



Commission for Energy Regulation
An Coimisiún um Rialáil Fuinnimh

EirGrid's Draft Transmission Development Plan 2016 – 2026

Consultation Paper

Reference:	CER/17/027	Date Published:	02/03/2017	Closing Date:	30/03/2017
------------	------------	-----------------	------------	---------------	------------

Regulating Water, Energy and Energy Safety in the Public Interest

The Exchange, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland
+353 1 4000 800 | info@cer.ie | www.cer.ie

Executive Summary

Each year, in accordance with its licence and SI No. 445 of 2000, EirGrid must prepare a Transmission Development Plan (TDP). As part of this process, EirGrid has now submitted to the CER a draft TDP for consultation. The CER has prepared a consultation paper calling for comment on the TDP.

EirGrid's TDP is a draft plan for the development of the Irish transmission network and interconnection over the ten year period, 2016 to 2026. It presents projects that EirGrid considers are likely to be needed to reinforce the transmission network and will help to achieve the strategic objectives laid out by national and EU policies. The strategic objectives include:

- ensuring the security of electricity supply;
- ensuring the competitiveness of the national economy;
- ensuring the long-term sustainability of electricity supply in the country
- promoting market integration;
- securing transmission network supplies; and
- promoting the integration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and complementary thermal generation.

The TDP covers a period of ten years in line with the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity's (ENTSO-E) TYNDP for 2016-2026¹. EirGrid's TDP includes Irish projects of European significance as set out in ENTSO-E's latest TYNDP and projects of regional significance as set out in the most recent regional investment plan (RIP) for the North Sea region².

The CER welcomes comments on all aspects of EirGrid's draft TDP. Specifically views are requested on planned interconnection, forecast generation and demand growth, and the impact of further transmission development on security of supply.

The CER will require EirGrid to fully consider all comments and suggestions submitted as part of the consultation, before submitting a final TDP 2016- 2026 to the CER for approval.

The deadline for submitting responses to the CER regarding EirGrid's draft TDP 2016 - 2026 is 17:00 Thursday, 30th March 2017. Responses to this consultation should be sent to Mantas Vencius (mvencius@cer.ie) at the CER. Please note that the CER intends to publish all responses received unless it is marked confidential.

¹ <http://tyndp.entsoe.eu/>

² https://consultations.entsoe.eu/system-development/regional-investment-plans/user_uploads/regional-investment-plan-2015--rg-ns---for-consultation.pdf-9

Public Impact Statement

It is a licence and statutory requirement on EirGrid to produce, each year, a network development plan for the forthcoming ten years. It provides EirGrid's view of the appropriate levels of network development to:

- ensure the security of electricity supply;
- ensure the competitiveness of the national economy;
- ensure the long-term sustainability of electricity supply in the country;
- secure transmission network supplies;
- promote market integration; and
- promote the integration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and complementary thermal generation.

This planning should assist EirGrid in:

- developing the transmission system appropriately and to the needs of its customers;
- developing revenue proposals for review by the CER who will assess them to ensure:
 - Value for money for the customer is being delivered;
 - The appropriate levels of network development to support security of supply, renewable development and a competitive electricity sector.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
PUBLIC IMPACT STATEMENT	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 COMMISSION FOR ENERGY REGULATION	5
1.2 BACKGROUND	5
1.3 RELATED DOCUMENTS.....	5
1.4 STRUCTURE OF THIS PAPER RELATED DOCUMENTS	5
1.5 RESPONDING TO THIS CONSULTATION	6
2 OVERVIEW	7
2.1 DRAFT TDP 2016 - 2026.....	7
3 CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS.....	8

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation or Term	Definition or Meaning
CER	Commission for Energy Regulation
TDP	Transmission Development Plan
TSO	Transmission System Operator
EAR	Environmental Appraisal Report
IP	Implementation Programme
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

1. Introduction

1.1 Commission for Energy Regulation

The CER is Ireland's independent energy and water regulator. The CER was established in 1999 and now has a wide range of economic, customer protection and safety responsibilities in energy. The CER is also the regulator of Ireland's public water and wastewater system.

Further information on the CER's role and relevant legislation can be found in [here](#).

1.2 Background

EirGrid is the independent Transmission System Operator (TSO) and does not own, construct or operate any form of generation. EirGrid has a statutory obligation under Regulation 8(6) of SI445/2000 and a licence obligation under Condition 8 of the Transmission System Operator licence to produce a Transmission Development Plan³.

As provided for in SI No. 445 of 2000 the CER consults on the TDP prepared by EirGrid. As part of this process, EirGrid has now submitted to the CER a draft TDP for consultation. The CER has prepared a consultation paper calling for comment on the TDP.

1.3 Related Documents

Directive [2009/72/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council

[Transmission Development Plan 2015 – 2025](#)

[Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Grid25 IP](#)

[Grid25 Implementation Programme 2011-2016](#)

1.4 Structure of this paper Related Documents

This consultation paper is structured as follows:

- **Section 1**, introduction and background;

³ In particular, Article 22 of European Directive 2009/72/EC requires:

- 22(1) – Every year, transmission system operators shall submit to the regulatory authority a ten-year network development plan based on existing and forecast supply and demand after having consulted all the relevant stakeholders.
- 22(4) - The regulatory authority shall consult all actual or potential system users on the ten-year network development plan in an open and transparent manner. Persons or undertakings claiming to be potential system users may be required to substantiate such claims. The regulatory authority shall publish the result of the consultation process, in particular possible needs for investments.

- **Section 2**, provides an overview of EirGrid's draft TDP 2016 - 2026;
- **Section 3**, outlines conclusions and next steps.

1.5 Responding to this Consultation

The deadline for submitting responses to the CER regarding EirGrid's draft TDP 2016 - 2026 is 17.00 Thursday, 30th March 2017. Responses to this consultation should be sent to Mantas Vencius (mvencius@cer.ie) at the CER.

Please note that the CER intends to publish all responses received unless it is marked confidential. Where your responses includes confidential information please put it in a separate annex where possible.

2 Overview

2.1 Draft TDP 2016 - 2026

EirGrid's draft TDP 2016 - 2026 is EirGrid's draft plan for the development of the Irish transmission network and interconnection over the ten years from 2016. The TDP 2016 - 2026 supersedes the TDP 2015 - 2025. This ten year plan presents EirGrid's opinion as to the projects that are needed to reinforce the transmission network. The TDP is not a strategy or policy forming document.

EirGrid's draft TDP describes the TSO's development planning process, it discusses the drivers and assumptions underlying the plan, and it outlines the TSO's plans for transmission network development over the next ten years (including projects under construction). In doing such, it also indicates where further potential development is likely to be required. The TDP 2016 outlines 20 projects that have been completed since TDP 2015 and 13 new projects. It also outlines a total of 116 projects that are currently in progress, which can be categorised as follows:

- 34 - new builds;
- 60 - uprating/modification of existing network;
- 20 – refurbishment/replacement of existing network; and
- 2 – other⁴.

Transmission network development is ever evolving. To allow for comparison of network development projects on a year-on-year basis, data is represented at a fixed point in time – the data freeze date. The data freeze date of the TDP 2016 is 31st March 2016.

Furthermore, a draft Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) of Draft TDP 2016 - 2026 has been prepared by EirGrid to support the TDP. The purpose of the EAR is to ensure or consider whether the TDP 2016-2026 is in line with committed strategic environmental objectives. These objectives were set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)⁵ for the Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP)⁶ 2011-2016⁷.

⁴ Other: are projects that do not fall naturally into any of the three categories above

⁵ SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the environmental effects of a proposed plan or programme, in order to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest stage.

⁶ Grid25 – “A Strategy for the Development of Ireland's Electricity Grid for a Sustainable and Competitive Future”, published by EirGrid in October 2008.

⁷ <http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/SEA-Statement-of-the-Grid25-Implementation-Programme-2011-2016-Strategic-Environmental-Assessment.pdf>

3 Conclusion & Next Steps

The CER welcomes comments on all aspects of EirGrid's draft TDP. Specifically views are requested on planned interconnection, forecast generation and demand growth, and the impact of further transmission development on security of supply.

The CER will request EirGrid to fully consider all comments and suggestions submitted as part of the consultation, before submitting the final TDP to the CER for approval.

The deadline for submitting responses to the CER regarding EirGrid's draft TDP 2016 - 2026 is 17:00 Thursday, 30th March 2017. Responses to this consultation should be sent to Mantas Vencius (mvencius@cer.ie) at the CER.

Please note that the CER intends to publish all responses received unless it is marked confidential. Where your responses includes confidential information please put it in a separate annex where possible.