



**Monksland Pipeline  
(Gas to Greener Ideas, Athlone)**

***SECTION 39A APPLICATION***

**Gas Networks Ireland,  
PO Box 51,  
Gasworks Road,  
Cork.  
Tel: 021 - 4534000**

**Date: 05 September 2024**

## Table of Contents

1.0	Proposal .....	3
2.0	Project Scope.....	4
3.0	Design .....	6
4.0	Programme .....	6
5.0	Capital Expenditure .....	7
6.0	Environmental Considerations .....	8
	Appendix A.....	9
	Appendix B.....	9
	Appendix C.....	9

## 1.0 Proposal

Greener Ideas Limited is a development company with a focus on the design, consenting and construction of projects in the power generation sector. Greener Ideas Limited, a joint venture between Mountside Partners Limited and Bord Gáis Energy – a subsidiary of Centrica plc, a private Irish utility, is currently progressing with a number of projects through the design, commercial viability and construction phase.

This Greener Ideas project, located in Monksland, Athlone, to which the pipeline that is the subject of this S39A application, was previously successful in acquiring planning permission for the development of a peaking plant and the company are now progressing the development of the facility.

Greener Idea's development will help to meet the future demand for electrical power in Ireland by delivering electrical capacity to meet the requirements of their Eirgrid T-3 Capacity Auction Contract. Their facility will require a natural gas supply to fuel the turbine equipment and as such, entered into a Large Network Connection Agreement (“LNCA”) with Gas Networks Ireland (“GNI”) to progress a gas supply solution to meet the proposed demand. The LNCA was executed by Greener Ideas Limited on 09 June 2022.

It is proposed to construct an Above Ground Installation <sup>1</sup>(“**the Monksland AGI**”) at the Greener Ideas, Athlone site, for which planning permission has been granted and a new 2.5km transmission pipeline (**the “Monksland Pipeline”**) connected to the existing BGE77 Pipeline to the West.

Section 39A approval is required for the **Monksland Pipeline** element of the project.

---

<sup>1</sup> the AGI was permitted in June 2019 under RCC Reg. Ref.: 18256, as revised by RCC Reg. Ref. 22/234

## 2.0 Project Scope

The project scope is to deliver a new AGI and c. 2.5km of transmission pipeline to facilitate a new 19barg natural gas connection to a new reserve gas-fired power station permitted by Roscommon County Council (RCC Planning Ref.: 22234), located near Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

The summary of works required is as follows:

### Monksland Pipeline:

- The new c. 2.5km long, 200mm diameter transmission pipeline (“**Monksland Pipeline**”). The new pipeline will be a welded steel pipeline and will have a design pressure of 85barg.
- The new pipeline will tie into the existing 750mm BGE77 Pipeline to the West in an agricultural field on the west side of the R446 road.
- The pipeline will travel north along the R446, then east along minor road L2027, before entering agricultural land and crossing the River Cross, Railway and M6 motorway, connecting to the customer’s facility in Monksland Business Park, Athlone, Co. Roscommon via the permitted Monksland AGI.
- Civil works to construct the Monksland Pipeline including excavation, backfill and reinstatement.
- Testing and commissioning of the new Monksland Pipeline.

### Monksland AGI (permitted):

- A new AGI (“**Monksland AGI**”) located on the customer’s premises at Greener Ideas, Athlone Power Generation Plant. This will be a 19barg AGI with a load estimate of 248MWe (30,865 SCMH).
- A Pressure Reduction Skid (“**PRS**”) to reduce the gas pressure to 19barg suitable for the plant requirements.
- The station will be isolated from the Monksland Pipeline spur with a buried inlet insulation joint.
- A new outlet connection from the Monksland AGI will be provided to the customer.
- A pig trap assembly to allow for the installation of a receiving pig trap so that the pipeline can be pigged for maintenance activities.
- The station will contain filtration, metering, heat exchanger and pressure reduction.
- The filtration, metering and heat exchanger systems will be housed within a kiosk and be configured to operate with one duty and one standby stream, allowing uninterrupted supply of gas during maintenance, etc.
- Ultrasonic flow meters (“**USM**”) have been specified to ensure that min/max flows are measurable at the required min/max design pressures.
- The station will also contain an Electrical and Instrumentation kiosk, chromatograph kiosk and associated lighting for the site.
- Associated civil works, bases, security fencing, ducting, drainage, control & instrumentation and landscaping.

### Monksland Hot Tap:

- The Hot Tap will be undertaken in agricultural land adjacent west of the R446, connecting the Monksland Pipeline to the existing 750mm BGE77 Pipeline to the West.
- No permanent above ground compound will be constructed at this location.
- An accessible pipeline isolation valve will be located in the verge of the R446 to allow for the Monksland Pipeline to be isolated in an emergency scenario.
- A buried pig trap assembly will be included in the below ground pipework arrangement to allow for future pigging of the pipeline. Arrangement of the below ground pig trap will allow for the installation of a launching pig to enable cleaning, inspection and maintenance.
- All civil works to enable completion of the hot tap connection, including preparation of a temporary works area, hoarding and temporary access, excavation and support of hot tap pit and buried pipe supports.

The Monksland Pipeline and permitted Monksland AGI (Gas to Greener Ideas, Athlone) project will be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with I.S. 328:2021 Gas transmission pipelines and pipeline installations.

A full suite of drawings are attached in **Appendix A**, including an Ordinance Survey Ireland (“OSI”) Map and Satellite Map of the proposed pipeline. Please refer to the Drawing Register enclosed in **Appendix A** for a full list of drawings submitted.

Pipeline construction will be carried out with 3 No. temporary working areas. One will be located at the hot tap to facilitate the Monksland pipeline connection to the existing BGE77 pipeline, a main temporary works compound in an agricultural field on the L2027 to facilitate the pipeline construction and the river, rail and motorway crossings and a third working area at the Greener Ideas site to facilitate construction of the AGI.

### 3.0 Design

The Monksland Pipeline and Monksland AGI (Gas to Greener Ideas, Athlone) will be designed, constructed, tested and commissioned in accordance with the codes and standards listed in the GNI Engineering Requirements Document (“**ERD**”), attached in **Appendix B**.

The design pressure of the Monksland Pipeline is 85bar. The steel grade of the new Monksland Pipeline is L290, and the wall thickness is 12.5mm. The design gives a building proximity distance of 3m to normally occupied buildings as per Clause 9.5 of I.S. 328:2021. The design life of the Monksland Pipeline is 40 years.

The external coating of the Monksland Pipeline is a 3-layer polyethylene system. The pipe will be coated internally with an epoxy flow lining. In addition to the external coating, corrosion protection will be achieved by using an impressed current cathodic protection system.

The Monksland Pipeline will be used to transport natural gas. The composition of the gas at the 2 No. entry points, Beattock and Corrib is contained in the Certificates of Analysis, attached in **Appendix B**.

### 4.0 Programme

It is anticipated, subject to regulatory approvals, local authority consents, landowner consents, materials procurement, etc. that the construction works will commence in January 2025 and will be completed with gas available in July 2025. In order to deliver to this programme, a decision regarding this Section 39A consent application is required by December 2024.

## 5.0 Capital Expenditure

The current budget for the Monksland Pipeline and Monksland AGI (Gas to Greener Ideas, Athlone) Project is [REDACTED]. The budget will be updated following receipt of the construction price proposal.

This will be a 100% customer funded project.

A breakdown of the [REDACTED] is provided below.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

**Table 1 Budget Breakdown**

The ongoing procurement process and associated contract awards are compliant with procurement legislation and GNI company policies and procedures applicable to the Gas to Greener Ideas, Athlone project.

## 6.0 Environmental Considerations

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (**Appendix C**) has been completed for the Monksland Pipeline. This AA Screening Report concluded that in the absence of mitigation measures during construction to avoid potential impacts on water quality within the Cross River leading to the River Shannon, it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site (in respect of the River Shannon Callows SAC (Site code 000216) and the Middle Shannon Callows SPA (Site code 004096)). Construction management will be employed to avoid potential impacts on the Cross River leading to the River Shannon, and it is concluded that in line with Departmental Guidance and having regard to ECJ case law and the ‘Precautionary Principle’, a Natura Impact Statement (“NIS”) must be prepared for the purpose of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

The NIS concluded that on the basis of the best scientific knowledge available, and with the implementation of the mitigation and restriction measures set out under Section 3.4 thereof, that the possibility of any adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites considered in the NIS (having regard to their conservation objectives), or on the integrity of any other European Sites (having regard to their conservation objectives,) arising from the proposed development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, can be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report (**Appendix C**) has been completed for the Monksland Pipeline in accordance with the most relevant guidance and legalisation to demonstrate the likely effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Annex III of the European Union Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU, in order to determine whether the Proposed Development is to be subject to an environmental impact assessment. The EIA Screening Report concludes with regard to the nature, scale and location of the subject site, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development on the environment (direct, indirect or cumulatively with other development) and therefore EIA is not required for this project.

## **Appendix A**

Please refer to the below document in Appendix A for a full list of Appendix A drawings.

- 1379-01-PR-05002-R0 Gas to GIL Athlone Section 39A Application Drawing Register

## **Appendix B**

- COA\_Hydrocarbon\_BBGT\_August 2024
- COA\_Sulphur\_BBGT\_August 2024
- COA\_Hydrocarbon\_Beattock\_July 2024
- COA\_Sulphur\_Beattock\_July 2024
- GNI Engineering Requirements Document 2021

## **Appendix C**

Please refer to the below document in Appendix C for a full list of Appendix C documents.

- 1379-01-PR-05003-R0 Gas to GIL Athlone Section 39A Application Document Register