



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-016839-24
ABP-318944-24

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 26/06/2024.

The Board decided to refuse permission, generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations.

Reasons and Considerations

1. The Board is not satisfied on the basis of the information submitted in support of the application and the appeal that the proposed amendments to the development originally permitted for two turbines and associated development under Roscommon County Council planning Register Reference Number 11/126, involving a change in turbine model, would not result in an output exceeding the threshold for mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment within the scope of Class 3 (i) of Part 2 of the Fifth Schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, being an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farm) having a total output of greater than five megawatts. The Board is not therefore satisfied that the effects of the development on the environment can be properly assessed, particularly in the absence of a comprehensive response to the requirements of Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. The Board had regard to the applicant's assertion that mitigation measures would be employed so that the combined output of both turbines would be maintained below five megawatts and the documentation in respect of grid connection provided, however, given the capacity for the output of each of the proposed turbines ranging from 3.5 megawatts to 4.2 megawatts, the Board considered that such a limit would constitute an unsustainable use of resources

and would be contrary to the applicable provisions of the Roscommon County Development Plan that support the generation of electricity from renewable sources. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

2. The Board noted the limited bird survey work undertaken to inform the appropriate assessment screening, as submitted with the application and appeal. The Board also noted that the appropriate assessment screening undertaken did not encompass consideration of the grid connection associated with the proposal. The Board is therefore not satisfied on the basis of the information submitted with the application and appeal that the development as proposed, individually or in combination with other plans and projects would not be likely to have a significant effect on European sites and in such circumstances the Planning Authority is precluded from granting permission.

Note

The Board did not share the Inspectors view that the information submitted with the application and appeal demonstrated that significant effects would not arise in respect of the relevant European sites in light of their conservation objectives and in this regard shared the view of the Planning Authority that there was insufficient information available to make a determination in that regard.

Board Member


Una Crosse

Date: 26/06/2024