It to build its extension. the light made

It was inthe 18th century that the path to the everyday use of electrical power began totake place.

In 1752, Benjamin Franklin did his famous experiment by tying a keyto the end of a kite during a thunderstorm. He received an electric shock fromthe sting the key was tied to as the key was hit by lightning. He was notseriously injured.

He proved that lightning was a form of electricity. In the following hundred years, manyinventors tried to find a way to use electrical power. In 1879, the Americaninventor Thomas Edison was finally able to produce a long-lasting electriclight bulb. By the endof the 1880s, small electrical stations based on Edison’s designs were in anumber of U. S. cities. But each station was able to power only a few cityblocks.

In Ireland, the first use of electricity was lighting. In 1877 arc lamps were used to lightup a construction site in Dublin. The Guinness Brewery used this electricity tobuild its extension. The light made it more convenient for the workers as theycould work after the sunset.

In 1925, ifIreland wants to progress industrially, it must recognise the need to use anddevelop its natural resources. Irish engineer by the name of Dr. Thomas A. McLaughlin, suggests building a dam on the river Shannon. He wants to build anelectric power station at Ardnacrusha in Co Clare to bring power to towns andcities all around Ireland. The Irish Government agree on the proposal of thepower station and work began on the site in September 1925. The ESBIn 1927 theElectricity Supply Board Act was passed to set up the ESB, the companyresponsible for controlling and developing Ireland’s

electricity network. Around this time there were more than 300 different suppliers.

These supplierswere concerned with generating and supplying electricity in different parts ofthe country. The transfer of responsibilities from these few hundred supplierstо the ESB required both engineering and administrative skills. The hugedevelopment of these skills meant a great deal to the ESB as that is why theybecame such a success.

It wasn’tuntil 1946 that the beginning of rural Electrification began to take place. This project involved the installation of electric infrastructure to powerIreland’s people. This would supply energy, light and heat to help improve thequality of life. These networks and the power supplied to everyone enabled thesocial, economic and industrial development in Ireland. It helped it grow froman underdeveloped region to one of the most developed countries in the world. The ESB Networks still continue to work hard on the Irish electricityinfrastructure to sustain a high standard. In the years1950 throughout until the late 1960s the ESB installed a great amount of itsgenerating capacity on just the use of turf. Turf was a valuable component forthe ESB as at one time it constituted one third of the ESB’s total capacity.

Peat development had a great impact on rural development during these years, especially in the midlands. By 1968Ireland’s population is growing dramatically but unfortunately there is notenough power to support this increase. The ESB had to recognise this and meetthe demand for power. The ESB wanted to be as kind to the Environment as muchas possible so they

designed and built a pumped storage hydroelectric stationin Turlough Hill in Co.

Wicklow. This proved to be a good and new civilengineering solution for Ireland at that time. The ESB International(ESBI) establishes in 1975. ESB International focuses on the delivery of largescale Electricity for international companies and its main company, ESB. Sincethe ESBI has been set up, they have done projects in more than 120 countries. Thehigh standards of their team help clients around the world to deliver highquality efficient energy systems which can help the economies and societieswhere they serve in. In the oil crisis in the early 1970s, it wokepeople up to realise that Ireland needs to reduce its dependence on oil as asource of electricity generation. In 1987 one of Ireland’s largest stations, Moneypoint, Co.

Clare, was commissioned to help reduce its dependency. This stationwould use coal as its primary fuel source to generate electricity. Due to amajor environmental upgrade being implemented in 2008, the plant was made sureto comply with the strictest environmental requirements for flue gasdesulphurisation