

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination under:
Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, as amended for:
Network Implementation Plan 2020-2023**

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 Implementation Plan (NIP) 2020-2023 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 NIP 2020-2023 and the consultation responses received.

Following analysis and evaluation of the information, Gas Networks Ireland, as the competent authority responsible for developing the NIP 2020-2023 has reached the conclusion that a SEA was required for the NDP 2019, based on the following considerations:

- The NIP is subject to preparation and adoption by a National Authority;
- The NIP is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions;
- The sole purpose of the NIP is not to serve national defence or civil emergency nor is it a financial/budget Plan or co-financed by the current Structural Funds/Regional Development Funds Programme;
- The NIP is prepared for the energy sector;
- The NIP is considered to provide a framework for development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive; and
- The NIP is a national level plan which is not restricted to the use of small areas at a local scale only, nor is it a modification of a Plan or Programme.


Thus, in accordance with 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), Gas Networks Ireland, as the Competent Authority, undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NIP 2020-2023.

This document is a determination by Gas Networks Ireland, as the competent authority, having regard to:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (ER) dated January 2021, prepared by Arup on behalf of Gas Networks Ireland, and the detailed assessment of likely impacts and mitigation measures therein;
- The incorporation of all mitigation measures as outlined in the ER within the NIP 2020-2023; and
- The fact that any projects arising from the NIP 2020-2023 shall be required to conform to the policy measures, including mitigation measures, detailed in the ER and set out in the NIP 2020-2023.

Subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the SEA Environmental Report, it is considered that significant adverse impacts on the environment will be avoided.

This determination and associated documentation are available on the Gas Networks Ireland website at <https://www.gasnetworks.ie> and for public inspection (for a period of 3 months) 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: 

On behalf of:

GAS NETWORKS IRELAND LIMITED