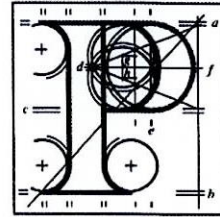


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Aengus O'Rourke
Barrybeg
Athlone
Co. Roscommon

Date: 13 April 2023

Re: Renewable energy development comprising 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
Umma More and adjacent townlands, County Westmeath.

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.

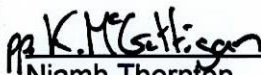
The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

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

Yours faithfully,



Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

PA04

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

To: The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St.,
Dublin 1.
D01 V902.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	062225-23
ABP-	316051-23
06 APR 2023	
Fee: €	50
Type:	CHA
Time:	
By:	Post

05th April, 2023.

Re: S.I.D Wind Farm Application, County Westmeath.

Applicants: Umma More Developments.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (S.I.D) status which is sought by Umma More Renewable Energy Developments, for the development of a wind farm in County Westmeath.

I would like for you to take the following points into consideration during your deliberations:

The applicants allege that this windfarm will contribute at least 50 MW of Energy to the National Grid and should be afforded strategic infrastructure development status in accordance with section 37 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

However, I wish to make the following observations, which I have placed in individual paragraphs for ease of reference:

Connection to the Grid:

The applicants admit in their summary that they may have difficulty obtaining connection to the National Grid at Mullingar. They indicate their intention to install over 30 km of cabling to connect their Windfarm to a Grid connection in Tullamore, Co. Offaly 'as their preferred option'. However the applicants fail to provide any evidence that they have secured a connection to the Grid at Tullamore.

The Irish Energy Regulator governs and regulates the grid connections. The applicants fail to provide any evidence that a Grid Connection has been obtained. If the Applicant is seriously contending that the energy to be generated from this wind farm is for the domestic grid, evidence of connection to the Grid should be supplied.

Furthermore, the applicants do not have planning permission for either the substantial cabling and sub-station which will be required to supply the energy to the alleged grid connection.

Westmeath County Development Plan:

The applicants confirm 'the importance of the current Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 (WCDP) which came into effect on the 3rd May 2021 is relevant' (Non -Technical Summary, MKO, p.5).

However, the applicants fail to address Policy Objective 10.146 in the Westmeath County Development Plan which requires the Council to:

"To strictly direct large-scale energy production projects, in the form of wind farms, onto cutover cutaway peatlands in the County, subject to environmental, landscape, habitats and wildlife protection requirements being addressed. In the context of this policy, industrial scale/large-scale energy production projects are defined as follows:

Projects that meet or exceed any of the following criteria:

- Height: over 100m to blade tip, or
- Scale: More than five turbines, or
- Output: Having a total output of greater than 5MW Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses.

Proposals for such development should demonstrate that the following has been considered:

- Peatland stability; and
- Carbon emissions balance

(Westmeath County Development Plan, 2021-2027, CPO 10.146).

On this basis the current S.I.D application which is situate on agricultural land which is within close proximity to residential homes, is in direct contravention of the Current Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

As a County Councillor that supported the above direction in the Westmeath County Development Plan, I would like to strongly object to this planning application.

Your faithfully,

Cllr Aengus O'Rourke,

Barrybeg,

Athlone