

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination under:

Article 9 of European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011) concerning the Gas Networks Ireland Network Development Plan (NDP) 2018

In order to comply with the requirements of Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), this determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland in relation to the potential for the Network Development Plan (NDP) 2018 to have likely significant effects on the environment.

The determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland following consideration of information contained in the SEA Screening Report prepared by RPS consultants (accompanying this determination), the text of the NDP 2018 and the consultation responses received.

Following analysis and evaluation of the information, Gas Networks Ireland, as the competent authority responsible for developing the NDP 2018 has reached its conclusion that a SEA is not required for the NDP 2018 based on the following considerations:

- The NDP is a supply/demand analysis and capacity statement required by EU and national legislation. It is prepared annually by Gas Networks Ireland as a tool to look forward on a rolling 10-year horizon.
- The plan does not set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive.
- The plan includes specific reference to Gas Networks Ireland's environmental and planning assessment procedure for all works designed and planned for Gas Networks Ireland (Envirokit and Enviroplan). These bespoke tools specifically relate to requirements of the EIA Directive and the Habitats Directive and associated legislation relating to water, biodiversity, soils, landscape, cultural heritage, waste etc.

In accordance with the requirements of S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011) the statutory environmental authorities have been notified of this determination and notice of it has been made public on the Gas Networks Ireland website at <https://www.gasnetworks.ie>. The determination and associated documentation are available on the Gas Networks Ireland's website and also for public inspection at Gas Networks Ireland offices during office hours (8.30am -5.30pm) in Gas Networks Ireland Headquarters, Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96.

Signed: 

Date: 4/2/2020

On behalf of:

GAS NETWORKS IRELAND LIMITED