Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1379 Cauteen 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Tipperary

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('the Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, if the CP1379 Cauteen 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development will take place entirely within the existing station boundary and comprises the following:

- New Transformer Bay;
- New Sectionaliser Bay;
- New Underground Cable; and,
- New Interface Kiosk.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC)[1] [002165] is located approximately 5.4km from the Development site. Otter and several fish species are Qualifying Interests (QI) of Lower River Shannon SAC. These species may occur outside of the SAC boundary, where suitable habitat exists. The nearest watercourse is approximately 100 m from the Development. At this distance, and considering the minor nature of the works (which do not involve piling or other particularly intensive activities and which will take place within the fenced station boundary), there is no possibility of disturbance being caused to QI otter or fish species occurring in this area, or waterborne pollution to occur. Therefore, likely significant effects are excluded.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, EirGrid has made a Determination following Screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project individually or in-combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence.

This Determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the Development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:

[1] NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SPA 002165. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



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