

Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development County Westmeath.

In accordance with section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Harmony Solar Mullingar Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for a 10 year permission in relation to the following proposed development in the townlands of Clondardis and Slane More, County Westmeath.

The proposed development will constitute the provision of the following:

- Construction of a 110 kV Substation and associated works within a site of approximately 4.5 hectares. The Substation, comprising a total compound footprint of 1.29 hectares, enclosed by palisade fencing, will comprise:
 - 1 No. single storey substation control building (435 m²);
 - 1 No. single storey customer MV Building (325 m²);
 - Switchgear, Arc Suppression Coil, Cable Sealing Ends, Cable Chair, Circuit Breakers, Current Transformers, Disconnects, Post Insulators, Surge Arrestors, Grid Code Compliance Equipment and Voltage Transformers;
 - 8 No. lightning masts to a height of approximately 18 m;
 - 1 No. telecommunications pole to a height of approximately 22 m;
 - 2.6m high palisade guard railing with perimeter boundary fencing will be erected around the periphery of the compound for security and protection measures;
 - Lighting will be provided by 4 no. lamp posts approximately 3m in height as well as exterior wall mounted lights on the control buildings.
- Erection of 2 no. line-cable interface masts to enable a loop-in/loop-out connection to the existing Mullingar-Lanesborough 110 kV overhead line. The steel lattice masts will extend to heights of 16m and 15m above existing ground level.
- Permanent access road (ca. 1.1 km in length) to allow access to the substation including a short spur (ca. 0.1 km) off the main access track to access to the 2 no. line-cable interface masts. The entrance to the local road (L5802) will be shared with the consented Clondardis solar farm.
- Associated construction works and drainage infrastructure and installation of temporary construction compound.

The proposed substation and associated works are part of a larger renewable solar energy project, identified as Clondardis Solar Farm, sited at sixteen land parcels located at the townlands of Clondardis and Slane More, Walshestown, Mullingar, Co Westmeath. The permitted solar farm (P.A. Reg. Ref.17/6239, ABP-301116-18 and amended under P.A. Reg. Ref. 20/6132) consists of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and associated ancillary infrastructure. A planning application was lodged to Westmeath County Council on 28th August 2017 and was granted 12th February 2018 by Westmeath County Council. A Third Party Appeal was lodged against this decision, however An Bord Pleanála decided maintain a grant of permission and amended the grant of permission on 15th February 2019. On 28th of October 2020 Westmeath County Council granted planning permission to amend the design of the permitted Clondardis Solar Farm under P.A. Reg. Ref.17/6239.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) has been prepared in relation to the project and accompanies this planning application. The AASR has ruled out the requirement for a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) has also been prepared in relation to the project. The EclA also accompanies this planning application.

The planning application, AASR and EclA may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of

a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on **21st April 2023** at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- Westmeath County Council Áras An Chontae, Mount St, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

The application may also be viewed /downloaded on the following website: clondardissid.ie

Submission or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (“the Board”), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 (and may also be made online at www.pleanala.ie) during the above mentioned period of seven weeks relating

- i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- ii. the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- iii. the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5:30 p.m. on **14th June 2023** and must include the following information:

- the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- the subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

The Board may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to “A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development” at www.pleanala.ie).

The Board may in respect of an application for permission/approval decide to -

1. grant the permission/approval, or
2. make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
3. grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the forgoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
4. refuse to grant the permission/approval

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie under headings 'Legal Notices' – 'Judicial Review Notice'; or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizeninformation.ie