

27<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Our Ref: 38106

Mr. Dermot Byrne,  
Chief Executive  
EirGrid  
The Oval  
160 Shelbourne Road  
Dublin 4

**Re: Approval to Proceed with the East West Interconnector Project**

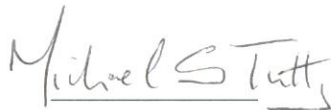
Dear Dermot,

I refer to your letter dated 11 February 2009 seeking approval to proceed with the East West interconnector (EWIC) project.

On foot of your submission the Commission requested the Minister to seek final approval from the Government to proceed with the project. On the 24<sup>th</sup> March the Government consented to the construction of the interconnector. I attach a copy of the letter from the Minister's office in this regard.

Pursuant to Section 16A of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (as amended) ("the Act") the Commission, with the consent of the Minister, requests EirGrid to organise the construction of the 500MW East-West interconnector in line with your submission. Please note that an interconnector constructed pursuant to Section 16A of the Act is deemed to be in the public interest for the purposes of Section 2A of the Act.

Yours sincerely,



Michael G Tutty  
Chairman