Cavan Post – statement – 16 February 2009

“PB Power’s report on undergrounding was a site specific study. A team of experts, including a high voltage cable specialist, high voltage transmission specialist, landscape architect and civil engineer with local knowledge, surveyed what they identified as the most feasible route for a possible underground cable, normally working in small groups to allow understanding of this complex project.

“The study concluded the cost of undergrounding the project would be vastly more expensive. Building the project would cost seven times more and the operating costs would be almost twice as much.

“Cost is not the only issue – the technical obstacles are also major. There would be huge technical issues putting this project underground. Underground cables of this capacity and this length have never been used anywhere else in the world. The technology is not proven on a project of this size and if EirGrid were to take the underground option we would be going into uncharted waters.”