EIA Scoping Workshop

Workshop Facilitators:

- Paul Scott, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

- Elaine Dromey, FuturEnergy Ireland.

Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

FuturEnergy **Ireland**

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EIA Scoping

40 min Workshop – 10 min presentation followed by 20 min discussions and 10 min summarising.

- What is EIA Scoping?

- Legislation

- Focus of EIA Scoping

- Discussion (Break into groups for 20 mins)

- Summary

EIA Scoping

Why is it important?

- Scoping is the key to delivering a proportionate EIA that adds value to decision-making

- Helps ensure the EIA considers a wide range of issues and perspectives early on to avoid issues arising later, which can lead to delay.

- Focuses attention and resources on to the issues most likely to be significantly affected by the development.

- Promotes collaboration and engagement that presents opportunities to avoid impacts, improve design and generate environmental enhancement

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EIA Scoping

Legislation vs Good Practice

In the Act & Regulations:

- A voluntary pre-application step / stage where developer may seek a Scoping Opinion from PA / Board.

- PA / Board must consult with bodies under Article 95(2)(i-vii), incl bodies under Art28 as appropriate. PA / Board meant respond within ~7wks (4wks CBs + 3wks CA for Opinion).

In EIA Practice: Scoping is an on-going process by which the relevance of potential interactions between the proposed development and a

range of environmental topics are reviewed to determine whether they require assessment, what the focus of that should be and what data /

methods should be used.

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EIA Scoping

Purpose and Focus

*The [EIA] Directive provides that Developers may request a Scoping Opinion from the Competent Authority which **identifies the content and the extent of the assessment** and **specifies the information to be included in the EIA Report.** (EC, 2017)* [Emphasis added]

The scoping report containing some information on the Project's characteristics, in order to facilitate a response to the scoping request. The minimum details required:

- The location;

- The technical capacity;

- A brief description of the likely impacts and effects of the Project on the environment.

- Which of these **effects are likely to be significant** and therefore need particular attention in the EIA Report?

EIA Scoping

Discussion

- Do we have EIA Scoping in Ireland?

- Is there a clear standard approach for Ireland?

- How can developers and their consultants improve their scoping reports?

- How can local authorities / government agencies etc. improve their role in scoping?

- List Top 5 easy to implement 'fixes' for EIA scoping?

Remember the focus of discussions is EIA Scoping for onshore and offshore renewables in Ireland!

EIA Scoping - **Summary**

Box 3: The benefits of Scoping in EIA

- **Identifies key issues to be addressed:** Scoping helps to ensure that the environmental information used for decision-making provides a comprehensive picture of the Project's important effects, including issues of particular concern to the groups and individuals affected.

- **Saves time and money:** Scoping helps focus resources on the important issues for decision-making and avoids wasted effort on issues of little relevance. In addition, it reduces the risk of delays caused by requests for further information after the submission of the Development Consent application and the provision of environmental information.

- **Stimulates early consultation:** A consultation session about the Project and its environmental impacts is carried out during Scoping, between the Developer and the Competent Authority, as well as with environmental authorities and local and regional authorities, other interested parties, and the public.

- **Sets appropriate time and space boundaries:** Scoping aids in effective planning, management, and with resourcing of the EIA Report. It can identify other legislation or regulatory controls that may be relevant to the Project and can provide opportunities for the necessary assessment work, for different control systems, to be undertaken in parallel, thereby avoiding the duplication of effort and costs for all concerned.

- **Helps to identify preliminary Alternatives and Mitigation Measures:** Scoping should identify preliminary Alternatives to the proposed Project as well as preliminary mitigating measures that ought to be considered by the Developer.

Extracted from EC (2017) guidance on Scoping, available at: https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/3b48eff1-b955-423f-9086-0d85ad1c5879/library/38742302-d9d2-41e1-85de-aa88653ebe7c/details?download=true

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