

FS007083 EirGrid Cross Shannon Cable Project
Consultation S42 of EC Birds and Natural Habitats Regs 2011 for purposes of conducting Stage 2 AA
Prescribed Bodies Observations

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Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Marine
Advisor (Technical / Engineer).
16/03/2022

No further observations.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
28/03/2022

I refer to your correspondence dated 16th March 2022 with regard to FS007083 EirGrid Cross Shannon Cable Project - Additional Public Consultation S42 of EC Birds and Natural Habitats Regs 2011 for purposes of conducting Stage 2 AA (consultation no 2). A response was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage by the Agency in relation to this Foreshore Application, and accompanying reports on 15th March 2021.

The Agency has no further observations on the Appropriate Assessment at this time.

Marine Institute (MI)
30/03/2022

I have read over the additional documentation provided and it does not change the view of the Marine Institute first communicated in March 2021 (and subsequent communications).

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Marine
Advisor (Environment).
08/04/2022

Prescribed Bodies Second Consultation - Environmental Report

Re: FS007083 Eirgrid – to lay an electricity cable across the Shannon Estuary, between Co. Kerry and Co. Clare.

Applicant: EirGrid

Your email of the 5th of April 2022 refers to this Foreshore application to lay an electricity cable across the Shannon Estuary, between Co. Kerry and Co. Clare.

The proposed works will be undertaken within two European sites Lower River Shannon SAC (IE002165) and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA.

This Special Area of Conservation includes Shannon and Fergus Estuaries and form the largest estuarine complex in Ireland. It has vast expanses of intertidal mudflats, often fringed with saltmarsh vegetation which are Annex I habitats for which it is designated. Smaller estuaries also feature mudflats which have their own unique characteristics. The SAC is also designated for the priority habitat Coastal Lagoons of which there are a number of examples within the site. It is also designated for Bottlenose Dolphin and this is the only known resident population of this species in Ireland.

The River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (IE004077) is an internationally important site that supports an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterbirds. It holds internationally important populations of four species, i.e. Light-bellied Brent Goose, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank. In addition, there are 17 species that have wintering populations of national importance and also supports a nationally important breeding population of Cormorant. Of particular note is that three of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.

As you will note from my Screening Stage Report Environmental Report of the 8th of March 2022 I agreed with and accepted the outcome of the IEC's review of the environmental reports associated with this application.

I have no objection to this application subject to a complete environmental assessment. I will provide site specific conditions once the environmental assessment process is complete.

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)

11/04/2022

With reference to your email dated 16 march 2022, regarding the EirGrid Cross Shannon Cable Project - Additional Public Consultation for Stage 2 AA, please note that Geological Survey Ireland has no specific comment or observations to make on this matter at this time since our last response.

Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL)

13/04/2022

FS007083 EirGrid Cross Shannon Cable Project - Additional Public Consultation S42 of EC Birds and Natural Habitats Regs 2011 for purposes of conducting Stage 2 AA (consultation no 2)

Thank you for contacting the Commissioners of Irish Lights requesting observations on this foreshore licence application dated 16th March 2022.

Irish Lights has reviewed this application and have no further observations with respect to the project from a safety of navigation perspective.

Met Eireann (ME)

13/04/2022

No further observations.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)

14/04/2022

We have no further comment to make on this application other than to second the comments from the Marine Institute that further research into the topic of electromagnetic fields on fish species behaviour particularly the Annex fish species of sea lamprey and river lamprey is needed.

Marine Survey Office (MSO)

22/04/2022

This application was assigned and processed on our Task Management System (TMS). We have no further obs.

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

22/04/2022

I refer to your request for comments/observations from this Department in relation to this application by Eirgrid.

Please note the attached concerns from both BIM and the SFPA in particular regarding the fishery order that will need to be taken into consideration in granting a licence.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

22/04/2022

I have taken advice from [Named Development Officer], BIM Aquaculture Development Officer for that area. His view is that the proposed development would appear to cut through the eastern end of the oyster fishery order T08/004BOFO, which is owned by Atlantic Shellfish Ltd. Is it safe to assume that the EIRGRID Project Liaison Officer will be contacting local stakeholders in this regard, if not, then this possible impact will need to be brought to EIRGRID's attention as a matter of urgency.

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

22/04/2022

I have no issues with the attached application.

However, it runs through an old fishery order site which covers a large proportion of the Shannon estuary. The order refers to bottom culture and dredging of mussels.

Health and Safety Authority (HSA)

26/04/2022

The Central Competent Authority under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 has no observations to make regarding this development.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

29/04/2022

NPWS and UAU have no further comment to make on this application.

Underwater Archaeology Unit (UAU)

29/04/2022

NPWS and UAU have no further comment to make on this application.