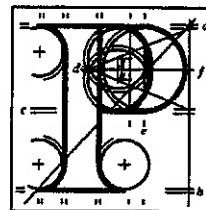


Our Case Number: ABP-314602-22



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Liek Versloot
Carrig
Ballingeary
Co. Cork

Date: 18th November 2022

Re: Wind farm development of 14 turbines with 110kV electrical substation and all related site works and ancillary development.

The townlands of Cahernacaha, Gortnabinna, Derryfineen, Gortyrhilly, Rath West, Derree, Fuhiry, Derreenaculling and other townlands, Co. Cork and Derryreag, Cummeenavrick, Glashacormick, Clydaghroe and Cummeennabuddoge, Co. Kerry.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Cork County Council and Kerry County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Tell
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Lálthreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
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(01) 858 8100
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www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Doina Chiforescu
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737133

PA04

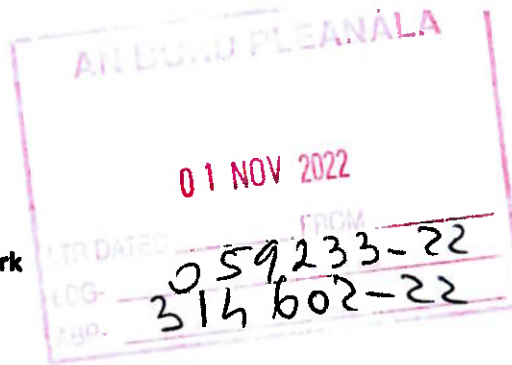
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P12DD89



Ballingeary 1-11-2022

to An Bord Pleanala,
64 Marlborough Street, Dublin

Windfarm

Planning ref.314602: The townlands of Cahernacaha, Gortnabinna, Derryfineen, Gortyrhilly, Rath West, Derree, Fuhiry, Derreenaculling and other townlands, Co. Cork and Derryreag, Cummeenavrck, Glashacormick, Clydaghrone and Cummeennabuddoge, Co. Kerry. Cork County Council

On the principles

As long as the government has not decided the policy on data centra , we won't know if our communities here are supposed to offer another quiet area to generate energy for fossil fuel replacement, or if our environment will be used to feed power into the more-more -and bigger greedy economic developments of data centers. If we need energy for a sustainable and fair economy we don't need this big windfarm, as we 'd better think about small scale community (co-) owned projects. If it is about data centers , we should, indeed ,prepare, says Coillte , for two more windfarms, already in the planning for the near future.

(Dr. Patrick Bresnihan, Maynooth: an average data center with a load of 60MW uses the same as a city the size of Kilkenny. And 50.000 l. water for cooling per day). (Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action, 28-9-2021, where Bresnihan pleads for a moratorium on data centers).

In spite of all greenwashing talk , projects in general were chosen for profits in the first place. Maybe Coillte and ESB serve , or say to serve, the common good in the first place. But SSE is a private company, not there for the commons in the first place. Airtricity for instance never offered to return the windfall profits of the last year to the country. Ireland was in the previous recession forced to sell Bord Gais to SSE. At the open info day , organised by the initiators of this project I found no answer about the equality of the three partners, and the influence of SSE.

Working with a powerful partner might easily be a giveaway of Irish influence, simply a further privatisation of a basic commodity, a 'thinning' of democracy , (and that in fact is impossible: a diluted democracy is no democracy).

[(Reuters) - British power firm SSE [SSE.L](https://www.sse.co.uk) has created a Swiss holding company for its electricity distribution and transmission businesses, it said on Monday, in a move seen as a safeguard against nationalisation plans should the Labour Party win next month's general election. 28-9-2019].

Who pays the piper.....

In-Between

A high NATO general on dutch tv just says that we should change into a war economy, and prepare for certain materials, for instance the heavy earth metals, no longer fully available for general use. And immediately after a german friend tells me that in Germany a windfarm will be taken down, because there is coal under it, and at the moment coal is more valuable than wind power. (it turns out to be a wind farm that is not competitive anymore. But still) So I don't know why I should keep writing, but shall continue ,as I suppose planners , developers, all and everyone share the same confusion. In stead of planning the future of 10 years ago, let's put energy, material, workforce etc. into solar for every roof, basic insulation. People now are buying stoves and generators, so let's try to change those things for more sustainable ways of energy producing appliances. And small scale local projects are less vulnerable in cyberwar anyhow.

Lay aside the big plans for a year, it's possible that we don't need them anymore.

On the project details

Apparently, since there are already many turbines in our area, we now, in the developers' opinion we now live in an environment with a 'notable utilitarian character due to the presence of the existing wind energy developments'. So much disturbed already that more , visual and hearable, unrest doesn't matter anymore. That is unfair. The 'receiving environment and community' (euphemism) had no choice,. The developments came uninvited, were forced upon us, and now we are kind of punished for having so many already.

----- Health, noise, setback distance:

There are quite a few houses within the 2 km's, but they have in their middle a very quiet area, and what happens there will affect them all. I have seen people near other windfarms 'mourning' the loss of their natural habitat. I suppose same will happen to several, many? ,people living around Gortyrahilly.

All of them will be confronted with noise, extra traffic, road blokkages etc. in the construction phase (for long days , and not even the Saturdays off).

And in the operational phase they will see, hear, and maybe feel if/ how the windfarm changed their life.

They will at least not be shadow-flickered if the no-shadow-flicker- promise of the government will be kept.

The 750 m setback is not enough.

It is belittling to say that complaints people have are imagined or suggestion.

For ever research report the applicants mention I can give documents for the opposite. Watch for instance 'Infrasound caused by industrial Wind Turbines', science program 'planet e' of second german tv station ZDF (is subtitled).

The reports taking the complaints seriously are often from doctors . They try to find what could be the cause of the complaints and symptoms their patientshave. And they themselves often are not heard either.

A group of g p's and consultants in Amsterdam , where windfarms around the city are in the planning, asked last year the RIVM for research into specific health risks of turbines with a height of more than 146 m, at set back distance of less than 2 km, and a sound load of over 42dB. No answer as yet.

Jan de Laat, PhD, physicist-audiologist ,Leiden University Medical centre, now recently retired, saw many people with complaints about windfarms. Most mentioned are sleep disturbances.. At 700-899 m 60% mention this as the most important. Disturbed sleep may later give tiredness, loss of concentration, and more. De Laat says the 10x tip height , as in Bayern since 2014 ,is not needed, since turbines have become more quiet in the meantime. He goes for 10x hub height and < 35 dB.

The Gortyrahilly project goes over these limits. Their estimate: quiet area (30dB) or less quiet: norm everywhere 43dB.

The literature study **Health Effects Related to Wind Turbine Sound: An Update**

Irene van Kamp^{1,*} and Frits van den Berg^{2 ,*}

shows that lots more study has to be done, because much is inconclusive.

But some conclusions are interesting enough to be taken seriously immediately:

'Many studies draw attention to the aspect of a fair planning process and local involvement and participation [60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73]. People are more willing to accept new turbines in their vicinity if they can participate in decision making, become co-owner of a wind park, and if the generated electricity is regionally consumed rather than exported. People newly exposed to WT sound are less willing to accept a wind farm than already exposed groups. Local circumstances should be adjusted for in a study on acceptance, and a complex set of individual and collective values should be considered, and the perspectives of scientists, policymakers and citizens should be integrated'

'Evaluation of the consequences for quality of life is strongly rated to the social acceptance of WT projects by local communities. Next to sound, economic as well as social and political aspects

determine acceptance and notions of fairness. The communication and relation between residents, local authorities and project developer is crucial. In the past 10 years, the relation between these different stakeholders seems to be increasingly polarized.'

So here is a lot to be wished for and a long way to go.

-----Property prices

A couple of years ago we tried the associated Irish auctioneers for their opinion/findings on property values near wind parks. They were reluctant to answer. I think we still only have foreign research.

The tendency is: in planning and construction stage prices may sharply go down. They tend to recover over time once the project is operational.

So a project under planning should come with a warning: if you wish to sell property do it immediately, because otherwise you may have to wait for 5-10 years before you get the 'before' price.

-----Visability

No escape, wherever you go you might have them in sight.

What a pleasure to see them in front of you from an often used room in your house.

And would o'Sullivan Bere have liked to cross a windpark?

The problem is that the standard is lowered every time a threshold is crossed.

The turbines will become higher, there will be more and more and they will come closer.

And we will have our stomachs digest our anger and frustration of not being listened to, and we will tell each other that protesting is useless, 'because they will do what they want'. And the anger and depression will become a stress syndrome, and democracy will change into.....

We will upset the whole environment to make it sustainable, and we'll change the climate to preventing it from change.

-----Ornithology

Introducing birds and consequently have their free flights limited by expanding wind farms: not a great idea. Eagles may fly far, and sooner or later one may end at the foot of a turbine.

Friends living at a couple of km's southwest of the planned windfarm for years already regularly see the eagles around, for instance sitting on a fencepost. Somebody else saw one flying following the road south of Gortyrhilla to a crossing road to Coolea. They also come to Loch Allua.

There are warning systems that stop a turbine when they notice a bird. Or send warning signals. So it's clear what has to be done.

-----and Bats

The common pipistrelle bat is attracted to where insects gather around turbines. That will mainly happen in slack winds, at low speed of the blades. Turbines have to be stopped when there is not much wind. They don't produce much electricity in those circumstances anyhow, so there will be no expensive losses.

Even if there are no bats around before the turbines arrive, this does not predict if they will be there later.

(Research led by prof. Fiona Matthews, Sussex University)

Migrating bats usually fly higher, and are attracted by the red lights. Don't know if there are migrating bats flying through this area. But is so it is another reason to do away with the red lights.

On Windfarms in general.

Although manufacturers of wind turbines try to make the blades totally from synthetic materials still a lot of balsa wood is used. This light wood from fast growing trees comes mainly from Ecuador. The expanding demand caused 'balsa fever'. From plantations first, and later from wild balsa along the Amazon. It started intruding into the rainforest. Balsa itself is not a rainforest tree, but the high demand causes the felling of rainforest trees to have them replaced by balsa. Upsetting indigenous communities living in that area. Also replacing the growing of bananas, maize and cassava, the normal food cultures.

Esp. China uses a lot of balsa, causing a lot of damage and very little profit for the communities, but even Vestas still uses it in some of their blades.

Do the developers know what will be in their blades, and if it is balsa, if it was grown and felled in a legal way?

Rare earth metals

Neodymium, praseodymium and dysprosium are needed for the strong magnets in turbines. Extracting these metals, separating them, asks a series of dirty chemical processes. Europe has given up on producing, since it is too dirty. China dominates the global market, the mining, extracting, incl. the end production of the magnets. The products will become scarcer in the coming years, and China will decide how big that market will be, and for which countries. Opening a mine in Europe, and do the chemical processes here would take more than 10 years. (Norway tries to set up one, but needs years before it is ready. The only manufacturer of the magnets in Europe seems to be in Germany).

Without the rare earth metals you can still make an electric car, or a smartphone, but they would have to be a lot bigger. I don't know if a turbine can do without.

A turbine needs about 200 kg for its magnets.

Do the developers have a guarantee that the turbines can be delivered when they are needed for this project?

And can you build a turbine without these metals?

I finish with a last remark:

The planning for this project bypasses the county, goes directly to ABP.

That means less democracy, and higher expenses for submissions.

AND THE RED LIGHTS HAVE TO GO !!

Ballingeary, 1-11-2022

_liek versloot