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Preface

White Hill Wind Limited is applying for planning permission for the construction of a 110kV electricity substation, underground electricity line and associated site development works ('the project') in the townlands of Shankill and Ballygorteen, County Kilkenny; and Moanmore, Lackan and Baunreagh, County Carlow.

Following consultations pursuant to Section 182E of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Act'), An Bord Pleanála determined that the project is a Strategic Infrastructure Development within the meaning of Section 182A of the Act which necessitates a planning application being made directly to it.

The project will facilitate connection of the permitted White Hill Wind Farm to the national grid by way of the existing Kellis-Kilkenny 110kV overhead electricity transmission line which passes adjacent to the subject site. Planning legislation requires that planning applications for such projects be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). An EIAR is a statement of the likely effects, if any, which the project, if carried out, would have on the environment. The EIAR provides information which An Bord Pleanála can use in undertaking its formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and in informing its decision-making. The EIAR can also be used by third parties as part of the public participation process to evaluate the project and its likely effects.

The content of this EIAR has been prepared by Galetech Energy Services on behalf of White Hill Wind Limited and is arranged into thirteen separate chapters which describe the project and address each component of the environment likely to be affected and their likely interactions. Individual specialist and technical consultants were also appointed in order to undertake particular assessments and prepare specific chapters, where necessary. The scope of the EIAR also assesses the likely effects of relevant 'off-site' components which will occur as an indirect result of the project including, for example, the importation and use of construction materials.

The EIAR should be read in conjunction with all plans and particulars submitted with the planning application, including technical drawings. A separate Non-Technical Summary has also been prepared.

Overall, it is concluded that the effects of the project on the receiving environment are not likely to be significant. Adverse effects from the project vary in significance but are generally in the slight to imperceptible range. A number of positive impacts have also been identified such as facilitating the export of renewable energy to the national grid thus making a significant contribution towards satisfying binding national targets for energy production from renewable sources. On balance, the combined effects which have been identified within this EIAR demonstrate that the project will not result in any likely significant effect on the environment.