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**Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019**

**Planning Authority: Wexford County Council**

**Planning Register Reference Number: 20191353**

**APPEAL** by Highfield Solar Limited of Design Studio 7, Old Castle View, Kilgobbin Road, Dublin against the decision made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2019 by Wexford County Council to refuse permission.

**Proposed Development:** Permission to amend the lifetime of the approved development (planning register reference number: 20180837) which comprises consent for the development of a solar farm on a site of approximately 152.8 hectares consisting of the following: solar photovoltaic panels on ground mounted steel frames; IPP electrical control building and associated compound; Inverter/transformer stations: battery storage units and associated hard standing; storage containers for spare parts; underground power and communication cables and ducts; boundary security fencing; upgraded internal access tracks; new internal access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure; CCTV camera and all associated site services and works, subject to 15 conditions, at Raheenduff, Haresmead, Rosspile, Coolcliffe, Horetown North, situated near the village of Foulksmills, County Wexford. Permission is sought to amend the operational lifespan of the consented development from 25 years to 35 years.

## **Decision**

**REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.**

## **Matters Considered**

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

## **Reasons and Considerations**

Having regard to the provisions of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 – 2019, as extended, and to the planning history of the site and within County Wexford, it is considered that condition number 4 attached to the grant of permission under An Bord Pleanála appeal reference number ABP-302475-18 (planning register reference number: 20180837) should not be revised.

Having regard to the new technology, it is considered that the permitted operating life of 25 years, from the date of commissioning of the solar array, is both reasonable and necessary in order to enable the planning authority to consider the impact of the development over this period, having regard to the circumstances then prevailing, and in the interest of orderly development, and, is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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**John Connolly**  
**Member of An Bord Pleanála**  
**duly authorised to authenticate**  
**the seal of the Board.**

**Dated this            day of            2020.**