

# Archives Roscommon Herald

[HOME](#) →[SEARCH BY DATE](#) →[SEARCH BY KEYWORD](#) →[CLIPBOARD](#) [HELP](#) →

[TCM Archives](#) > [Roscommon Herald](#) > [2005/03/17](#) > Over 90% of landowners accept ESB deal

**Thursday, March 17, 2005 :**

[FRONT](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORT](#) | [AREA NOTES](#) | [OTHER NEWS](#)

---

Over 90% of landowners accept ESB deal

AROUND 90% of landowners in North Roscommon , affected by the new ESB power line from Flagford, County Roscommon to Srananagh, County Sligo, have accepted the compensation package negotiated by the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), the Roscommon Herald has learned.

While the majority accepted the deal tabled by the IFA, a number of other landowners in the Boyle, Croghan and Carrick-onShannon region have yet to finalise any deal with the ESB.

According to Adrian Leddy, IFA Development Officer, the vast majority of the 100 plus landowners in North Roscommon affected by the installation of the powerline accepted the deal. He added that the amount of compensation agreed was negotiated on an individual case by case basis, depending on the number of pylons being installed, the volume of land affected and any impacts on development rights. In each case, compensation exceeded €14,000, he said.

“The majority of farmers and landowners have accepted this deal, but it is everybody’s prerogative to seek better conditions,” Mr Leddy said, adding that the IFA was continually negotiating individual cases on an ongoing basis. Despite a strong campaign in recent years to stop the powerline going ahead, this week the ESB confirmed that steady progress was being made on the construction of the power upgrade in the north west region. Works began late last summer on laying bases in the Boyle area.

"Approximately 50 tower bases have been constructed to carry the line, out of a total of the 172 required, and constructive discussions are taking place with other landowners so that the remaining parts of the line can be completed as soon as possible," a spokesperson for ESB said. "The reinforcement to the region's electricity infrastructure will put the region on a level playing field with the east of the country in its ability to attract high tech industry with requirements for high quality power. The line will benefit all domestic and commercial customers in the region, through improved security and quality of supply," he added.

The ESB stated that the line was necessary in order to boost the high voltage backbone supplies into the Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim areas due to the substantial growth of electricity usage in the area and the risk of existing lines becoming overloaded. The semi-state company added that discussions between ESB and landowners in County Roscommon, either through the Irish Farmers Association or the landowners' legal advisors or with the individuals themselves were ongoing. "Constructive and friendly discussions are taking place and there is confidence that all issues can be resolved and that the line will be put in place in order to meet the needs of the area," the spokesperson added.

However, the 220/110 Kv power line remains a contentious issue for a number of local landowners and residents. The lobby group, Energy Matters AMP, representing concerned landowners and residents, opposed the development of the powerline for the last five years and looks set to continue its campaign. According to Energy Matters AMP, the 56 kilometre line will incorporate over 240 lattice steel tower pylons, many over 100 feet high passing through one of the country's most precious treasure troves of archaeological, landscape and cultural heritage. The group also maintained that the powerline would "sterilise" over 1,550 acres of land and cause extensive devaluation, estimated at over one billion euros.

In 2003, Energy Matters AMP submitted a petition outlining a number of environmental concerns in relation to the powerline to the European Parliament, which has since referred the matter to the European Commission. The group is awaiting a hearing date for the case.