

Addendum to the Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ESB NETWORK – RENEWABLE CONNECTION
Project Number: 2013-0099
Country: Ireland

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

At appraisal it was assumed that the reconductoring of the 220 kV OHL Kilpaddoge-Clashavoon did not need planning permission. This was based on the assumption that only reinforcements to the tower bases were required. However, during site investigations carried out successively, it was discovered that some towers in the section Ballyvouskill-Ballynahulla-Knockanure have to be entirely reconstructed. As a consequence of this, the appropriate assessment screening report of October 2014 established that the planned works have the potential to cause significant effects on the conservation objectives of the three Natura 2000 sites¹ situated within the zone of influence of this section of the line. These effects can be mitigated with the careful relocation of towers and by undertaking works outside the birds' breeding period. These measures will be detailed in the Natura Impact Statement to be prepared at stage 2 of the appropriate assessment process. This led to conclude that the works on this section of the line do not qualify as exempted development for the purposes of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2013 and will need planning permission. It is envisaged that the planning application will be submitted to both Cork and Kerry County Councils in summer 2015.

Although there are Natura 2000 sites within the area of influence of the other sections of the OHL Kilpaddoge-Clashavoon, the associated appropriate assessment screening reports established that no significant effects thereon are foreseen from the planned works. This however still needs to be confirmed by the competent authority (NPWS).

In order to duly reflect the above new elements, the FC has been amended in order to introduce the following condition:

Disbursement for the Reconductoring Kilpaddoge-Clashavoon line is subject to the receipt of a written confirmation by the competent authority, satisfactory to the Bank, that the associated works would not adversely affect the integrity of any European site on view of the site conservation objective and delivery of the necessary planning permission in respect of the uprate of the Ballyvouskill-Ballynahulla-Knockanure 220 kV circuits section, satisfactory to the Bank.

¹ Lower River Shannon SAC (site code 002165), Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (site code 004161) and Blackwater River SAC (site code 002170)