



Planning Inspectorate Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Operations Group 3,
Environmental Services,
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: xlinks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Ms. Lisa Clifford
EU and International Planning
Regulation Section
Department of Housing, Local Government
& Heritage

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010164

Date: 31 January 2025

BY EMAIL: Lisa.Clifford@housing.gov.ie
transboundaryeia@housing.gov.ie

Dear Ms Clifford

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – Regulation 32

Proposed Application by Xlinks 1 Limited (the Applicant) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project (the Proposed Development)

Secretary of State consultation with EEA State in accordance with Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations

Further to previous correspondence, we note that your State wishes to participate under Regulation 32 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) regarding the examination of the above application under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).

In accordance with the Regulation 32 procedure, your State is now being given the opportunity to provide information to the Secretary of State on the proposed development. You may wish to provide information on:

- the potential significant effects of the proposed development on the environment of your State
- the measures envisaged to reduce or eliminate such effects

Where you have undertaken consultation with the public of your State or with the relevant authorities, where appropriate, it would be helpful to summarise these comments in your response letter.

Information about the proposed application for development consent

Information about the proposed development and about its likely significant effects is available in the application documents which includes:

- the application and accompanying documents including the draft Development Consent Order (DCO)
- the Environmental Statement and accompanying the application
- the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement
- the Habitats Regulation Assessment Report

These documents are available on our website:

[Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project - Project information](#)

Timeframe for comments on the proposed development

We propose a 6 weeks consultation period from the date of this letter for your State to provide comments to the Secretary of State on the application for the proposed development. On this basis the deadline for the comments is **14 March 2025**. If we do not receive any comments by this date then we will assume that your State does not have any comments to make on the proposed development in accordance with the Regulation 32 procedure. We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this notification and confirm that the proposed timescale is acceptable.

Your reply to the Secretary of State should be sent electronically to:

xlinks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Further information on the transboundary consultation process carried out under Regulation 32 can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Page, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process, available at the link provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-transboundary-impacts-and-process#transboundary-process-under-regulation-32>

Information about the decision making timetable

The DCO application has been accepted for examination and the proposed development is now at the pre-examination stage. The remaining stages of the DCO process are:

- examination (the Examining Authority has a maximum of six months to carry out the examination)
- recommendation (three months for the Examining Authority to make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State)
- decision (three months for the relevant Secretary of State to make a decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent)
- post-decision (six week legal challenge period)

Registering as an Interested Party

Under other legislation, there is another way you may become involved in the examination process – this is by registering as an interested party. This will mean that your State will be automatically kept informed about the progress of the application and the decision and you will be invited to take part in the examination. Please note that registering as an interested party is a separate process, not part of the Regulation 32 procedure, but does not alter your rights under Regulation 32. The deadline to register as an interested party for this application closes on **13 March 2025 at 23:59 (GMT)**.

Further information about registering as an interested party can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Page, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: How to register to have your say and make a relevant representation, available at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-how-to-register-to-have-your-say-and-make-a-relevant-representation>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at xlinks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Helen Lancaster

Helen Lancaster
Operations Lead – Environmental Services Team, on behalf of the Secretary of State

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
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