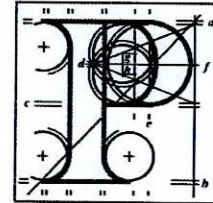


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23
Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Avril McLoughlin
Ballycloughduff
Moate
Co. Westmeath

Date: 09 May 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 observation or submission in relation to the case mentioned above and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

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 the Local Authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

For further information on this case please access our website at www.pleanala.ie and input the 6-digit case number into the search box. This number is shown on the top of this letter (for example: 303000).

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

BL50A

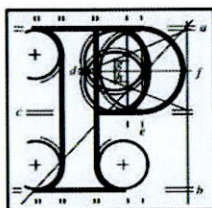
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An
Bord
Pleanála

Observation on a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Observer's details

1. Observer's details (person making the observation)

If you are making the observation, write your full name and address.

If you are an agent completing the observation for someone else, write the observer's details:

(a) Observer's
name

Avril McLoughlin

(b) Observer's
postal address

Ballycloughduff, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Agent's details

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If you are an agent and are acting for someone else **on this observation**, please **also** write your details below.

If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Click or tap here to enter text.

(b) Agent's postal
address

Click or tap here to enter text.

Postal address for letters

3. During the process to decide the application, we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this **current application**, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only)

You (the observer) at the postal address in Part 1

☒

The agent at the postal address in Part 2

☐

Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the **current application** you wish to make an observation.

- (a) **An Bord Pleanála case number for the current application (if available)**
(for example: 300000)

316051

- (b) **Name or description of proposed development**

Ummamore Renewable Energy Development proposed by Ummamore Ltd/MKO

- (c) **Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Abhaile)

Ummamore, Moyvoughley, Co. Westmeath

Observation details

5. Grounds

Please describe the grounds of your observation (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below. There is **no word limit** as the box expands to fit what you write.

You can also insert photographs or images in this box. (See part 6 – Supporting materials for more information).

We wish to object to the proposed windfarm on a number of grounds, including,

- The height of the proposed turbines. The proposed wind turbines are 185m tall and if erected will dominate the local landscape and skyline. The noise and light pollution emitted from this proposed development will have a detrimental impact on the now quiet community where street lights are limited to the local villages.
- The proximity of the turbines to family homes. The proposed wind turbines will be extremely close to private dwelling houses and will have a major negative impact on our day-to-day lives. For some residents, they will be completely surrounded by the proposed wind farm. Additionally, for a significant proportion of the community, their views to the Hill of Uisneach, a local heritage site, will be severely compromised. This proposed wind farm will have a detrimental impact on the amenity value of the area and to the value of local houses and properties.
- The impact this proposed wind farm will have on local wildlife such as birds and bats. The removal of forestry and hedgerows will have a negative impact on the local wildlife, farming community and environment.
- The lack of community engagement. The proposers of this potential wind farm have not involved the local community and this lack of

5. Grounds

inclusion and utter disregard for our community is totally unacceptable.

The proposed wind farm also ignores the County Development Plan.

- The potential for an extension of this proposed windfarm. Some landowners have already been approached about the possibility of extending this proposed wind farm to their lands. This means that what is proposed in this application may end up being a much larger industrial-sized development, and again a discussion in which the local community have not been included.
- The disruption caused by 31km grid connection cabling. This will negatively impact the local community, home owners along the route, wildlife and the environment. This disruption will not only cause mental and emotional stress to local residents but will also bring with it health risks.
- The volume of roadways, concrete and steel to be imported onto the sites of these proposed wind turbines. The local road network is not built to accommodate the large quantity of commercial vehicles that would be used in the development of this proposed wind farm. In addition to this, the volume of traffic would cause severe stress, risk and total disruption to the local community.
- The potential for solar energy. Solar energy is a viable alternative and has less of an environmental impact than what is being proposed in this potential wind farm. Additionally, solar energy has the potential to evenly distribute the burden of producing renewable electricity on the whole population of Ireland rather than on small, rural, local communities and villages.
- The impact this proposed wind farm will have on the development of future family homes. This proposed project will deter people who have been born and raised in the local area from building and settling in their

5. Grounds

community, discouraging them from living beside relatives and long-standing friends and as a result, driving them out of their local community. This proposed development will erode our local community.

- MKO's history in Meenbog, Co. Donegal and the ghost wind farm in Cleanrath, Co. Cork. The reputation of this company does not portray one which values local, rural communities, environment and wildlife. In 2021, the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland found that the developer of the proposed wind farm distributed an information leaflet locally which contained misleading and inaccurate information in relation to human health and house prices. This is unacceptable and further questions the reputation of the developer.
- The sale of windfarms to multinational companies. It is awful to think that we and our environment and wildlife will be impacted so greatly by the actions of those external to our community and who will not feel the negative effects caused by such a development.

Supporting materials

6. If you wish, you can include supporting materials with your observation.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

You can insert photographs and similar items in your observation details: grounds (part 5 of this form).

If your supporting materials are physical objects, you must send them together with your observation by post or deliver it in person to our office. You cannot use the online uploader facility.

Fee

7. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your observation.

Observers (except prescribed bodies)

- strategic infrastructure observation is €50.
- there is no fee for an oral hearing request

Oral hearing request

8. If you wish to [request the Board to hold an oral hearing](#), please tick the “Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

You can find information on how to make this request on [our website](#) or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing

☒

No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing

☐

Final steps before you send us your observations

9. If you are sending us your observation using **the online uploader facility**, remember to save this document as a Microsoft word or PDF and title it with:

- the case number and your name, or
- the name and location of the development and your name.

This also applies to prescribed bodies sending an observation by email.

If you are sending your observation to us by post or delivering in person, remember to print off all the pages of this document and send it to us.

For Office Use Only

FEM – Received		SIDS – Processed	
Initials		Initials	
Date		Date	

Notes