



FEBRUARY 2019

Lough Ree Power Station Newsletter No. 2

Welcome to the second ESB Lough Ree Power (LRP) Station community newsletter.

ESB has now lodged a planning application to continue operating LRP Station at Lanesboro and to change the fuel source for the power station from peat to biomass. These changes will start from early 2020 - once all consents (planning permission and Industrial Emissions licencing) are in place. The station will operate with reducing amounts of peat until the end of 2027, at which point it will be fuelled entirely by biomass. This transition will see the station operating as an increasingly low-carbon facility, playing an important role in a cleaner energy future.

'Biomass' describes a range of non-waste wood materials including woodchip and sawdust; brush and cuttings from the commercial forestry sector; residues from agricultural crops such as husks; energy crops such as willow, and manufactured wood pellets. Initially, we expect to source both indigenous and imported sustainable biomass for the station until there is a sufficient supply of indigenous Irish biomass material available. The ongoing operation of the station and the change to biomass will ensure ESB continues to play a key role as an economic driver in the Midlands region. The conversion of the station to biomass – and the move away from peat – is an important part of ESB's overall strategy to create a Brighter Future for customers and the communities we serve, by leading the transition to reliable, affordable, low-carbon energy. By making these changes, ESB is moving towards its goal of becoming a fully carbon neutral energy provider.

The timeframe for the transition to full biomass is in line with Bord na Móna's own strategy and timeframe for moving away from harvesting peat for energy generation. This timeframe will enable Bord na Móna to change its operations and activities while protecting jobs and supporting alternative economic activities in the Midlands region, including those based on an emerging biomass sector.

The planning application documents setting out the proposal have been submitted to Longford County Council, who will decide if planning permission will be granted. These include reports and drawings describing the development and a detailed assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development, if it should go ahead.

- The documents may be viewed at the offices of Longford County Council, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56, or on the Longford County Council website (www.longfordcoco.ie);
- Submissions or observations may be made only to Longford County Council, Water Street, Longford N39 NH56, during the period of five weeks from the application being lodged, and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

Our Community Liaison Officer, David Linnane, continues to be available to listen to any questions you may have in relation to the project. You can contact him on 086 255 8111 or david.linnane@esb.ie.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your inputs during our consultation last year.

Jim Murray
Station Manager, ESB Midland Stations