

Coolkeeragh Planning Application Lodged

Project's "Environmental Statement" Draws on Community Consultation Process

Coolkeeragh Power Limited and ESB International Investments, the partners in the development of the new Coolkeeragh ESB natural gas fired power station at the site of the existing station at Coolkeeragh have lodged their formal planning application together with the supporting Environmental Statement.

The scope of the Environmental Statement was compiled following consultation with various groups throughout the region.

Coolkeeragh ESB, has undertaken a comprehensive information programme to promote awareness of the new development, and to meet local business and resident groups to describe the construction and power generating process and answer any queries about the project.

Consultation has taken place with various residents and community associations, agencies and special interest groups, neighbouring industries and institutions, government and local government bodies, individuals and public representatives.

Written submissions were received from a number of groups, and these, together with comments and observations made during the consultation process generally, helped define the scope of the Environment Statement.

"This was a wide ranging information and consultation process", said Roy Devine of Coolkeeragh Power. "We had a number of written responses, and the whole process helped us greatly in confirming and shaping the scope of the Environmental Statement, and addressing the needs of the public for information about the project in all its aspects."

The planning application is available for public inspection at the Divisional Planning Office, Orchard House, 40 Foyle Street, Londonderry.

Coolkeeragh ESB has placed copies of the Environmental Statement in all local libraries for public viewing. Copies of the Environmental Statement are available at Central Library, Foyle Street; Creggan Library, Central Drive; Shantallow Library, Racecourse Road; Strathfoyle Library, Temple Road, Strathfoyle and Waterside Branch Library, Glendermott Road.

The Environmental Statement (including Non-Technical Summary) and a separate Non-Technical Summary are available for purchase at the offices of Coolkeeragh Power Limited.

Coolkeeragh ESB - Wide-ranging Environmental Statement

PROPOSAL

Coolkeeragh ESB propose to construct a 400MW state-of-the-art combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant on a site at the existing oil-fired station at Coolkeeragh, thereby making full use of the existing infrastructure, including the cooling water, fuel storage tanks and the electricity transmission facilities.

Coolkeeragh ESB intend to complete construction of the new CCGT power station to allow commercial operation of the plant in 2004 after which time the existing oil fired station will be retired. The existing open cycle gas turbine plant will be retained in its current role as a back up to help meet peak demand for short periods.

Environmental Benefits

CCGT is the most energy efficient, environmentally-friendly technology available for large scale electricity generation from fossil fuels and will contribute significantly in the drive to reduce costs to the consumer. The proposed CCGT power plant will operate more efficiently than the existing power station. The technology - the latest and most modern - offers the following main benefits to the environment:

- sophisticated controls keep levels of emissions to a minimum;
- reduction in carbon dioxide (a "greenhouse" gas) emission by half compared to an oil fired station;
- negligible oxides of sulphur emissions;
- the scale of the CCGT plant is much smaller compared to the existing station resulting in reduced visual impact



Existing oil fired station



Artist's impression depicting one possible configuration of the new gas power plant at Coolkeeragh

Many Benefits to Developing New Coolkeeragh Plant

The planned power station at Coolkeeragh will replace the existing 40 year old oil-fired plant with a state-of-the-art CCGT plant. The new CCGT technology will mean lower emissions, lower operating costs and better reliability for Northern Ireland consumers.

BENEFITS TO COOLKEERAGH AND ENVIRONS

The siting of the new plant at Coolkeeragh will bring many significant economic benefits to the North West.

It is estimated that the entire capital cost of the power station project will be £150 million.

At its peak, it is anticipated that building the new station will create up to 400 construction jobs. This construction phase of the project will draw from available resources in the immediate area. As well as those employed directly, it is expected that employment among contracting firms will also surge. Once fully operational, the power plant will contribute ongoing services and supply contracts worth around £7 million per annum to the local economy. These

expenditures will result in economic benefits for the North West, and for Northern Ireland as a whole.

GAS

Gas will be supplied to the new plant at Coolkeeragh via a new pipeline under a separate project. The choice of natural gas to fuel the plant will:

- eliminate sulphur emissions;
- eliminate particulate emissions;
- eliminate black smoke emissions;
- eliminate transportation and storage of heavy fuel oil.

NEW PIPELINE

As well as the direct economic benefits of building and running the power station, further benefits are forecast for the north and North West regions. The supply of natural gas into the area, combined with Coolkeeragh's power generation will:

- attract new industry
- promote economic growth
- increase employment
- increase competitiveness
- reduce peripherality.

NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS TO ENJOY PRICE COMPETITION

Increased efficiency at the new plant at Coolkeeragh will mean greater competition for Northern Ireland's electricity consumers. In addition the gas pipeline planned to service the new power station will introduce an alternative energy source to the region, which will add further downward pressure on electricity prices.

The new plant will generate lower cost electricity - helping to drive prices down in the Northern Ireland marketplace which will ultimately benefit all customers, industrial, commercial and domestic.

Coolkeeragh ESB will act as an important element in making the gas pipeline to the North and North West a commercially viable proposition.

Creation of the new natural gas infrastructure will also enhance the development potential of the whole North West region.

Sponsorships Underscore Commitment to North West Region

In developing the CCGT Power plant at Maydown, Coolkeeragh ESB are making a long-term and commitment to a substantial investment in the North West region. To underline this commitment to the area and to the community, Coolkeeragh ESB have, over the past six months, been supporting a variety of sporting, business cultural and educational organisations. Examples of some of these are set out below.

Institute FC and Derry City FC

Institute FC and Derry City FC, both with their roots in the local community, play in the Irish League and the League of Ireland respectively. Both clubs are currently undertaking development programmes, and both were in receipt of support from Coolkeeragh ESB in Season 2000/2001.

An Grianan

An Grianan Theatre plays a central role in the cultural life of the North West. Coolkeeragh ESB supported its production of "Big Maggie", which went on tour following its successful theatre run.

Londonderry Chamber of Commerce

LCC provides a business network for the city and the North West region. The highlight of the Chamber's programme is the annual Dinner, which was supported by Coolkeeragh ESB.

Maydown Roundabout

Located near the main entrance to the power plant, Coolkeeragh ESB has agreed to support the landscaping, maintenance and upkeep of the Maydown Roundabout under the "Sponsor a Roundabout" scheme introduced by Derry City Council as part of its "Pride in our City" campaign.

Coolkeeragh ESB strongly believes in supporting local community initiatives, and wishes to underline its long term and continuing commitment to the North West region from which it derives its workforce and customer base, through its continued support and involvement in the life of the community.

Further project information please contact: Roy Devine,
Coolkeeragh Power Limited, 2 Electra Road, Maydown, Londonderry BT476UL
Tel: 028 71860351 Fax: 028 71860745
E-mail: ccgt@coolkeeragh.co.uk Web site: www.coolkeeragh.com



COOLKEERAGH ESB

