigh is fearr a roghnú. Aithníodh gurb í Conair D an conair-bhealach ab fhearr agus rinneadh modhnuithe chun dul i ngleic le hábhair inmí a bhí ann maidir le flora agus fauna agus an tírdhreach.

Léiríonn scrúduithe ar fhorbairt i suíomh Natura 2000 nach mbíonn tionchar suntasach aige nuair a thrasnaíonn conair na suíomh seo.

Measúnú ar na Tionchair

Scrúdaíodh na tionchair a d'fhéadfadh a bheadh ag an bhforbairt trí na comhpháirteanna comhshaoil seo a leanas a mheas: daoine, flora agus fauna, ithreacha & screamhuisce, torann, aer & aeráid, oidhreacht chultúrtha / seandálaíocht, sócmhainní ábhar agus tírdhreach. I ngach cás rinneadh na tionchair a scrúdú trí fhéachaint ar an timpeallacht ghlactha isteach, ar thionchair ar an gcomhshaoil agus ar na bearta maolaithe (más cuí).

Daoine

Beidh tionchar fadtéarmach dearfach ag an tionscadal atreisithe leictreachais atá beartaithe ar cheantar Iarthair na Gaillimhe agus ar an tír ar fad. Is réamhchoinníoll d'fhobairt eacnamaíochta na tíre é an bonneagar fuinnimh a fhorbairt agus a fheabhsú. Beidh an tír agus an ceantar ina shuíomh níos tarraingtí d'infheistíocht isteach má tá soláthar fuinnimh éifeachtúil agus iontaoifa ar fáil.

Tá staidéir fhorleathana déanta ar na rioscaí sláinte a bhaineann le línte ardvoltais. Tá treoirlínte tagartha ar nochtadh do réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha leagtha amach ag an gCoimisiún Idirnáisiúnta um Chosaint ar Radaíocht Neamhianaíoch (ICNIRP) a chuireann comhairle ar an Eagraíocht Sláinte Domhanda faoi ábhair radaíochta neamhianaíoch. Beidh na réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha a bhaineann leis an bhforbairt bheartaithe go maith faoi bhonn na dtreoirlínte ICNIRP molta. Cloifidh Gréasán BSL leis na caihdeáin náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta agus leis na treoirlínte náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta. Ina theannta sin, tá sé beartaithe achar scartha 50m ar



Non Technical Summary

Introduction

ESB Networks are applying for planning permission to upgrade Screeb 38kV Substation in the townland of Glencoh to an 110kV/38kV substation and to erect a new 110kV overhead electricity distribution line from the townland of Lenabower (west of Galway City) to Screeb substation. The 110kV overhead powerline is required to establish a connection to Screeb substation from the Salthill 110kV substation which recently received planning permission (Galway City Council Ref: 07604). The first 4km from Salthill substation to Lenabower will be underground cable and is exempt from the planning process under the Planning and Development Act 2006. The first 380 metres of the line in the townlands of Cappagh and Lenabower is in the jurisdiction of Galway City Council, planning permission for this section was granted in 2006 – An Bord Pleanála ref: PL61.210778

The 110kV distribution line is a linear development and will consist of three overhead wires supported by double wood pole structures, whose poles are 5 metres apart and of average height of 20 metres. For approximately the last 2.8km into Screeb substation, the line will consist of three overhead wires and two overhead shieldwires. Where the line changes direction, lattice steel towers of average height 15 metres and with an average base area of 5 metres square will be used. For slight direction changes of 25 degrees or less a braced woodpole may be utilised depending on design conditions. The average distance between structures will be approximately 170 metres. The total length of the proposed line is 48km.

Applicable Legislation

The proposed development falls within the scope of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 being for the transport of electricity by means of a 110kV voltage line.

The EIS has been prepared in accordance with article 94 and Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2007. The provisions of the above regulations stipulate those projects that must be the subject of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The 110kV line development is outside the scope of Schedule 5. However, planning authorities have the discretion to require an EIA for projects below the Schedule 5 thresholds. An Bord Pleanála advised ESB Networks in July 2007 that an EIA was required and that an EIS should address the impacts of the proposed 110kV line and the upgrade of Screeb substation. As the proposed development falls within a Gaeltacht area, all public notices, public consultation documents and the EIS have been translated into Irish.

Consultation

ESB Networks took out full page advertisements in January 2008 in Foinse, Galway Tribune and Galway City Tribune detailing the proposed line route corridor. The ads were designed to inform the public about emerging route corridor and the public were invited to make submissions and observations. Notices were also placed on www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/connemara. During the project development stage business and community groups were consulted.

Discussions were held with local stakeholders during the final line route selection process with a view to addressing concerns regarding the siting of the development. Prior to the application submission, the landowners or their agents were issued with a survey notice and 1:10560 maps indicating the proposed position of the line within their lands. ESB Networks representatives attempted to contact all landowners directly to discuss the project. Landowners concerns were addressed and requests for changes to the line route were made where practical.

During the preparation of the EIS detailed consultations were held with many groups and organisations including An Bord Pleanála, Galway County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Coillte and the Western Regional Fisheries Board.

Alternatives

Alternative options for reinforcement of the electricity infrastructure in Connemara were identified and assessed, the detail of which can be seen in the "Planning Report". Three reinforcement options were identified:

Option 1: Rebuild the existing 38kV lines in a larger conductor size using 300sqmm steel core aluminium conductor.

Option 2: Build new 38kV line from Galway 110kV Substation to Screeb and rebuild the existing lines to larger 300sqmm steel core aluminium conductor.

Option 3: Provide a new 110kV injection into the existing 38kV loop by constructing an 110kV connection from the proposed Salthill 110kV Substation to a proposed 110/38kV Substation at Screeb.

The construction of a new Salthill to Screeb 110kV connection and upgrade the existing Screeb 38kV substation to 110kV operation was identified as the preferred solution. Also considered was the method of connection which will be overhead line.

Line route corridors

Alternative line route corridors to connect to Screeb substation were identified and assessed, the detail of which can be seen in the "Identification of Line Route Corridor Report".

Four broad route corridors were selected by ESBI. Corridor A which broadly follows the coast and R336, corridors B & C - more direct routes to Screeb substation and corridor D which broadly followed the N59 and R336. These line route corridor options were further assessed through consultation and expert analysis under the topics of Human beings, Flora & Fauna, Geology and Hydrogeology, Water, Noise, Landscape, Cultural Heritage and Material Assets. The criteria for selecting the preferred route corridor specific to the traits presented in the Connemara study area were identified. Corridor D was identified as the preferred route corridor with modifications for flora and fauna and landscape concerns.

Screening for development in Natura 2000 site establishes that there is no significant effect where the corridor traverses these sites.

Assessment of Impacts

The possible impacts of the development were examined by considering the following environmental components: human beings, flora & fauna, water quality & fisheries, soils & groundwater, noise, air & climate, cultural heritage / archaeology, material assets and landscape. In each case, impacts were examined by considering the receiving environment, environmental impacts and mitigation measures (where appropriate).

Human Beings

The proposed electricity reinforcement project will have a positive long term impact on the West Galway region and the country as a whole. The development and improvement of the country's energy infrastructure are a prerequisite for economic development. Effective and reliable energy supply will make the country and the region a more attractive location for inward investment.

Extensive studies have been undertaken on the health risks associated with high voltage lines. Limits for exposure to electro-magnetic fields have been set by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) who advises the World Health Organisation on non-ionising radiation matters. The electric and magnetic fields for the proposed development would fall well below the recommended ICNIRP guidelines. ESB Networks will adhere to international and national standards and guidelines. Furthermore, it is proposed to provide



a laghad a chur idir na línte lastuas agus na tithe atá ann cheana. Is é an tátal nach bhfuil fianaise ar bith ann go leanfaidh baol suntasach do shláinte leis an bhforbairt bheartaithe de bharr éifeachtaí dochracha ag éirí as réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha. Airíonn Gréasáin BSL go bhfuil cosaint ar shláinte, shábháilteacht agus ar leas a fhoireann agus an pobal i gcoitinne an-luachmhar agus lárnach don chomhlacht. Tá córais tarchurtha agus dáilte na hÉireann deartha, tógtha agus á n-oibriú de réir na rialacháin sábháilteachta náisiúnta ar fad agus rialacháin sábháilteachta an AE ar fad agus de réir dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta.

Flora & Fauna

Ainmnítear na suímh agus na gnáthóga atá le cosaint de bharr go bhfuil tábhacht idirnáisiúnta ag baint leo bunaithe go príomha ar Threoracha Eorpacha, Treoir na nGnáthóg agus Treoir na nÉan ach go háirithe. Tá na suímh agus na gnáthóga ainmnithe faoi chosaint in Éirinn ag reachtaíocht atá i bhfeidhm faoi Rialacháin 1997-2005 maidir le Gnáthóga.

Trasnaíonn an líne achar teoranta de shuímh ainmnithe a bhfuil tábhacht éiceolaíoch ag baint leo go hidirnáisiúnta agus achar teoranta de theorainneacha suímh ainmnithe a bhfuil tábhacht éiceolaíoch ag baint leo go náisiúnta. Ní bheidh cailliúint shuntasach ann maidir le méid nó luach na gnáthóige a chailtear de bharr lorg na líne agus moladh maolú chun cailliúint agus suaitheadh na gnáthóige agus an fhiadhúlra de bharr thógáil agus fheidhmiú na líne a laghdú.

Ní thuairtar go mbainfidh éifeachtaí suntasacha do shuímh ainmnithe de bharr a luach caomhnaithe dúlra, do speiceas cosanta nó do speiceas atá an-luachmhar ó thaobh caomhnaithe de.

Is bearta maolaithe chun tionchar éiceolaíoch an tionscadail ar SAC Phortach Chonamara a íoslághdú iad bealach na líne meánvoltais atá ann cheana a athúsáid san áit a bhfuil an ghnáthóg laghdaithe agus cuailí adhmaid snaidhmthe a úsáid mar struchtúir uilinn in áit túir chruach (de bhrí go bhfágann siad lorg éiceolaíoch níos lú agus sa chaoi nach mbeidh gá le coincreít a húsáid).

Úsáidfead meascán d'innealra ísealbhrú talún agus cosáin shealadacha chun suaitheadh na bportach a íoslághdú. Tá sé beartaithe héileacaptair a úsáid ag láithreacha áirithe.

Beidh sféir rabhaidh lasta suas d'éin ag áiteanna áirithe le go laghdófar an baol go n-eitleoidh éin isteach sa líne lastuas.

Cloífead le Treoirlínte lascaigh (EFB) i gcás líne a thrasnaíonn aibhneacha nó srutháin (lena n-áirítear áit rochtana ag trasnú aibhneacha nó srutháin).

Cáilocht an uisce & iascaigh

Déanfar aon tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ar shruthchúrsaí a sheachaint trí na suímh thógála a bhainistiú go cúramach. D'fhéadfadh tionchar a bheith ag gníomhaíochtaí tógála a bhaineann le tógáil na líne, ag leagan na gcrann i gconairí foraoise agus ag ullmhú an tsuímh ar an uisce. Is é truailliú na sruthchúrsaí trí chailliúint dhríodair an príomhthionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann.

Cloífidh na cleachtais tógála ghinearálta le riachtanais chosanta ar ghnáthóga iascaigh, arna foilsiú ag Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Oirthir, i rith oibreacha tógála agus forbartha ag suímh a bhfuil aibhneacha orthu.

Comhlíonfaidh na bearta maolaithe le haon riachtanas ag eascairt ó chomhaontais idir an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta agus an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra maidir le hoibríochtaí bainte in abhantrach Dhiúilicíní Péarla Fionnuisce íogair Abhann an Chnoic.

Déanfar ráitis maidir le modhanna oibre a chomhaontú leis na criúna tógála i gcás suíomh atá i mbaol le go mbeidh cosc ar an móin a chorrá ann.

Déanfar iniúchadh agus cothabháil sa ngnáthchúrsa ar shaoráid cóireála dramhuisce ar suíomh bacanna siolta agus idircheapóirí ola lena chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag comhlíonadh na sonraíochtaí ó thaobh oibríochta

Ithreacha & Screamhuisce

Is í an mhóin is forleithne ar na hithreacha agus tá sí ar feadh bhealach na líne i bhfoirm bratphortaigh mhóna go príomha. Déanfar bearta maolaithe cuimsitheacha a bhunú chun cliseadh fána agus tionchair ar hidrigeolaíocht an tsuímh a chosc. D'fhéadfadh go mbainfeadh contúirt cobhsaíochta fána le cúig shuíomh. Caithear tuilleadh scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na suímh le baol cobhsaíochta na fána a mheas. Déanfar scrúdú iomchuí ar an láthair roimh thabhairt faoin dearadh deiridh agus tógáil ag na cúig láthair seo.

Tá suíomh an fhostáisiúin suite laistigh den áit a raibh an stáisiún ginte leictreachais a leagadh. Bhíodh sé mar chleachtas diúscairthe dramaíola ag an stáisiún an dramháil ar fad, luaith, bialann, cothabháil, m.sh., a dhiúscairt mar shruth dramaíola amháin, a diúscairíodh sna limistéir fholamha gar don fhostáisiún ansin. Léirigh scrúduithe ar na hithreacha a bhaineann le limistéir diúscairthe dramaíola go bhféadfadh aispeist a bheith in ithreacha an tsuímh. Déanfar scrúdú iomchuí ag cruthú méid agus nádúir aon éillithe ithreach a d'fhéadfadh a bheadh ann ag an bhfostáisiún agus déanfar plean leighis a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm chun fáil réidh do na rioscaí a bhaineann le hithir éillithe sula dtosaíonn an obair thógála. Bainistíofar trácht tógála lena chinntiú nach mbeidh ach rochtain theoranta ar na

suímh chun tionchar ar chobhsaíocht na hithreach a íoslághdú agus an chontúirt go rithfeadh uisce chun srutha a laghdú.

Tabharfar aird ar dea-chleachtais chaighdeánacha agus aitheanta chun truailliú uisce agus cliseadh móna a chosc le linn thréimhse na tógála.

Torann

Ní fheictear go mbeidh fadhb ann ó thaobh torainn laistigh den fhostáisiún ón lascghiar de agus ó na haláir de bhí gur annamh a chloisfí torann agus nach mairfeadh sé ach seal gearr. Meastar go mbeidh torann ag teacht ón gclaochladán maolaithe sách dóthanach taobh amuigh den fhostáisiún le nach gcuirfidh sé isteach ar dhaoine.

Tagann an torann ó línte cumhachta, ag minicíocht inchloiste agus ag minicíocht an raidió agus na teilifíse, ó roinnt mheicníocht, mar atá spréachadh ó bhearnaí, agus torann corónach agus torann aeólach.

Tarlaíonn spréachadh ó bhearnaí ar féidir leis teacht trasna ar an raidió agus ar an teilifís go hannamh ar línte ardvoltais. Cé nach féidir minicíocht spréachta ó bhearnaí a thuar is féidir í a aithint go héasca agus a réiteach nuair a tharlaíonn sí. D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh torann corónach san áit a bhfuil seoltóirí agus cruá-earraí línte lastuas eile. Is annamh a dhéantar gearáin faoi thorann corónach ag cur isteach ar chomharthaí raidió nó teilifíse i gcás línte 110kV. Ní sháraíonn na leibhéil torainn a thagann ó thorann corónach na línte cumhachta choróin na leibhéil torainn chúlracha faoi na coinníollacha aimsire is measa agus bíonn siad go maith laistigh de na teorainn aitheanta idirnáisiúnta. Ní mheastar go gcuirfidís isteach ar na cónaitheoirí áitiúla.

Tarlaíonn torann aeólach inchloiste, atá deacair a thuar, go hannamh ar línte ardvoltais. Sa chás neamhdhóchúil go dtarlaíonn sé ar an líne atá beartaithe, déanfaidh an forbróir na bearta maolaithe iomchuí, lena bhféadfaí suiteáil bhacóirí ar shreabhadh aeir agus athsholáthar na n-inslitheoirí a áireamh.

Aer & Aeráid

Mar thoradh ar an tionscadal beidh laghdú sa chailliúintí teirmeacha (fuinneamh) ar an ngréasán agus beidh sé níos éasca níos mó úsáide a bhaint as giniúint inathnuaite. Beidh glantairbhe dhearfach ag sin maidir le hastuithe carbóin a laghdú. Ní bheidh na hastuithe suntasach i gcomhthéacs aeráid an domhain. Beidh deannach agus astuithe ag teacht ó na feithiclí agus an trealamh tógála i rith chéim thógála d'oibreacha suíomh Fhostáisiún Scríbe. Is tionchair iad seo sa ngearthearma agus is féidir smacht a choinneáil orthu trí dea-chleachtas suímh a chur i bhfeidhm i rith na céime tógála.



a separation distance of at least 50m between the overhead lines and existing houses. It is concluded that there is no evidence that the proposed development would pose a significant health risk due to adverse effects arising from electromagnetic fields.

ESB Networks regard the protection of the health, safety and welfare of its staff and the general public as a core company value. The Irish transmission and distribution systems are designed, constructed and operated in accordance with all national and EU safety regulations and in accordance with best international practice.

Flora & Fauna

The designation and protection of sites and habitats of international importance is derived principally from European Directives, in particular the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. In Ireland these designated sites and habitats are protected by legislation which derives from implementation of the Habitats Regulations 1997-2005.

The line crosses limited lengths of internationally designated sites of ecological importance and limited lengths of the boundary areas of nationally designated sites of ecological importance. Habitat loss due to the footprint of the line is not significant in either its extent or in the value of the habitats lost and mitigation is proposed to minimise loss of and disturbance to habitat and wildlife due to the construction and operation of the line.

No significant effects are predicted in relation to sites designated for their nature conservation value, protected species or species of high conservation value. The reuse of the existing medium voltage line route where the habitat is depleted and braced wood-poles utilised as angle structures instead of steel towers (having a smaller footprint and removing the need for the use of concrete) are mitigation measures in the Connemara Bog SAC to minimise ecological impact. A combination of low ground pressure machinery and temporary tracking will be utilised to minimise disturbance to peat bogs. It is proposed to use helicopters at certain locations.

In order to reduce the risk of birds colliding with the overhead line, illuminated bird warning spheres will be placed at certain locations.

Where the line crosses rivers or streams (including access which cross rivers or streams) the Fisheries Guidelines (EFB) will be adhered to.

Water quality & fisheries

Any potential impact to watercourses will be avoided by careful management of the construction sites. Potential impacts on water can occur through construction activity associated with the line establishment, clearfelling of forest corridors and the site preparation. The main potential impact is pollution of watercourses through sediment loss.

General construction practices will adhere to the requirements for the protection of fisheries habitat during construction and development works at river sites published by the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.

Mitigation measures will comply with any requirements arising from agreements between the Forest Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service with respect to harvesting operations in the Owenriff sensitive SAC Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchment.

Method statements for prevention of peat movement will be agreed with the construction crews for sites that are at risk.

Routine inspection and maintenance of the onsite wastewater treatment facility, the silt traps and the oil interceptors will be carried out to ensure operational compliance with specifications.

Soils & Groundwater

Peat is the dominant soil type, primarily in the form of blanket peat bog along the line route. Comprehensive mitigation measures will be put in place to prevent slope failure and impacts to site hydrogeology.

There are five sites that have a potential slope stability risk. These sites require further investigation to assess the slope stability risk. In advance of final design and construction appropriate ground investigation will be undertaken at these five locations.

The substation site is located within the environs of the now demolished electricity generating station. Historical waste disposal practices at the station were to dispose of all wastes, ash, canteen, maintenance, etc, as a single waste stream, which was then disposed of in vacant areas adjacent to the station. Investigations of the soils associated with waste disposal areas have indicated that the site soils may contain asbestos. An appropriate investigation will be undertaken to establish the extent and nature of any soil contamination that may be present in the substation and a remediation plan will be developed and implemented so that risks from contaminated soil are removed in advance of construction work commencing.

Construction traffic will be managed to ensure that its access to sites is limited to minimise impact on peat stability and reduce the potential for surface water runoff. Standard and recognised best practices to prevent water pollution and peat failure will be observed throughout the construction period.

Noise

Noise from within the Substation due to switch gear and alarms is not foreseen to be a problem as this would be infrequent and of short duration. It is expected that noise generated by the transformer will be sufficiently attenuated outside the substation so as not to cause annoyance.

Noise from power lines, at both audible frequencies and at radio and television frequencies can be caused by a number of mechanisms, namely gap sparking, corona and aeolian noise.

Gap sparking, which can cause radio and television interference, occurs infrequently on high voltage lines. Although it is not possible to predict the occurrences of gap sparking, it is easily identified when it does arise and is readily solved.

Corona can arise at conductors and other items of overhead line hardware. On 110kV lines corona noise rarely results in complaints of interference to radio and television signals. Noise levels arising from power line corona under worst case weather conditions generally do not exceed background noise levels and are well within internationally recognised limits. They are not expected to affect local residents.

Audible aeolian noise, though hard to predict, rarely occurs on overhead lines. In the unlikely event of it occurring on the proposed line, the developer will carry out the appropriate mitigation measures, which could include the fitting of air-flow spoilers and the replacement of insulators.

Air & Climate

This project will lead to a reduction in thermal (energy) losses on the network and will facilitate the greater use of renewable generation which will have a net positive benefit in reducing carbon emissions.

Emissions arising will not be significant in the context of global climate. During the construction phase site works for Screeb Substation will give rise to dust and emissions associated with construction vehicles and equipment. These impacts will be short term and can be controlled using good site practice during the construction phase.



Oidhreacht Chultúrtha/Seandálaíocht

Rinneadh an measúnú seo mar chuid den Ráiteas Tionchair Timpeallachta (EIS) don líne 110kV lastuas atá beartaithe idir Bóthar na Trá agus Scríb, Co. na Gaillimhe. Áiríodh taighde ón deisc agus taighde trí shiúl na láithreach le limistéir a mbeadh tábhacht seandálaíochta/stairiúil ag baint leo a aithint ar bhealach roghnaithe na líne mar chuid den mheasúnú. Tháingadar ar sé shéadchomhartha neamhthaifeadta a raibh tábhacht seandálaíochta/stairiúil ag baint leo i rith iniúchadh na láithreach. Moladh an lonnaithe ag Leitir Creamha a sheachaint ar mhaithe le caomhnú seandálaíochta/stairiúil. Tá aon séadchomhartha seandálaíochta taifeadta dhéag suite laistigh de 400m ó bhealach na líne atá beartaithe agus déanfar iad a sheachaint. Moltar go ndéanfar monatóireacht ar na hoibreacha talún a bhaineann le tógáil bhealach na líne i ngarchomharsanacht na suímh a dtáingadar orthu le déanaí agus na suímh taifeadta.

Sócmhainní Ábhar

Beidh tionchair shuntasacha ag an bhfostáisiún ar thrácht an Bhóthair réigiúnaigh, an R340, idir Doire Bhanbh agus Scríb, le linn dá thógáil, agus ní ardú buain a bheidh ann. Ní mhairfidh na leibhéil tráchtála bhreise ach seall an-ghearr i ngach áit a mbeidh crann uillinne agus feisteas cuailí agus beidh na leibhéil sin go maith laistigh de chumas an líonra bóthair.

Ní bheidh tionchair dhochracha ag an tionscadal ar shábháilteacht aerloingseoireachta, ar an mbonneagar uisce agus fuíolluisce, ar an líonra gáis, ar an líonra teileachumarsáide, ar an mbonneagar soláthar fuinnimh nó ar an líonra iarróid sa cheantair.

Beidh tionchar diúltach measartha ag forbairt líne Bhóthar na Trá go Scríb ar fhoraoiseacht laistigh den limistéir staidéir. Déanfar freastal ar chailliúint airgeadais trí Chóid Chleachtais BSL.

Tírdhreach

Ní thrasnaíonn ná ní chuireann an bealach atá beartaithe isteach in aon slí ar thírdhreacha a chontae a bhfuil rangú 'Sainiúil' ag baint leo (Rangú Íogaireachta 5). Tá tionchair i limistéir a mbaineann rangú 'Speisialta' (Rangú Íogaireachta 4) leo laghdaithe go leibhéal nach dtabharfaí faoi deara de bharr go mbeidh suíomh fhostáisiúin agus bealach líne a tá ann cheana le hathúsáid i bhformhór na limistéir seo.

Téann an chuid is mó de bhealach na líne trí limistéir a mbaineann rangú íogaireachta 'Ard' (Rangú 3) leo. Sna limistéir seo dearadh an bealach ag seachaint limistéir spéirlíne go ginearálta agus ag uasmhéadú sciath na gcrann agus éagsúlacht na topagrafaíochta áitiúla ionas go bhfeicfí a laghad de agus ab fhéidir. Sna páirteanna thoir den bhealach, áit a dtéann sé trí thírdhreach a mbaineann rangú íogaireachta 'Meán' (Rangú 2) leis, feictear gur gnáthchuid den tírdhreach atá á saothrú é an bealach agus mar sin tá tosaíocht ag breithnithe teicniúla agus maoinne agus láthair a roghnú.

Bhí sé mar phríomh-mhaolú go ndéanfaí suíomh an bhealaigh bheartaithe i limistéir ina mbeadh móríféachtaí dochracha ar chuma nó ar charachtar an tírdhreacha á dtuar, a sheachaint nó a íoslaghdú. Áiríodh an cinneadh chun codanna de línte dáilte cumhachta atá ann cheana a athúsáid i limistéir a mbaineann ard-íogaireacht leo ar an bpróiseas seo.

Idirghníomhaíochtaí an mhéid sin roimhe seo

Féachadh ar idirghníomhaíocht na dtionchar agus ní mheastar iad a bheith suntasach.

Sceideal na nGealltanais

Déanfar tagairt do bhearta maolaithe ag éirí as measúnaithe na forbartha nuair atáthar ag cinntiú na ngealltanais agus na riachtanais a gcaithfear cloí leo maidir leis an gcomhshaol i rith céimeanna tógála agus oibrithe an tionscadail.



Cultural Heritage/Archaeology

This assessment was carried out as part of an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 110kV overhead line between Salthill and Screeb, Co. Galway. The assessment included desktop research and a programme of field-walking to identify areas of archaeological/historical potential along the selected line route. Six previously unrecorded potential archaeological/historical monuments were detected during field inspection. Avoidance of the settlement at Lettercraff was recommended in the interest of archaeological/historical preservation. Eleven recorded archaeological monuments occur within 400m of the proposed line route and will be avoided. Monitoring of ground works associated with the construction of the line route in the immediate vicinity of all recorded and newly detected sites is recommended.

Material Assets

There will be significant traffic impacts on the regional Road, the R340 from Derravonniff to Screeb during the construction of the substation but there will be no permanent increase. Additional construction traffic volumes at each angle mast and poleset location will be for a very limited duration and will be well within the capacity of the road network.

The development will not result in adverse impacts on air navigation safety, the water and wastewater infrastructure, the gas network, the telecoms network, energy supply infrastructure or the rail network in the area.

The development of the Salthill – Screeb line will have a moderate negative impact upon forestry within the study area. Financial loss is catered for through the ESB Codes of Practice.

Landscape

The proposed route completely avoids traversing or affecting any of the landscapes of the County that are classified as 'Unique' (Sensitivity Class 5). Effects in areas classified as 'Special' (Sensitivity Class 4) are reduced to being indiscernible by the re-use of an existing substation site and an existing line route through the majority of these areas.

The majority of the route passes through areas that are classified as having 'High' sensitivity (Class 3). In these areas the routing has been designed to minimise visual prominence by generally avoiding skyline locations and maximizing the screening afforded by trees and local topographic variations.

In the eastern-most sections of the route, where it passes through landscape classified as having 'Medium' sensitivity (Class 2), the route is treated as a normal part of the working landscape where technical and property considerations take precedence when deciding on a location.

The principle mitigation was to anticipate, avoid or minimise the location of the proposed route in areas likely to give rise to significant adverse effects on the appearance or character of the landscape. This process included the decision to re-use portions of existing power distribution lines in highly sensitive areas.

Interactions of the foregoing

Interactions of the impacts have been considered and they are not considered as significant.

Schedule of Commitments

The mitigation measures arising from the assessment of the development will be referred to in determining the environmental commitments and requirements which must be adhered to during the project construction and operation.