



Mr Richard Shakespeare
Chief Executive
Dublin City Council
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Wood Quay
Dublin 8
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By email only to: chiefexecutive@dublincity.ie

19 February 2025

**Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment Public Consultation:
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project**

Dear Mr Shakespeare,

I am writing in accordance with article 132(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2025, to advise that Dublin City Council will be the nominated authority with respect to the transboundary EIA consultation on the proposed Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project development.

For your information, the Minister received notification from the Planning Inspectorate UK (PINS), dated 31 January 2025 (attached for information) regarding receipt of a development consent application for the proposed Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project by XLinks 1 Limited, which comprises a subsea electrical cable to be installed from the boundary of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to a proposed landfall site at Cornborough Range in Devon, UK. This notification is an invitation to participate in transboundary EIA consultation in accordance with the provisions of the 1991 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).

In August 2024, at the pre-application stage, a transboundary EIA screening was conducted on behalf of the Secretary of State that identified a number of potential transboundary environmental impacts on Ireland which include potential impacts on commercial fisheries, marine mammals and turtles, other marine users as well as on shipping and navigation. Following acceptance of the development consent order application this year the development was re-screened and a new EIA screening statement was made that concluded that potential



transboundary environmental impacts on Ireland were not likely to be significant. However, the Department decided, in keeping with the procedures for similar developments and the initial screening results, to hold a public consultation to give members of the public an opportunity to make submissions on the proposed development.

This Department issued a response to PINS on 7 February 2025 advising that the consultation period proposed by PINS (6 weeks from date of receipt of the notification) would not be sufficient to prepare and administer a public consultation on the potential transboundary environmental impact from the proposed development. PINS were advised that the Department would make contact in February to confirm the public consultation timelines, which will be agreed between officials in the Climate and Environmental Planning Policy (CEPP) unit of this Department and appropriate officials in Dublin City Council.

In reference to article 132(4)(b) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2025, that requires a list of all other planning authorities likely to be affected by the proposed development to be submitted to the nominated authority, I wish to advise that, based on the nature of the transboundary identified in the initial screening which are noted above, no planning authority can be excluded. Therefore, Dublin City Council should ensure all planning authorities are consulted with a view to advertising this transboundary EIA public consultation.

Officials from the CEPP unit will be in touch with the appropriate officials in Dublin City Council in due course to discuss next steps.

Any queries in relation to this letter should be addressed to transboundaryeia@housing.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

Declan Grehan
Assistant Principal
Climate and Environmental Planning Policy
Planning Division
Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage

Copied:

- Greg Bryan (greg.bryan@dublincity.ie)
- Fiona Mulligan (fiona.mulligan@dublincity.ie)

Attachments:



- Transboundary Screening Statement dated 10 January 2025
- Transboundary consultation notification received from PINS dated 31 January 2025
- Table with Documentation Links