

## **Power Supply at Aghoos Tunnelling Compound (SC3)**

As described in Section 11.6.4.1 of the revised EIS, it is intended that all power required at the Aghoos tunnelling compound be generated on-site using diesel powered generators. It is proposed that 3 generators with a combined generation capacity of 2.5MW<sub>e</sub> will be utilised. On-site power generation was fully assessed in the revised EIS. Furthermore, in respect of potential noise impacts arising from the use of generators, additional assessment was undertaken and mitigation measures presented in the EIS Addendum document submitted to this hearing. In the course of cross questioning last week, Mr Darragh Kingston then proposed a further noise reduction measure, in the form of an acoustic shed around the generators, which will result in another decrease in the noise emissions from those presented in the EIS Addendum.

The additional mitigation measures presented were the result of an on-going examination by the design team of noise abatement measures that could feasibly be implemented to further reduce noise at the Aghoos tunnelling compound from that presented in the revised EIS. Another of the options considered in this regard was connection to the electrical grid. However, it has been confirmed with ESB Networks that significant up-grades to the existing 20 kV line which connects to the Bellanaboy Gas Terminal and the associated electrical infrastructure at Bangor would be required in order to support a connection of the capacity required at the Aghoos Tunnelling compound. The timeline for completing these up-grade works would be at least 1 year. As such it was decided that this was not a feasible option to propose.

In any event, such a connection to the grid would not confer any significant reduction in terms predicted noise impact, as compared to the levels that will be achieved through the use of mitigation measures proposed, including the acoustic shed around the generators as presented by Mr Kingston.

Furthermore, even if a mains supply to the compound was established, it would not do away with the need for generators, as the security of the supply to the site where tunnelling operations will take place on a 24 hour basis is very important to the project. If an electrical grid connection were to be installed to the Aghoos tunnelling compound, there would still be a requirement for back-up power to be provided by stand-by generators which would be required in the event of an interruption to the ESB supply.

As such, it is considered that an electrical grid connection is neither feasible in the context of the project programme, nor required, in that the mitigation measures already proposed are such that predicted noise impacts on the environment have been reduced to a very low level at the nearest noise sensitive receptor.

## **Power Connection at SC1 and SC2**

SEPIL have the approval for a domestic 63 amp electricity supply at Glengad. This connection has not been physically set up but SEPIL will initiate the process for physical connection with the ESB Networks if planning Approval is granted.

It is expected that the electrical power supply could be in place within 3 – 4 weeks and would not be subject to planning permission.