



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Westmeath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 21/666

APPEAL by North Westmeath Turbine Action Group CLG of Clonsura, Castletown Finea, Castlepollard, County Westmeath and by Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited care of Rowan Forensic and Environmental Engineering Consultants Limited of Unit 14 Scurlockstown Business Park, Trim, County Meath against the decision made on the 18th day of February, 2022 by Westmeath County Council to refuse permission to Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited.

Proposed Development: Construction of one 4.2 MW wind turbine with an overall tip height of up to 150 metres, construction of the wind turbine foundation, hardstanding and assembly area, provision of a site entrance and an access track within the site. Construction of an on-site 20 kV substation and underground electrical cable and all associated site development and ancillary works, all at Loughanstown, County Westmeath.

Decision

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

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to the location of the development, which is accessed via a local road of restricted width and alignment, the Board is not satisfied, based on the lack of information submitted with the application and the appeal in relation to excavations and associated traffic movements, that the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity by reason of traffic related noise and general disturbance and would not create serious traffic congestion along both the access road and at the junction of the R394 and L5753. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The Board is not satisfied, on the basis of the lack of information submitted with the application and the appeal, that the proposed development would not result in pollution of surface waters within the vicinity of the site. In the absence of information to the contrary, it is considered that the proposed development would pose an unacceptable risk of environmental pollution and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Dr. Maria FitzGerald

Maria FitzGerald

Member of An Bord Pleanála

**duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this *9th* day of *January* 2023.

