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Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
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19 February 2024

EirGrid submission to the National Adaptation Framework Public Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Transmission System Operator (TSO), EirGrid develops, manages, and operates the electricity transmission system in Ireland, including exploring and implementing opportunities for interconnection. In the 2021 Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System, EirGrid's role as TSO was expanded to incorporate the operation and ownership of Ireland's offshore electricity transmission grid. Our strategy is shaped by climate change and the transition of the electricity sector to low-carbon, renewable energy, underpinned by our purpose to transform the power system for future generations.

We welcome the new National Adaptation Framework and the recognition that climate adaptation is becoming increasingly important and urgent at a national and global level. The Framework outlines the climate risk to electricity infrastructure; EirGrid has been carrying out work to ensure that climate change adaptation is factored into our asset management forward planning. The greatest risk to the transmission system has been identified as flooding arising from river or drainage systems exceeding channel or infrastructure capacity limits, storm surges, rising sea levels and extreme precipitation levels. We have completed assessments to identify areas and specific station and overhead line assets vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Further studies were then carried out on these areas and assets to identify the adaptative measures required to mitigate the risk, and work is ongoing on implementation.

We were heavily involved in the development of the first Electricity and Gas Networks Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan, approved by Government in 2019. We note that work will commence on sectoral plans once the National Adaptation Plan has been finalised, and we will engage with this process when it gets underway. We value the opportunity to provide input on this topic and remain available for engagement with DECC as required.

Yours faithfully,

Doireann Barry
Head of Strategy and Sustainability
(Sent electronically)

Stiúrthóirí: Brendan Tuohy **Cathaoirleach**, Mark Foley **Príomhfheidhmeannach**, an Dr Theresa Donaldson **Leaschathaoirleach**, Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Michael Hand, Rosa M Sanz García (An Spáinn), James Nyhan.

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