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## North South Interconnector

### What's happening now? Summer 2019 Update

#### SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland) submits Further Environmental Information

SONI has submitted updated environmental information for the North South Interconnector project to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). There are no changes to the planning applications which are with DfI for a planning decision. In this latest addendum report, we provided updated information in relation to topics including ecology, the local landscape, the local community, transport and socio-economic impacts. Our report concludes that there is no change to the environmental information that we had previously submitted for the project. We hope that our work will help DfI to reach a decision on the project in the coming months.

#### DfI Consultation Open

DfI began a 4-week consultation on this information at the start of August 2019 and our team is on the ground to help. You can view the documents and talk to our project team at the SONI Armagh Information Centre at 16 Russell Street, Armagh, BT61 9AA. The office is open every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm.

We've also extended office opening to support the DfI's consultation. It is now open from 12noon to 7pm:

**Every day from Monday 5th to Friday 9th of August**

**Every day from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd of August**

Our full environmental impact assessment documents, including a non-technical summary, are available at [www.soni.ltd.uk](http://www.soni.ltd.uk).

You can request further information on the planning process and comment on our report through the DfI Planning Department: Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB.

Tel: 0300 200 7830. E-mail: [planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk).

Should you need them, the reference numbers for the North South Interconnector's planning applications are: *O/2009/0792/F* & *O/2013/0214/F*.



## Update on the status of the planning approval in Ireland

Planning approval for the North South Interconnector in Ireland was granted by An Bord Pleanála in December 2016. The approval faced a number of legal challenges, the last of which was dismissed by the Supreme Court in February 2019. This ruling means that the North South Interconnector has cleared all of the planning and legal hurdles in Ireland and can proceed to construction.

## North South Interconnector Benefits

The North South Interconnector will bring important benefits to Armagh and South Tyrone. It will improve security of electricity supply in the area, something that is of paramount importance for local communities and businesses and to attract inward investment. This will enable job creation and economic development in the area.

For Northern Ireland, the project is essential for decarbonisation. It will increase interconnection to Ireland and will facilitate the connection of renewable energy across the island. In addition, it will result in all-island savings of £20 million per annum when put into service.

The North South Interconnector is of benefit to the economy, consumers and the environment.

## Framework contract for North South Interconnector awarded

SONI is responsible for obtaining planning permission for the North South Interconnector in Northern Ireland, while Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE Networks) is responsible for the detailed design and construction of the project. SONI's counterpart in Ireland is EirGrid, while ESB is the counterpart for NIE Networks.

Following a public tender process, ESB Networks and NIE Networks have awarded a framework contract for the design, test and supply of pylons for the interconnector. The design and testing part of the contract will commence shortly, but the main part of the contract will not commence until the planning process in Northern Ireland is complete.

## Thank you for your hospitality!

It is important for us to ensure you have all the information you need about the project and it is equally important that you know who we are. That's why we were delighted to meet so many of you at the Armagh County Agricultural Show and at the Clogher Valley Show. We were pleased to answer your questions about the project and were proud to support the local farming community by awarding a number of prizes in the Sheep and Cattle sections. Thank you for having us!



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