

File Ref: DEC 21/9

Planning Section  
Áras An Chontae  
Charleville Road  
Tullamore  
Co. Offaly

Date: 5/5/21

HTS SOURCE RENEWABLES PARTNER LTD.,  
BLG FINANCIAL, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR,  
THE BOATHOUSE,  
BISHOP STREET,  
DUBLIN 8

**DEVELOPMENT:**

DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED IN RELATION TO WHETHER THE LAYING OF C.230M OF 38KV UNDERGROUND MEDIUM VOLTAGE GRID CONNECTION CABLE BETWEEN THE CONSENTED LEHINCH SOLAR FARM (REF. 16/113) TO THE CLARA 38KV SUBSTATION IS OR IS NOT DEVELOPMENT AND IS OR IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

**LOCATION:**

LEHINCH, CLARA, CO. OFFALY

Dear Sir/Madam,

In considering this application, it has been found necessary to request further information. This further information request is set out on the attached form and is essential for a full and proper evaluation of the application.

Yours faithfully,



**Administrative Officer**

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Application for Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 as amended in relation to whether the laying of c.230m of 38kv underground medium voltage grid connection cable between the consented Lehinch Solar Farm (ref. 16/113) to the Clara 38kv substation at Lehinch, Clara, Co. Offaly - HTS Source Renewables Partner Ltd.

### **Further Information**

1. Section 1.3 of the application states that *'the grid connection is to be installed from the solar farm along C0.23km of public road'*. Drawing No: NEO00800\_0021A shows the route of the ducting entering the rear of the substation through agricultural lands.

The drawings submitted with the application do not show any cable routes in the public road. The covering statement page 2 of the outline construction environmental management plan section 5.3 and the archaeology impact assessment refers to 230 m of cabling in the public road.

Clarify the proposed cable route, and update reports/drawings as necessary.

2. Clarify the length of cable to be laid, reference is made to 230m, but the plans showing the route do not correspond with the length of cable proposed.
3. If the cable route is intended to pass to the south of the business park, as indicated in submitted drawings, it will impact directly on the permitted development of planning reg. ref. 19/28, which authorised a structure and attenuation tank at the location of the proposed route. Your comments are invited.
4. The application form submitted with your declaration request, indicates that Richard Conner is the owner of the land for the intended cable route. It is noted however, if it is intended to lay the cable to the south of the business park, that according to recent details of planning reg. ref. 19/28 that Richard Conner is not the owner of said lands. Clarify the owner of lands of the intended cable route and submit a letter of consent from the landowner in this regard.
5. The Archaeology Impact Assessment submitted with the declaration request, makes no reference to *OF008-062 – Enclosure*, and incorrectly references the location of OF008-012 being to the southwest of the cable, when it is in fact located to the north east of the indicated cable route. Reference also made at para.2.12 to *'length of the route and its roadside nature...'*. Please clarify and update the report as necessary.
6. Further to question no.1 above, if the cable route is to be laid in the public road the following information would assist Road Design and the District Engineer:

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- (a) Before the works commence on site a survey of the cabling route along the public roads must be undertaken and the proposal submitted, must clearly show the road metal surface edge and the extent of the adjacent available verge to facilitate an accurate appraisal of the impact of the scheme on the public road network
  - (b) The applicant is request to submit a revised design proposal that clearly shows the carriageway, the verge and thus extent of the cabling route in a colour coded fashion as follows:
    - i) Cabling route in road
    - ii) Cabling route in verge but at the road edge i.e. within 1.2m of the road edge.
    - iii) Cabling route in the verge (outside the first 1.2m).
    - iv) Location of draw pits/inspection and joint chambers (including dimensions).
  - c) The applicant should note that the preferred position for the cabling shall be in the verge at least 1.2m from the road edge. This will reduce the impact on the road and the overall cost to the applicant in terms of backfill requirements and the cost of the associated road opening licence. Trench reinstatement shall be carried as per “Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads, 2nd edition (rev 1) – April 2017”
  - d) Details of the proposed wearing course permanent reinstatement shall be detailed.
7. Please provide confirmation that the applicant/developer is authorised as a ‘statutory undertaker’ as per the definition contained within section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

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