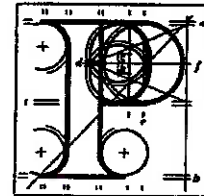


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Peter Carvill
52 Farney Park
Sandymount
Dublin 4
D04YH33

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

Tell
Glaos Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

The proposal to locate wind turbines to the south of the house is of concern to us particularly in relation to construction noise and the noise and flicker effects that would be caused by the turbines and the potential impact of those effects on our son and his family.

Our planning concern is that the EIA failed to address the impact of the proposed development on autistic people living at 1.28 km from the closest turbine. We had brought our concerns to the notice of the developers personally and in a letter.

The house, on the map circulated by the company, is numbered H082. The Eircode is N91 A434. The house is within 2km of four of the proposed turbine towers shown on the map. It is:

- 1.44 km from T06,
- 1.28 km from T07,
- 1.98 km from T08, and
- 1.98 km from T09

Our principal concerns [redacted] regarding the proposed development relates to the potential impact on their well-being and health of:

- Noise during the construction phase of the project
- Noise, including amplitude modulated noise and frequency range
- Cumulative noise impact of simultaneously operating turbines
- Light/shadow flicker
- Visual dominance

It is easy for the applicant to come up with a long list of citations to support the proposition that wind farms have no impact on human health. Yet the citations given clearly indicate that there can be significant effects, which are dismissed as being subjective, for individuals who are sensitive to stress and anxiety regarding their environment. These citations make it clear that, subjective though they may seem, there can be a real impact on people who may have a higher sensitivity to their environment and to environmental change or who are particularly vulnerable to stress and anxiety.

It is well established that [redacted] people are particularly sensitive in regard to these matters. Yet the applicants, with whom we raised these concerns in writing, do not address this potential impact simply because their cited studies regard it as being subjective. Subjective impacts such as stress or anxiety are real, being of a psychological or psychiatric nature and cannot therefore be summarily dismissed, particularly where people potentially impacted are [redacted] or are otherwise not neurotypical.

[redacted] grandson [redacted] is frequently distressed by sounds and puts his hands over his ears in reaction to sounds he dislikes. Such triggering sounds are not necessarily particularly loud or even noticeable to a neurotypical person. [redacted] very much

distressed by mechanical noises such as the sound of vacuum cleaners and power tools.

We are concerned that noise during construction and, during operation, noise and rapid subliminal variations in light intensity caused by the turbines could trigger [redacted] reaction [redacted] or cause [redacted] stress that would affect [redacted] wellbeing and behaviour. [redacted] has "fight or flight" behaviour, becoming aggressive or running away, for example running out onto the road, with no capacity to assess the dangers.

We are also aware from previous experience, where there was a large electric transformer close to a house that Aidan and Kerry were renting, that it was a constant cause of stress and anxiety for both of them. They had great anxiety over the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields generated by the transformer on themselves and on their family. We fear that the wind turbines will cause them similar stress and anxiety.

Water Quality

In addition, the house is supplied by a well that draws from groundwater, downhill from the proposed location of the wind turbines, and we are concerned about potential contamination of the groundwater and the opening of avenues for ongoing contamination including microbiome, toxic minerals, e.g. heavy metals and arsenic, and radon gas.

Conclusion

We selected this property for our son and his family because it is in a safe, rural environment with adequate garden space for the family to play, and because of its commutability from Dublin so that we can provide them with support as required and they can access services in Dublin with a day trip. We are concerned that the noise during the construction, and noise and light impacts during operation of this project, could render the house uninhabitable for our son's family, in particular as a consequence of the potential impact on our son's [redacted]. We would ask that these concerns be considered.