

Our ref: MDR1567Lt0001

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Date: 19th November 2019

RE: Gas Networks Ireland Ten Year Network Development Plan 2018
Notice of the draft Gas Networks Ireland Network Development Plan 2018 and
associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening
Reports
Statutory Consultation

To whom it may concern,

This correspondence forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes with the relevant statutory consultees.

RPS, on behalf of Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), which is the competent authority for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA), is notifying the statutory consultees that the following documents have been prepared and are *attached* to this notification:

1. The draft Ten Year **Network Development Plan 2018 (TYNDP)**, please see further information below in regard to the TYNDP;
2. A draft **SEA Screening Report**. In accordance with the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, as transposed into Irish law, an SEA Screening Report has been prepared on the likely significant environmental effects of the TYNDP;
3. A draft **Screening Report for AA**. In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC, as transposed into Irish law, a draft Screening report for AA has been prepared to ascertain if the TYNDP could give rise to Likely Significant Effects on European sites.

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A period of formal **statutory consultation** has now commenced in respect of the above. Written submissions or observations on the TYNDP, SEA Screening Report or Screening for AA Report can be made any time before **midday 18th December 2019** via:

1. **Email to the following email address:** NDP@gasnetworks.ie; or
2. **Writing to the following address:** GNI NDP Submissions, P.O. Box 51, Gas Networks Ireland, Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96, Ireland

Submissions/ observations received will be taken into consideration before finalisation of the TYNDP. Early responses would be appreciated to allow more time to clarify and resolve any issues that may arise.

It should be noted that in the interests of transparency, all written submissions received may be made publicly available on GNI's website. Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged but it will not be possible to issue individual responses.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS Group Limited



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TYNDP

In accordance with Article 22 of EU Directive 2009/73/EC¹ (the “**Directive**”) and Part 4 of Statutory Instrument S.I.16 of 2015², GNI, as Ireland’s gas Transmission System Operator (“**TSO**”), is required to submit to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (“**CRU**”), on an annual basis, a ten year national development plan based on existing and forecast supply and demand having consulted all the relevant stakeholders. GNI is also obliged to submit a long-term development statement to the CRU in accordance with condition 11 of its TSO licence. The TYNDP also satisfies the requirements of section 19 of the Gas (Interim) (Regulations) Act 2002, as amended, which requires the CRU to monitor the security of supply.

The CRU launched a public consultation (CRU/18/269) on the TYNDP which commenced on the 21 December 2018 for a six week period.

In response to the CRU’s public consultation, the CRU received responses from;

- Bord Gáis Energy (BGE);
- An Taisce;
- ESB Generation and Trading
- Friends of the Irish Environment;
- Safety Before LNG;
- Not Here Not Anywhere;
- Environmental Protection Agency; and
- Western Development Commission (WDC).

Having considered the responses received to the public consultation, GNI revised the TYNDP to clarify the procedures and policies adopted by GNI to ensure that potential environmental impacts for all of its project are considered at the earliest possible stage of each project. GNI has also undertaken to screen the TYNDP in accordance with article 3(4) of the SEA Directive³ and in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive⁴ to determine if the TYNDP is likely to have significant environmental effects.

¹ EU Directive 2009/73/EC: concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas

² S.I.16 of 2015: European Communities (Internal Market in Natural Gas and Electricity) (Amendment) Regulations.

³ European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

⁴ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora