



ESB INTERNATIONAL

Ltr 19th Oct 09 DAFF.doc

Foreshore Section,
Coastal Zone Management Division,
Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

Your ref: MS 51/8/1358

Attn: Gerard Sheil

19th October 2009

**Glanagow-Raffeen Marine Cable Project
Foreshore Licence Application**

Dear Mr. Sheil,

Further to your letters of 22nd and 24th September regarding the above application, please find below our response to the issues raised.

Please note that references in both letters to "the EIS" should read "the Environmental Report".

Marine Survey Office

The operations will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Marine Survey Office.

South Western Fisheries Board

The Environmental Report does not indicate that there will be any habitat loss as a result of these works. There will be localised habitat *disturbance* along the four narrow lines of the cable trenches. However, it is confidently expected that the affected habitats – mainly sandy in nature – will revert to their full pre-works condition over a few seasons. This will be assisted by the linear narrow configuration of the disturbance, which will mean that immigration of re-colonising organisms will occur along the line of each trench from the identical adjoining habitats as well as through recruitment of larval stages from the plankton.

In terms of fisheries, it is important to note that the key value of the site is as a nursery ground for juvenile fish of commercial importance, in particular flat fish. In this respect it is important to note that comparatively vast areas of similar habitat around all the sand banks within Cork Harbour and its approaches fulfil the same function, so that the localised and temporary disturbance caused by these works will have a negligible impact on populations of these fish within the Harbour and the general area. Moreover, the seasonal timing of the works in the late winter early spring at a time when the density of juveniles would be expected to be seasonally low, will further reduce potential impacts.

In the matter of commercial fishing, a decision has been made to time the works to the season when the least fishing activity is expected, i.e. no potting for shrimp and lobster and no salmon draft netting. EirGrid is agreeable to liaise with local fishermen that may be active at the time (especially trawlers) about the location and timing of the cable laying.



IS EN ISO 9001

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NSAI Reg No MB84



Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Archaeological monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Department, Heritage and Local Government.

Yours sincerely,

**Roisin O'Donovan,
Senior Consultant.**

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