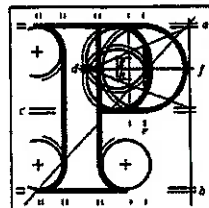


Our Case Number: ABP-314602-22



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

**Peadar O' Riada
An Draighean
Cuil Aodha
MagCromtha
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,

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
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost**

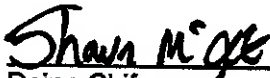
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**64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902**

**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

Tell
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AN BORI LEANÁLA

LDG- 158666-22
 ABP- 514602-22
 01 NOV 2022

Fee: € 50 Type: Ag
 Time: _____ By: Post

Ó RIADA



An Draghean, Cúl Aodha, MagCromtha Co Chorcaígne, Rep of Ireland.

Re: Feirm Gaoithe Gort Uí Rathaille

3ú Deire Fomhair 2022.

A chara

I praise the preparatory work done by the promoters of this project. I also appreciate their use of our native language. I have always been a fan of wind power since the 1960's. But lately the concept has grown a huge industry and it seems that building wind-farms is the priority - not generating power from wind. In generating electricity from wind, one chooses the best sites to do so - generating power from such sites is the priority. Building wind farms, on the other hand, is more akin to a task or project. Jumping through the hoops of regulation, red tape and passing over any local objections, to proposed construction, is the challenge and sets the priority. The actual generating of power is secondary. The fertiliser of propaganda, and lots of money, has resulted in a lush growth in the building of wind farms, at an awful cost to community, environment and culture. It has enriched the few.

There is yet another new wind farm proposed near me, The Gort Ui Rathaille Wind Farm. They seek to widen the road in front of my father's house - the house of Seán Ó Riada and before him, of Donal Ó Ceocháin - a leader in the revival of our culture in the early past century. Yes I have a personal interest in this. I don't want to see my bees once again being decimated by the diesel fumes of passing convoys carrying to the construction sites. I do not want to see the little bog by my house being ripped up, it was the last site of the curlew here and there are rare butterflies and newts, bats and owls in this patch which will be greatly endangered by this invasion. I do appreciate how lucky I am to live in this house and spot.

But my main objection is to the destruction of the water sources of the Rivers Lee and Sulán which supply water to all of the countryside and its towns from here to Cork City and environs, providing for all, including the great industrial complexes such as Little Island etc.

These mountain tops here are the junction between the McGillacudy Reeks and the Dererynasagart mountains. The warm GulfStream moisture laden air travels inland guided by the Reeks and crashes into the cold mountains here, where it then drops all it's water as rain. The Bogs soak up the rain and slowly release it during the year, in the form of streams and rills, filling our two great rivers.

But forestry and, now, windmill farms have drained the mountain tops. The bogs are drying out. Apart from being a major fire hazard, in these days of Global Warming, they no longer can hold onto the rain water and it flushes rapidly down in flooding torrents. Within a few weeks the streams become trickles and the rivers are slowly drying up earlier and earlier each year. We may marvel at the great Ganges, Indus, Mekong and Yangtze rivers and their peoples paddling in muddy puddles where great flows of water should be.

These mountain top bogs must be returned into the natural sponges they once were. The Bogs of Ireland are the number one mode of capturing and trapping carbon and of storing water. There is no body dedicated to the defence and maintenane of our bogs, our most valuable asset on the island.

Monocultural Forestry and Wind Farms deter human habitation in it's environs. This is County Cork's Gaeltacht. No people, no Gaeltacht. And that is a planning issue. That is the responsibility of our county planners and ultimately An Bórd Pleanála. There is no great evidence, to date, that they appreciate this fact.

There is some irony in the fact that we have to contribute to this industry via the Public Service Obligation Levy on every electricity bill we get.

Finally what exactly is the carbon cost of a windmill? It includes the manufacturing and transporting of cement, the degradation of the bog site and the release of all the carbon trapped there in. It includes the carbon not being trapped by the once functioning bog (far more efficient than the most efficient trees). It includes all the energy used in the planning and construction and maintenance of the actual farm itself. There is the carbon cost of fabricating each windmill and their laborious transport to the site and the environmental damage done to the routes they travel on. I gather a wind mill has a planned functioning life of 25-35 years. It surely must generate, for a large percentage of that life, to justify its environmental balance sheet. Of course it will make money. Money talks. He who pays the piper calls the tune. Working in the world of music is like working in the world of archeology or environment etc - commissions are rare and valuable and we tend to try to satisfy our paymaster, with the kind of music to their ears that will cause them to employ us again. I am not happy either that a proper archaeological survey has been undertaken. It is based on official recognised sites but as that list, in of itself, is very scant in this area, it does not include some very old unique and un-researched or recognised features. I mention the ancient road running right across the mountain top (not the old Gort Uí Rathaille Road) which was the funereal route coming from Bantry and finishing at St Gobnait's Shrine. It contains regularly placed slabs and positions for the resting of coffins, during such processions. There is a very old cobbled section of road also of which no official record exists. The over 200 year old ruined house of the famous poet Séamus Mor Ó Muimhneacháin is amongst other important cultural sites.

And that same money can divide our community. None of us wish to speak out loud, to deny our neighbour their good fortune of windmills providing them with some extra income. We value each other. But our silence does not mean we like or support the imposition of these mass plantations by those from outside our community. The environmental ruin of our beautiful God given countryside cuts a terrible cost on our heart and soul. It is a cost that shows just how much we value our neighbours and friends. We are unwilling to play the game of community discord so frequently practiced by the financial giants, who plough through our lands.

This Gaeltacht community here is already badly degraded by the plethora of current existing windfarms. The current proposal will greatly exacerbate the situation. Not many young gaeltacht people today would choose to stay, build a house and rear a family in such environs.

The disregard of the mountain tops and our most important resource of all - water - is insanity. One has to have water first before one can boil a kettle.

Mise le Meas



Peadar O Riada

An Murnach Beag.