



East West Interconnector Project (EWIC)

Quarterly Report

Quarter 1 2011

Progress Overview:

Following Foreshore Licence approval by the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2010, the Project has been working to discharge the necessary conditions in advance of work commencing in Irish waters. Key conditions being addressed include the requirements for extensive monitoring for underwater archaeology and for marine mammals. The project has submitted detailed protocols to both the Under Water Archaeology Division (of DEHLG) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service respectively.

John Sisk & Son Ltd have been appointed as Civil Works subcontractor for the Ireland and Wales Converter Stations.

Construction of the converter stations in Ireland and Wales is now well underway and according to schedule.

Ireland

Construction work in Ireland is progressing well.

Approximately 29,750m [67%] of the DC ducts have now been installed in Ireland. One of the more complex aspects of the project which was the installation of ducts under the M1 in Dublin was completed during the period. The ducts were installed using a method called a horizontal directional drill (HDD). This method of drilling is a trenchless way of installing the plastic ducts underground.

At the Woodland Converter Station site, the topsoil has been stripped from the site and stone imported for the contractor's site compound. The site offices have been delivered and are currently being fitted out.

The EirGrid information centre in Rush remains open to allow people to meet directly with the Project team.

Up to date project activity is available at www.interconnector.ie

Britain

Over 93% of DC ducting is complete in Wales, with 73% of cable pulling also complete. Jointing commenced in Wales during the period, with circa 10% of jointing now complete.

Shotton Converter Station construction works have commenced with the initial activities including site preparation and foundation piling.



Marine

A diver survey was carried out by ABCO Marine Ltd. at the shore at Rush North Beach in early March. This will help inform works which are due to commence on Rush North Beach and immediately offshore towards the end of April.

EirGrid represented the EWIC project at a Twenties workshop in Copenhagen in February. The workshop was attended by various European transmission system operators where ways to improve the consenting processes to assist in the development of interconnectors were discussed. The broader aim of the Twenties project is to advance the development and implementation of new technologies that will make it possible to increase the use of wind power in Europe significantly.

EirGrid East West Interconnector recently appointed NetWork services to manage fisheries notifications & liaison on behalf of the project. NetWork services has considerable experience representing clients in the Irish sea area and will be a great addition to the team.

Design and Construction

Detailed design is ongoing for the converter stations.

The first two converter transformers have successfully passed their type and routine tests at ABB's Ludvika factory. The third converter transformer is to be tested in April. Manufacture of the remaining four transformers is continuing.

ABB have completed the operational type test for the IGBT valves, with all IGBT units passing the tests.

ABB is proceeding with the manufacture of both land and subsea DC cable types with a total of 80 km subsea cable and 60 km of land cable now completed. A further 150 km of HVDC cable is in various stages of production.

ABB have completed the manufacture of the 400 kV AC cable for the connections to the substation in Deeside.

Overall Progress

EirGrid is delighted to report that the project is still on target to achieve completion in Q3 2012.