

Heather Cooke

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 January 2019 10:47
To: RSES
Subject: Submission to the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)
Attachments: 20190108 RSES EMRA Submission.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sir/Madam,

EirGrid Group welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and requests that this submission is taken into consideration in the finalisation of the RSES.

Best regards,

Tomás Bradley, MRTPI
Senior Planner
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Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dliteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.

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23rd January 2019

[By Email]

Re: Submission to the *Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)*

Dear Sir/Madam,

EirGrid Group welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the *Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)* and requests that this submission is taken into consideration in the drafting of the RSES. EirGrid made a submission to the Issues Paper Consultation on the 16th February 2018 in which the strategic issue of the future development of Ireland's electricity transmission grid was highlighted.

EirGrid is responsible for the safe, secure and reliable transmission of electricity – now and in the future. EirGrid develops, manages and operates the electricity transmission grid. This brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland. The grid also supplies power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity and powers the distribution network. The distribution network in turn supplies electricity to homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and farms.

In this context, EirGrid notes and welcomes several key policies and objectives in the draft, in particular Section 10.3 Energy which highlight the electricity transmission grid's importance in supporting our society and economy. EirGrid considers that policies and objectives which support a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity need to be explicit in the RSES in order to assist EirGrid in the successful implementation of its Grid Development Strategy - Your Grid, Your Tomorrow (2017b). This is imperative to meeting national targets for electricity generation, climate change targets, and security of energy supplies. The policies and objectives should be maintained in the finalisation the strategy.

Under the heading 'Decarbonising Electricity Generation' (pg. 135) additional emphasis on the transmission and distribution network in facilitating electricity generation would be welcomed. RPO 7.34 is intrinsically linked to RPO 10.15 and the supporting infrastructure is critical in enabling Ireland to meet its renewable energy targets and reducing the country's dependence on imported gas and oil and reduce CO2 emissions.

RPO 7.34, which seeks to identify Strategic Energy Zones, should be given a priority if Ireland is to meet its energy and climate change commitments. It should also be expanded to identify strategic electricity grid zones/corridors - where the infrastructure required to support Strategic Energy Zones can be accommodated in principle. The Strategic Energy Zones should also remain flexible in terms of accommodating

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technology, given the range of technologies which are currently in development or may develop in the lifetime of this plan.

The development of the transmission grid as summarised above and outlined in detail in EirGrid's *Grid Development Strategy - Your Grid, Your Tomorrow* (2017a) and associated Technical Report (2017b), is of critical importance to support the economy and society, as well as to realise the transformation of Ireland's energy system to meet climate change and energy obligations. Electricity infrastructure is critical for regional economic and spatial development.

To ensure Ireland's sustainable development and growth, EirGrid requires appropriate and robust regional policy and objectives for planning the national grid infrastructure and prioritising it appropriately in order to deliver national, regional and local benefit. In this regard, EirGrid requests that the importance of the grid is acknowledged as a strategic issue.

EirGrid is available to collaborate with the Assembly and to provide expert and focused input into the preparation of the RSES, particularly from a strategic energy policy perspective. Should you have any comments in regard of this submission please contact the undersigned. EirGrid once more welcomes the opportunity to participate in the making of the RSES and looks forward to further engagement.

Yours sincerely,

Tomás Bradley,
Senior Planner

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References

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