



West Offaly Power Station Newsletter No. 2

Welcome to the second ESB West Offaly Power (WOP) Station community newsletter.

ESB has now lodged a planning application to continue operating WOP Station at Shannonbridge 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; brash 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 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 station's conversion 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 fully carbon neutral over time.

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 An Bord Pleanála, who will decide if planning permission will be granted. These documents 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 three locations from **Monday 3 December 2018 until Friday 1 February 2019**:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902;
- The Offices of Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 F893; and
- The Offices of Offaly County Council – Edenderry Municipal District Offices, Edenderry Town Hall, Edenderry, Co. Offaly, R45 K766.

The application may also be viewed or downloaded at the stand-alone project website:
www.westoffalypower.ie

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902, during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.



Energy for
generations

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 recent consultation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Murray'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long vertical line extending from the end of the name.

Jim Murray
Midlands Stations Manager