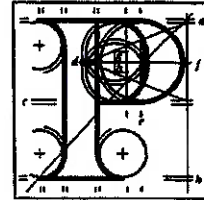


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Tom and Christine Moran
Baskin High
Drumraney
Athlone
Co. Westmeath
N37KD99

Date: 08 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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Baile Átha Cliath 1
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64 Marlborough Street
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We wish to make the following Observations to An Bord Pleanála.

Turbines 185m would dominate the local landscape and skyline. By any measure, they are simply too tall to be situated in Ballymore and Drumraney.

This is an inhabitant working agriculture landscape, consisting of flat farmland and low hills, with a substantial village settlement.

The visual impact would be severe not alone unacceptable.

Landowners elsewhere around Ballymore and Moyvoughley have also recently been canvassed by windfarm development companies.

The area could easily end up with industrial turbine located on all sides.

Some of the homes close to the wind farm would be effectively surrounded by these overbearing turbines.

The planning application submitted by Umma More Ltd does not acknowledged oppressive reality.

Existing low background noise level reflect the fact that this is a quiet rural area. Noise pollution emitted by industrial turbines would destroy this positive quality of the local environment.

Due to this new and unnatural noise, some local residents are likely to experience annoyance and/or sleep disturbances, if not worse, will likely affect mental health.

The potential health consequences of this situation are justified cause for concern.

The current Irish planning guidelines for wind farms rely on a UK noise assessment model that dates to 1996. This model is widely recognised as not fit for purpose in light of the vast increases in turbine size and power that have occurred in recent decades.

Many local homes would be exposed to "shadow flicker" caused by spinning turbine blades blocking the sunlight.

The SEAI Wind Atlas reports low average windspeeds for the proposed site. The locality was also the designed as a 'low wind' area in the Westmeath County Development Plan. The planning application refers to the 'low capacity' of the site. Why build turbines where there is little so little wind?

The proposed grid connection is via Rosemount and Kilbeggan to Thornbury 110kV substation in Tullamore, rather than to the closer substation in Athlone or Mullingar This cable route would likely pave the way for a spate of wind farm applications across South Westmeath and North Offaly.

The EIAR lists a broad range of local wildlife (birds, bats, badgers and more) that will be impacted by the development. I wish to include long eared owls and keystone species such as frogs.

As elders (early 70's and late 60's) living in the area for 22 years we now find that our home is the closest residence to the turbines, and we are very concerned about the effects of noise and flicker. We will be at a loss of our nearby Bunny Lane, as our grandkids call it should this application be successful.

We are concerned that the row of tall trees on our road will also be lost due to the project.

We wonder at a time of preservation and biodiversity how any State body could consider allowing a development of such magnitude. Allowing tons of concrete and steel, filling for roadways, cabling, Turbines and 110kV substation will destroy this area - for a 30-year lifespan?

The Hill of Uisneach (one of the 'Royal Sites of Ancient Ireland') and a protected National Monument will never be the same as views will be destroyed by unsightly turbines so close.

We are particularly fond of the long-eared owls and would hate to see them endangered.

We are also amazed at how little human contact we have had from the hoards of people planning this project over the years – not good enough and indicates how some humans have been treated.

We also wonder if the electricity will be sold to the UK or is it to power more Data Centres and Cloud Campuses.

About 12 years ago an American Energy Healer we know visited Uisneach Hill and surrounding areas. He was amazed at the level of healing energy at the Hill. He later called to our home and did energy readings and said that the energy in our area is a little less intense as Uisneach but strong in healing energy. He was very strong in his views that steel will dissipate the energy and should not be used anywhere near the Hill of Uisneach.

We implore the guardians of our countryside – An Bord Pleanála - to make their decision from a Head, Heart and Gut place.

Kind regards.

Tom and Christine Moran.

Baskin High, Drumraney, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37 KD99.

House No 16 in Shadow Flicker map

Number 36 on planning drawing.