



**County Kildare
Chamber**
Advancing business together

Eirgrid
160 Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
D04 FW28
Dear Sir / Madam,

Date: 9th December 2020

RE: SUBMISSION ON THE KILDARE – MEATH GRID UPGRADE (CAPITAL PROJECT 966) ON BEHALF OF COUNTY KILDARE CHAMBER

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of **County Kildare Chamber**, Sallins Road, Naas Town Centre, Naas, Co. Kildare, we hereby wish to make a submission on the Kildare – Meath Grid Upgrade.

This submission is made in response to the call for submissions from Eirgrid and further to a recent County Kildare Chamber Eirgrid briefing to our membership.

We welcome the opportunity to make our views known in the context of the process.

County Kildare Chamber represents the business organisation in Kildare, proactively working to identify and progress developments that are facilitative of economic and sustainable growth. Representing an employer base of 400 businesses and over 38,000 employees across the county, County Kildare Chamber is the largest business organisation in the mid-east region of Ireland.

Given its significant breadth and depth of membership, and its representation on various bodies at local and national level, County Kildare Chamber constitutes the representative voice for business in Kildare, a particularly important role given the current economic circumstances in the county and the State.

CEO, Allan Shine is the business representative on all key stakeholder groupings in the region and the Chamber has representation on national, regional and county committees.



The 6-stage process is very welcomed and it should be acknowledged that Eirgrid have engaged professionally and have at all times responded to any query that either the Chamber or the business community in Kildare have had with the process to date.

Jacobs in their Strategic Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report outline that County Kildare Chamber is a “High Interest, Low Influence” Stakeholder. County Kildare Chamber is the business organisation in Kildare, the largest in the mid east, represents all sectorial interests and is a key stakeholder in the mid – east region. County Kildare Chamber delivers in securing FDI to the region, organises International business trade visits annually and markets the mid east region as the location of choice for business enterprise. County Kildare Chamber is a “High Interest, High Influence” Stakeholder.

County Kildare Chamber have engaged with its membership through virtual webinars and through email and phone. The preferred option for the business community in Kildare is: Option 1, Connect two existing 220 kV overhead lines and up-voltage to 400kV

In reaching this decision, we carefully examined the 5 options made available. Option 1 will enable the mid east region to further promote itself as the ideal location of choice for both existing and potential business enterprises. There is a growing demand for electricity in the region as the mid-East region is projected to show the highest percentage population increases in the country by 2036, from 690,900 in 2016 to 965,300 by 2036.

County Development plans for Meath and Kildare require a sufficient electricity supply to zone and rezone commercial land. Large indigenous SME’s and our cluster of Multi Nationals need to be confident we can provide a steady supply of power into the future, option 1 delivers on this.

We require a modern and stable infrastructure with a capacity to meet future demands, we must remain competitive and this project will support the growth of the economy in the region. The demand for data centres particularly in Kildare will be supported by the completion of this project.



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CONCLUSION

We trust that the contents of this submission will be taken into consideration by Eirgrid and their consultants as they plan the next part of the process. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries regarding this submission.

Yours sincerely

Allan Shine

Chief Executive
County Kildare Chamber
Naas Town Centre
Naas
County Kildare
www.countykildarechamber.ie
045 894074