



THE EIRGRID FILES

EIRGRID'S WEEKLY BRIEFINGS

Update - 7 July (2017)

North-South

- EirGrid's Mobile Information Unit will be at the Fair Green Car Park, Kells, Co. Meath Thursday 13th July 10am-4pm. Adverts are booked for local papers on 12th July.
- Local media sponsorships are being updated to promote the Carrickmacross office.

Update - 14 July

North-South

- EirGrid's Mobile Information Unit was at the Fair Green Car Park, Kells, Co. Meath Thursday 13th July from 10am-4pm.
- The hearings of the Judicial Reviews are scheduled to commence on Tuesday 18th July, and to run for eight days in total, over a two week period.

Update - 21 July

North-South

- National and regional print and online media coverage of NSI judicial review taking place in Commercial Court.

Update - 27 July

North-South

- Ongoing participation in proceedings in the Commercial Court.

Update - 2 August

North-South

- An email circulated to Councillors in Meath(27), Monaghan(11), Cavan (7) re update on the new EirGrid Regional Office in Carrickmacross, the mobile unit locations and attendance at upcoming Agricultural Shows in the North East.
- The EirGrid Mobile Unit was in in Trim Thursday 3rd August. Mobile Unit and EirGrid representatives will be at the Castleblaney Agricultural Show on Bank Holiday Monday.

Update - 11 August

North-South

- A meeting with Monaghan Public Participation Network is scheduled for Wednesday 16th.
- Engagement with Meath, Monaghan and Cavan Public Participation Network is ongoing.

Update - 17 August

North-South

- In aftermath of recent meeting between DUP Leader Arlene Foster and the Taoiseach, she gave an interview to the BBC
- Positive meeting between EirGrid Community Liaison Officer and Monaghan Public Participation Network representative took place on Wednesday. Commitment was given to highlight EirGrid's proactive approach and an invitation to an upcoming meeting of Monaghan County Community Representatives.

Update - 25 August

North-South

- Extensive print, online & broadcast coverage of High Court's decision to in relation to the judicial review of ABP's decision to permit construction of NSI on Tuesday. This included national coverage in Irish Times, Irish Independent, Times Ireland, RTÉ, TV3, Irish Sun, Irish Mirror, Irish Examiner & Irish Farmers Journal. Local media coverage included Northern Standard, Meath Chronicle, Anglo-Celt, Northern Sound and LM FM.
- EirGrid published a statement on our website welcoming the announcement. A link to this was published on our Twitter account. CBI, NI Chamber and Ibec also issued statements welcoming the announcement.
- Media coverage of court decision also in the North including BBC NI, Belfast Telegraph and Irish News.
- Minister Ring was asked about the NSIC decision on Morning Ireland on Wednesday. He highlighted importance of this piece of infrastructure and also voiced the need to recognise the concerns of the local communities.
- A number of Sinn Féin and Fianna Fáil TDs also issued statements related to the decision and issued tweets.
- EirGrid Mobile Unit attended the Virginia Agricultural Show in Cavan on Wednesday. Large number of NSIC stakeholders including landowners, local NSIC residents and IFA members visited the unit.
- Sponsorship of an event organised by Trim GAA this Saturday.
- Engagement is taking place with Cavan County Council in relation to a date in the coming weeks for the Mobile Unit to be in Kingscourt over coming weeks for public engagement and outreach.

Update - 1 September

North-South

- Contact with Matt Carthy MEP offering him that EirGrid representatives are available in Brussels next Wednesday if he requires at the roundtable he is organising on NSIC.
- Agreement with Cavan County Council for EirGrid Mobile Unit to September 13 to be in Kingscourt on September 13th for public engagement and outreach.
- Articles appeared in a number of papers, including the Irish Independent, saying farmers may use "strong-arm" tactics to block the construction of the NSI. Articles quote MEP Matt Carthy as pledging his support to the opposition.
- Anglo-Celt featured an interview with Val Martin, whose judicial review against NSI will be heard in October. An editorial in the same edition praised Martin for his efforts, while acknowledging that EirGrid may be "right" in saying that NSI is "a very positive thing for Ireland".
- Online farming news outlet, Agriland.ie, quotes Meath IFA county chair Diarmuid Lally and IFA Environment & Rural Affairs chair Thomas Cooney as saying the campaign for undergrounding NSI will continue.
- Contact from Commission's DG Ener contact seeking update on project.

Update - 8 September

North-South

- Meeting took place with Cavan Community Enterprise Fund in relation to office in Cootehill.
- Minister Doherty appeared on Friday on LMFm with NEPP Rep to discuss project.
- Planned to issue a letter to landowners next week updating them on the project. Correspondence with elected reps is also planned in tandem.
- EirGrid reps attended roundtable discussion in European Parliament in Brussels organised by Matt Carthy MEP.
- A number of press releases issued in relation to the event including:
 - Marion Harkin - <https://mediahq.com/story/marianharkinmep/193221/public-acceptability-for-north-south-interconnector-should-be-a-top-priority.html>
 - Peadar Toibin TD - <http://www.sinfein.ie/contents/46034>
- An article on the event and associated visit was carried in the Anglo Celt this week: <http://www.anglocelt.ie/news/roundup/articles/2017/09/08/4145601-where-pylons-are-redundant/>

Update - 15 September

North-South

- Mobile Unit was in Kingscourt in Cavan on Wednesday with significant levels of engagement with public.
- The notice of invitation to tender was published in the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU) on Friday(15th). This is for the design, type testing, fabrication and delivery of 400kV Steel Towers. This sets out that the project has not yet received final approval and therefore it may be obliged to cancel this process.
- Letter is issuing to landowners on the route today, for delivery on Monday. An email is issuing to elected representatives on Monday in tandem to update them on recent development on the project.
- A number of articles in Meath Chronicle and Northern Standard in relation recent meetings in Brussels organised by Matt Carthy MEP.

Update - 22 September

North-South

- An email issued to all elected representatives on the North South route this week updating them on the project. This coincided with a letter of update issuing to landowners.

Update - 29 September

North-South

- Significant online activity focussing on the announcement on Grid West as well as the publication of the OJEU notice.
- On Facebook, Deputy Shane Cassells stated: "Government needs to answer this question as to why the overhead project is being pursued relentlessly and move to underground the cables."
- Monaghan Anti-Pylon have been in correspondence querying a number of aspects of our work and recent activity.
- There has been a constant level of contact from landowners with queries about the project.
- An advertising campaign to support the work on the NSIC has commenced this week and will be on print (Meath Chronicle, Meath Topic, Anglo Celt and Northern Standard) and broadcast (LMFM and Northern Sound).

THE HEADLINES AS REPORTED BY THE NORTHERN STANDARD

July 20th 2017

Judicial Review of Bord Pleanála Decision on Electricity Interconnector
EirGrid Stalls on Revealing Sponsorship Expenditure

August 3rd 2017

Undergrounding is the only option, so say Councillors

August 10th 2017

Underground cabling the only acceptable approach: Ó Caoiláin

August 24th 2017

Challenge to EirGrid interconnector rejected by High Court

August 31st 2017

FF remains committed to independent review of North South interconnector:
(Niamh) Smyth
North South interconnector decision is most disappointing:
(Brendan) Smith

September 7th 2017

Anti Pylon campaigners visit Brussels

September 14th 2017

Put the line underground! Anti pylon groups send clear message to EU
Commission over interconnector plan
Put the electricity line underground: anti pylon delegation to Brussels is told
public acceptance of projects is most important
EirGrid rejects comparison of North South interconnector and Belgium to
Germany underground link

September 21st 2017

EirGrid not opening a Brussels office
EirGrid say undergrounding not the right solution for North South interconnector

September 28th 2017

EirGrid say there's a shift in public acceptance for interconnector:
"We're not the big bad wolf" spokesperson says
"Pure propaganda" claim anti pylon groups
EirGrid stated: the ESB has published a tender notice "for works relating to the
North South interconnector"
Meeting told interconnector must go underground

October 5th 2017

Landowners Unite Against EirGrid Plans for North South interconnector
Dáil told there's no public acceptance
Dáil told: EirGrid in conflict mode with community

October 12th 2017

Interconnector issue: Minister and FG have turned their backs on the people says
Deputy Ó Caoiláin
Northern Standard praised for interconnector issue coverage:
EirGrid criticised for tone of PR campaign

October 19th 2017

Matt Carthy MEP says EirGrid ignores public acceptance criteria for
interconnector plan
NEPPC complains about EirGrid advertising
Ten Years of the anti-ylon campaign...the fight against EirGrid goes on.
A landowner highlights the lack of public consultation over interconnector.

October 26th 2017

Landowners affected by the North South interconnector will fight EirGrid
'until the bitter end'

November 9th 2017

EirGrid response to landowners sidesteps issue of public acceptability of
interconnector. Landowners to meet on Monday.

November 16th

"Stick together and we won't be broken":
Anti pylon campaigners vow to resist EirGrid pylon plans to the last degree
Anti pylon campaigners vow to resist EirGrid pylon plans 'tooth and nail'
Engineers given progress report on interconnector

November 23rd

Anti pylon campaigners say expert study group on interconnector is a 'charade'
Sinn Féin overwhelming (Ard Fheis) endorsement of undergrounding approach

November 30th 2017

Government continues to ignore Oireachtas on the interconnector:
Deputy (Brendan) Smith
Anti pylon group claims EirGrid totally disregards communities affected by
overhead line...as grid operator escalates its PR campaign

December 14th 2017

Co Council to seek interconnector update from Oireachtas members

December 21st 2017

Carrick Councillor has three motions adopted at SF Ard Fheis

The Northern Standard obtained a total of 66 weekly bulletins over an 18 month period from EirGrid to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment following an FoI request. Comparing them with our headlines, they fail to reflect the determined opposition to the project on the ground. They also appear to discount the moves by local politicians and Councillors who called for the interconnector to be placed underground.

Michael Fisher

EIRGRID'S WEEKLY BRIEFINGS

Update - 29 September

North-South

- A letter was received from Elia(Belgian TSO) this week following on from recent Sinn Féin delegation visit. This has clarified an number of the issues raised. This includes a statement on EMF that there was no causal relation between overhead lines and the instances of childhood leukaemia.

Update - 6 October

North-South

- Significant online activity focussing on the publication of the OJEU notice. These were in line with most of the issues raised in PQs this week in the Dáil.
- Correspondence from Monaghan Anti-Pylon in relation to the landowner update recently circulated not referencing OJEU publication. It was explained that the update was posted in advance of the publication of the OJEU by the ESB.
- Further correspondence was received from Monaghan Anti-Pylon Committee in relation to the advertising campaign being run by EirGrid. Issue raised centre on EMF.
- Meetings have been scheduled by ESBN and EirGrid with the relevant local authorities to discuss planning aspects of the project. These are scheduled for:
 - Cavan – 11/10/17
 - Meath – 18/10/17
 - Monaghan – 20/10/17 (TBC)
- Engagement with Kevin Hannigan from KHSK Economic Consultants in terms of his work in carrying out the study on compensation levels.

Update - 13 October

North-South

- Letter received on Monday (Oct 9th) from Minister Regina Doherty in relation to the project and the recent publication of the OJEU Notice. A response has been drafted, following engagement with the ESB, and issued this evening.
- EirGrid's Mobile Unit was in Navan on Thursday. During the day there was a co-ordinated group visit by landowners/members of NEPP.
- Recent letter received from Belgian TSO Elia was posted on EirGrid website this week which clarified their position on a number of the issues raised by Sinn Féin representatives following their visit to Brussels.
- Institute of Directors (IOD) NI interview on the importance of NSI project.
- Senior delegations from Sinn Féin and Alliance Party visit SONI for briefing on the project. Sinn Féin delegation included Cathal Boylan MLA (New NI Energy Spokesperson), Michelle Gildernew MP and Colm Gildemew MLA.
- Resolution down at this weekend Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis calling for the undergrounding of the North South Interconnector. EirGrid representative to attend.
- Meetings took place this week with Cavan County Council to discuss planning aspects of the project. Meeting with Meath and Monaghan to take place next week.

Update - 20 October

North-South

- Letter issued to Minister Regina Doherty on Friday evening last.
- EirGrid's Mobile Unit is currently scheduled to be in Castleblaney next Thursday October 26th.
- A resolution passed, without debate, at the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis last Saturday calling for undergrounding of NSIC.
- Media query from Meath Chronicle in relation to compensation study following communication from NEPP expressing their concerns on the study. No response was issued from EirGrid.

Update - 27 October

North-South

- EirGrid understands from postings on social media that a complaint has been made to the Advertising Standards Authority in relation to the current advertising campaign that is being run in the route area. No contact has been yet received.
- EirGrid's Mobile Unit was in Castleblaney on Thursday October 26th providing information on the project.
- A letter to the editor published in Meath Chronicle in relation to EMF emissions and recent claims that have been made. The EirGrid letter drew attention to the submission by the HSE to the Oral Hearing on the project.
- EirGrid participated in Judicial Review proceeding in Court this week.

Update - 3 November

North-South

- Letter issued to CMAPC, in response to their visit and submission to the Carrickmacross Office on Monday, 23 October.
- Articles in Irish Farmers Journal & Agriland.ie highlighting the two studies commissioned by Minister Denis Naughten on project. IFJ wrote follow-up article for web including EirGrid response to announcement of the studies.
- Article in Belfast Telegraph quoting Carolyn Fairbairn, CBI Director General, as saying there is an "urgent need" for NSIC.

Update - 10 November

North-South

- Letter received (10/11/17) from the Clerk of the Joint Committee on CCAE requesting a report on expenditure relating to the project.
- Letter issued to Monaghan County Council responding to request for update on expenditure to date on the project.
- Event took place on Thursday organised by North East Engineers Ireland in Carrickmacross with speakers from EirGrid and ESBN to update on project.

Update - 17 November

North-South

- The EirGrid Mobile Information Unit will be in Shercock, Co Cavan next Thursday to provide information on the project and answer any questions.
- Sinn Féin Ard Fheis Clár for this weekend has two motions relating to the project:
- Coverage in the Northern Standard in relation to a meeting that took place organised by Monaghan Anti-Pylon Committee.
- EirGrid representatives met with International Experts carrying out review on issues relating to undergrounding on Thursday.

Update - 24 November

North-South

- EirGrid Mobile Information Unit was in Shercock, Co Cavan on Thursday. Along with interested residents, a group of approx. attended saying they were from NEPP and MAPC. There was a lengthy engagement with discussion on concerns relating to the project.
- Motions passed last weekend at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis for the undergrounding of the project. A number of speakers from North and South. A press statement was subsequently released by MEP Matt Carthy
- EirGrid and the ESB jointly met with Kevin Hannigan to present to him on various levels of compensation in line with his work on completing a review on this area.
- It was learned on Tuesday that the report and recommendation on the outcome of the planning applications for the project has been sent to the Department for Infrastructure. SONI issued a press statement in response:

There was also a considerable amount of coverage from a range of stakeholders calling for a decision to be made on the project.

Update - 1 December

North-South

- A communications plan is currently being drafted in anticipation of a decision in NI in relation to the project in the coming period.
- Article this week by EirGrid spokesperson in the Meath Chronicle with the headline: 'Irish power demands are not the same as in Europe'. The article differences between NSI and ALEGRO. The same article, with a different headline, appears in the Northern Standard.

Update - 8 December

North-South

- A communications plan is currently being drafted in anticipation of a decision in NI in relation to the project in the coming weeks.
- An article from North East Pylon Pressure was carried in the Meath Chronicle this week responding to the EirGrid article last week explaining the North South project.
- A request from an Irish Examiner journalist in relation to some information on the project.

Update - 15 December

North-South

- EirGrid Mobile Information Unit was in Kells on Wednesday with a number of visitors looking for information on the project.
- Article this week in the Irish Examiner on the North South project -
- Material was provided to the Expert Group reviewing undergrounding, via DCCA, this week.