

30th May 2025

**Chief Executive,
County Buildings,
Athy Rd,
Carlow,
R93 E7R7**

MOR Ref: E2238

Applicant: Prt Solar Ltd

RE: Application to An Bord Pleanála for Strategic Infrastructure Development ('SID') consent for a proposed 110kV electrical substation with customer and EirGrid compounds and 110kV underground grid connection on a site of ca. 1.7 hectares at Friarstown, Co, Carlow

Dear Sir or Madam,

Further to a determination by An Bord Pleanála ('ABP') on 6th February 2025, confirming the proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development ('SID') pursuant to Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Prt Solar Ltd intends to apply to ABP for permission for the following development:

- 1 no. 110kV electrical substation with customer and EirGrid compounds; and,
- 110kV underground cable connecting the substation to the existing ESB 220kV Kellistown substation.

The proposed 110kV electrical substation will be located in Friarstown, on a site of circa ('ca.') 1.7 hectares ('ha').

The 110kV underground cabling ('UGC') is proposed from the substation in Friarstown townland to Kellistown 220kV substation in Kellistown East townland through the townlands of Friarstown, Grangeford Old, Grangeford, Moanalow, Glenoge, Rathnashannagh, Inchisland Or Moatalusha, Rathoe, Kellistown East, Ballycurragh and Kellistown West. The UGC will be ca. 8km in length, primarily along public roads with a small area in private lands.

Background

The Proposed Development will be critical infrastructure that will be intrinsically linked to both permitted and planned renewable energy projects, comprising both solar and battery energy storage developments. These renewable energy projects will not be able to function as standalone developments as they will be reliant on connections to the Proposed Development in order to connect to the national grid.

It is anticipated that, subject to a grant of permission, the proposed 110kV substation will be developed in lieu of the previously permitted 38kV substation granted by Carlow County Council (Planning Ref: 2360297), which amended previous permission Reg. Ref: 21/23 and ABP-309987-21. The Proposed Development will connect the renewable energy project to

the existing Kellistown 220kV substation. It is envisioned that the Proposed Development will be constructed in conjunction with the Permitted Solar and BESS Development.

Documents

As directed by Carlow County Council, please find enclosed two hard copies of the application. Please note that all items as part of the Planning Pack have been uploaded to the Planning Portal. The planning application and associated documentation included:

- Completed planning application form (Carlow County Council);
- Application Form for Permission Approval in respect of a SID;
- Site notice;
- Newspaper notice;
- Letter from the Applicant confirming Statutory Undertaker status, authorised to carry out works for the supply of electricity under the public road;
- Letter of consent from the landowner;
- Sample Notification Letter sent to the prescribed bodies;
- Planning Application Drawings (see Schedules of Drawings attached to Planning Application Form);
- Natura Impact Statement;
- Environmental Report Vol.1;
- Environmental Report – Appendices Vol.2;
- Decommissioning Plan;
- Preliminary Construction Environmental Management Plan; and,
- Construction Traffic Management Plan.

Carlow County Council is required to make the Planning Application and the Natura Impact Statement (Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) available for inspection, 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 **2nd June 2025** at the offices of Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Athy Rd, Carlow, R93 E7R7.

The application may also be viewed / downloaded on the following website: www.moanalow110substation.ie.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to –

- (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 ABP, no later than 5.30 p.m. on the 28th July 2025. Such submissions / observations must also 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 refers).

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

ABP may, at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing on the application. For further details, see 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the ABP website www.pleanala.ie.

ABP may in respect of an application for permission decide to -

- (a) (i) approve the proposed development, or
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its approval and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
- (iii) approve in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind),

and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or

- (b) refuse to approve the proposed development.

Attached to this letter of notification is a copy of the Direction of ABP that the proposed development constitutes a SID development.

Appropriate Planning Application Fee

Total: €100,000

Paid 20 Feb 2025 to ABP

Reference No: 531473L003WX

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Yours faithfully,

for Malone O'Regan Environmental



Kathryn Broderick



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-018827-25
ABP-319470-24

The submissions on file and the inspector's report were considered at a Board Meeting held on the 05/02/2025.

- 1.1. The Board decided having regard to the size, scale and location of the proposed development comprising the development, it is recommended that the prospective applicant, Prt Solar Ltd., be informed that the proposed development consisting of a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cable connecting the substation to existing ESB 220kV Kellistown substation, at Grangeford, Co. Carlow, as set out in the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on 5th April, 2024, falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and that a planning application should be made directly to the Board.

The applicant shall be informed that the application documentation should be forwarded to the following the prescribed bodies which are considered relevant in this instance for the purposes of Section 182A(4)(b) of the Act:

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Carlow County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- An Taisce
- Fáilte Ireland
- The Heritage Council
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Uisce Éireann (Irish Water)
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- EirGrid
- ESB

• Inland Fisheries Ireland

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.

Board Member



Date: 05/02/2025

Peter Mullan