

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination under:
Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2014 (as
amended) for:**

Gas Networks Ireland Network Development Plan 2020

In order to comply with the requirements of Article 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Creation Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I No 435 of 2004), as amended by the 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) 2020 to give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.

This determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland following consideration of information contained in the SEA Screening Report prepared by Arup (accompanying this determination), the content of the NDP 2020 and the consultation responses received.

Following analysis and evaluation of the information, Gas Networks Ireland, as the competent authority responsible for developing the NDP 2020 has reached the conclusion that a SEA is not required for the NDP 2020, based on the following considerations:

- The NDP is a supply/demand analysis and capacity statement required by EU and national legislation. While the NDP does outline the capital investment proposals to be implemented over the next 10 years, it does not provide a framework for future development consent of projects listed Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.
- GNI is currently preparing a Network Implementation Plan which will set out in more detail the manner in which projects identified in the NDP will be developed. It is anticipated that the Network Implementation Plan will be subject to SEA, as appropriate, and that the capital investment proposals set out in the NDP will be described, in greater detail, and will be assessed as part of this Plan for their potential to give rise to significant environmental effects.

Gas Networks Ireland is satisfied that the NDP 2020 will not give rise to likely significant environmental affects and does not require SEA.

This determination and associated documentation are available on Gas Networks Ireland's website at <https://www.gasnetworks.ie> and for public inspection at the offices of Gas Networks Ireland during office hours (9.00am – 5.00pm) in Gas Networks Ireland Headquarters, Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96.

Signed: 

Date: 21st January 2021

On behalf of:

GAS NETWORKS IRELAND LIMITED

Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96. Gas Networks Ireland a designated activity company, limited by shares, incorporated in Ireland with registered number 555744 and having its registered office at Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96.

Stiúrthóirí/ Directors: Cathal Marley (Chairman), Brendan Murphy, Edwina Nyhan, Liam O'Sullivan, Denis O'Sullivan, Michael G. O'Sullivan