

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: ABP - 313583-22

Defer Re O/H



TO: SEO

Having considered the contents of the submission dated/ received 16/8/22
from

Prionsias Mac Fhlannchadha

I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000
be not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s): No new issues raised

E.O.: [Signature]

Date: 24/8/22

To EO: _____

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☐

Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply. ☐

S.E.O.: _____

Date: _____

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission

to: _____ Task No: _____

Allow 2/3/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File With _____

CORRESPONDENCE FORM

Appeal No: ABP -3B583-22.M s. McCormackPlease treat correspondence received on 16/8/22 as follows:

1. Update database with new agent for Applicant/Appellant _____

2. Acknowledge with BP 233. Keep copy of Board's Letter ☐

1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____

2. Keep Envelope: ☐3. Keep Copy of Board's letter ☐

Amendments/Comments

P. Mac Fhlannchadha response to S131

4. Attach to file

(a) R/S ☐(d) Screening ☐(b) GIS Processing ☐(e) Inspectorate ☐(c) Processing ☐RETURN TO EO ☒CoryEO: CoryDate: 17/8/22Plans Date Stamped ☐Date Stamped Filled in ☐AA: M. ZankerDate: 19-8-2022

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St,
Dublin D01 V902.

AN BORD PLEANALA	
LDG- _____	
ABP- _____	
16 AUG 2022	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: <u>12:45</u>	By: <u>Lavel</u>

6 Wilkins Court,
Limekiln Lane,
Dublin,
D12 AR00.
16th of August, 2022.

Ref; Planning Application – ABP-313583-22 (FW21A/0151)

Dear sir/madam,

I wish to lodge a number of observations on the additional information received on the 13th of June by the Bord in relation to the planning application as referenced above. With regard to a comment in the submission by Brock McClure to the Bord, I categorically object to this development and that **permission should be refused** on the following grounds:

1. Since Huntstown Power Company Limited ("the Applicant") issued their response, the sectoral emissions reductions as required by law under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was issued. Under this plan, electricity is required to "reduce its MtCO₂eq emissions by 75% to 3 MtCO₂eq by 2030." To note, **this proposed development on its own, would account for 10% of these emissions** (based of an emission profile of 387,900 tonnes of Co₂eq per year) off the current fuel mix or 3%, subject to Ireland achieving its ambitious goal of 70% of our electricity coming from renewables. Hardly imperceptible, as the planning consultants, Brock McClure, make flippant regard to in the source of energy for this development.

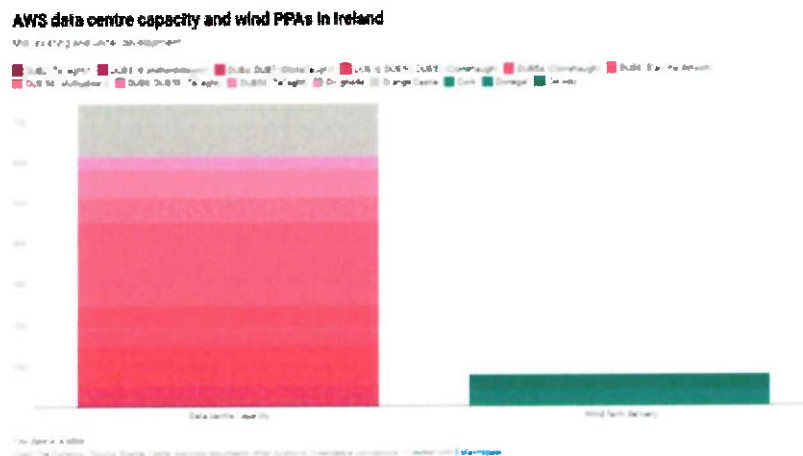
However, it is critical to note that the current energy/ electricity crisis where Eirgrid has had to issue several yellow warnings due to power constraints in the national grid has resulted in a scenario where "Emissions from the Energy Industries sector increased by 17.6 per cent in 2021, driven by a tripling of coal and oil use in electricity generation,"¹ (<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/ghg/latest-emissions-data/>) as our worst emitting power stations (Moneypoint etc.) have to remain online to meet this surge in demand, arguably driven by the addition of new data centres. The addition of this development to the national grid does not aid the removal of these stations from the system. This needs to be taken into consideration by the Bord in refusing permission for this development.

2. Since the Applicant issued their response, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has issued its "Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy" In this report, the Government states that "The capacity constraints experienced by our electricity system today, and the binding carbon budgets that require rapid decarbonisation of energy use across all sectors, necessarily mean that not all existing demand for data centre development can be accommodated." This needs to be taken into consideration by the Bord in refusing permission for this development.
3. Whilst the report is at pains to not reference the operator of the data centre, footnote 1of the additional information submitted clearly identifies it as Amazon. In a previously published article by the Currency, Greenpeace has issued a report that stated that "If Amazon were to operate its existing and planned Irish data centers at full capacity 24/7, it could consume as much electricity annually as 1.5 million Irish households."² There were 1.7 million households in the Republic of Ireland at the time of the 2016 census."

¹ Latest emission Data (updated July, 2022) – EPA (2022) - <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/ghg/latest-emissions-data/>

² Amazon Data Centres will need more Power than a million Irish Homes but from where – The Currency (December, 2020) <https://thecurrency.news/articles/31454/amazons-data-centres-will-need-more-power-than-a-million-irish-homes-but-where-from>

The attached graph, issued in the same article back in December 2020 shows how far Amazon has to go to reach its target of powering their data centres by renewable energy by 2025. As you can see, any claims and ambitions by Amazon must be considered unattainable at this juncture given the evidence to hand. These targets by Amazon are also not legally binding, in comparison to those under the sectoral emissions ceilings. This claim needs to be challenged by the Bord



4. Whilst there are claims that there are projects in the pipeline to offset this power consumption, there is no reference to any of the projects themselves or any planning references. This needs to be challenged by the Bord.
5. The applicant constantly mixes up renewable offsets with "net zero carbon." Whilst the applicant plans to offset the energy consumption of the proposed development it makes no reference how it intends to offset the carbon emitted by powering this development from the national grid powered by the national fuel mix at that time (c 387,900 tonnes of Co2eq per year that are directly attributable to this development). I would ask the Bord to consider how the company intends to offset its Co2 emissions and whether it is in the national interest given it accounts for 10% of or yearly emissions.
6. Any claim that *"without a commercial route to market...these new renewable developments"* will not be built appears to be disingenuous when read in conjunction with the projects under development by the Energia Group and the national targets when it comes to electricity generation from renewables by 2030 in line with sectoral emission targets.
7. No copy of a connection agreement between the applicant and Eirgrid has been furnished despite claims of the execution of same.
8. The applicant makes flippant claims as to the impact of the development on the EU Emission trading scheme. The development has not considered the impact of other data centres planned in Ireland and across the EU and how these will **"reduce"** GHG emissions. In taking into account the cumulative effects of the development the applicant has used an arbitrary 1km radius for this assessment. This is irrational and does not take into account other data centres planned and their cumulative impact on sectoral emissions, Co2 emissions, NoX emissions etc. This needs to be vehemently challenged by the Bord as part of its decision making process
9. The CRU have finally issued their long-awaited guidance under CRU/21/124, which will have an immediate effect upon issuance to the Directions to the SOs (System Operators includes Eirgrid ESB – issued 23/11/2021), regardless of when planning applications were lodged. I would assume this requires the Applicant to re-engage with the grid Operator in this regard and the applicant should be instructed to do same to seek clarification of their position in light of the new guidance.

10. It is disappointing to note that there is no intention by the applicant to supplement the significant energy demands of the data centre with alternative energy supply to include renewable energy sources, particularly given the scale of the buildings under consideration, contrary to Fingals Development Plan (2017-2023) Objective EN01, EN06, EN12 and EN13. Renewables will never provide the required energy to fully power a building of this scale but should make a contribution to the energy needs of this facility. There is a reference to providing "640 Sq M of solar" panels as per the Planning Application Report and 3 and that "50kwp of PV is proposed for each building" 4 in the Energy Statement prepared but not in other parts of the Planning Application Report (see page 4-5) nor is it referenced in the Proposal Description of the planning application. When looking at the CGI and models provided for as art of additional information there is plenty of roof space which has not been utilised for solar panels. There is also no intention by the applicant to provide for battery storage on site to take account of energy production at low peak times.
11. There is no provision for Green roofs and Green walls as per Fingal's Development Plan (2017-2023) Objective SW06 and Objective GI33 and the Landscape Plan for the site is somewhat deficient in terms of promoting and encouraging biodiversity despite what Henry J Lyons claim in their Architectural Design Statement where the proposed development would "enhance the exiting and ecological wildlife assets," and that somehow boundary fences will "provide an effective corridor for wildlife." I have heard some nonsense when it comes to architects reports but this is something else. The CGIs presented as part of further information show that this development will be a monolithic structure and a stain on the landscape without green walls. I believe that Fingal CoCo did not consider this objective when assessing this development.
12. The applicant should be conditioned for waste heat recovery to facilitate a District heating system for the development and the surrounding environs in the future as noted in Brock McClure Further Information Response Report. The below text is standard in other councils in Dublin

(a) Proposals for waste-heat recovery and ongoing delivery to a local heat-network shall be provided and implemented on site as relevant, in conjunction with the commencement and operation of the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of development, a timeframe for implementation of waste heat proposals shall be submitted for the written agreement of Fingal County Council, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

(b) Such proposals shall include all necessary infrastructure for waste heat recovery from the proposed development and delivery through a primary waste-heat water circuit to either, the boundaries of the site or to an Energy Centre (when constructed as part of local heat network distribution) for connection to heat network. Such proposals shall be submitted for the written agreement of Fingal County Council, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

(c) Where waste heat recovery and utilisation proposals have been explored and, subject to the written agreement of Fingal County Council, have been deemed to be technically or otherwise unfeasible, details of future proofing of the building fabric, heat recovery and conversion systems and safeguarding of pipework/infrastructures routes up to the site boundaries to facilitate future waste heat connection to a local district heating network, shall be submitted for the written agreement of Fingal County Council or as otherwise agreed in writing.

I thank the Bord and its inspectors for reviewing this information and I hope that the Bord will refuse permission to this development given the lack of available electricity in the country, the impact this development will have on our national climate/ GHG emission reduction goals and for the baseless claims made by the applicant during this process.

Kind regards,


Proinsias Mac Eibínnchadha

