



The current. The future.

North South Interconnector What's happening now? Spring 2019

SONI (System Operator for Northern Ireland) is responsible for the safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity – now and into the future.

We plan and operate the electricity transmission grid. The grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Northern Ireland. The North South Interconnector is a new 400 kV overhead line that will connect the electricity grids in Northern Ireland and Ireland. This project is essential to make sure that Northern Ireland has the power it needs for a thriving economy; bringing a brighter future to farms, homes and businesses.

It will help to improve the efficiency of the electricity system which ultimately means reducing costs for electricity consumers. At SONI we work closely with the community and landowners, particularly those who may be directly affected by our projects. We want you to have the latest news on our projects, to hear your feedback and respond to any concerns.

Planning Applications back with the Department for Infrastructure for decision

The Department for Infrastructure (DFI) approved planning permission in January 2018. This followed a thorough planning process including a Planning Appeals Commission Public Inquiry and positive recommendation. In February 2019, DFI conceded to a legal challenge against the planning permission. This challenge argued that planning approval could not be granted without the approval of an Infrastructure Minister. However, in November 2018 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland introduced new legislation. This gives Permanent Secretaries across the NI Civil Service the legal right to make key decisions when there is no Executive in place. Given this, we are hopeful that the DFI re-approve the planning applications. No new applications or changes to the existing applications are needed. We will keep you informed on the status of planning for the project.

SONI welcomes Dublin Supreme Court decision to uphold planning permission for the southern element of the project

Planning approval for the project in the Republic of Ireland was granted by An Bord Pleanála in December 2016. The approval faced a number of legal challenges, resulting in a decision by the Supreme Court in Dublin in February 2019, to uphold the planning approval. This ruling means that the North South Interconnector has cleared all planning and legal hurdles in the Republic of Ireland. We are hopeful that the same can be achieved in Northern Ireland in the coming months. In the meantime, tendering for equipment and pre-construction activities including confirmatory environmental surveys will take place along the route.



SONI supporting the community, landowners and people living nearby the North South Interconnector

SONI continues to strengthen community ties in Armagh

SONI continues to strengthen community ties in Armagh as we are proud to be the Official Community Sponsor of City of Armagh RFC.

SONI Agricultural Liaison Officer Fergal Keenan was on hand to help announce the sponsorship of Armagh RFC who started their campaign as the reigning 2017/18 SONI Ulster Rugby Premiership champions.

Sadly, Armagh finished one place above the bottom of the league, but they will always be champions to us! There's always next year!

SONI on the ground and here to help

Our Armagh office is open every Wednesday between 10am and 4pm at 16 Russell Street, Armagh, BT61 9AA. Feel free to drop in for a cup of tea and a chat. Our Agricultural Liaison Officer Fergal Keenan will be more than happy to answer your questions. You can also arrange a meeting with Fergal Keenan by appointment by phoning or emailing him.

Armagh Office Contact Details

Phone: 028 375 27028

Email: armaghoffice@soni.ltd.uk

Fergal Keenan Contact Details

Phone: 0796 693 0844

Email: fergal.keenan@soni.ltd.uk



Castlereagh House, 12 Manse Road, Belfast BT6 9RT
Telephone: 028 907 94336 • www.soni.ltd.uk



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