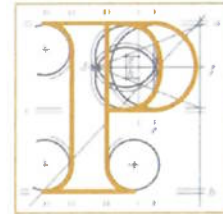


Our Case Number: ABP-316212-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Mark McKeown Services
Robinstown
Ballivor
Co. Meath
C15TX90

Date: 15 February 2024

Re: Proposed development of 26 no. wind turbines and associated works.
at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent letter in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your letter have been noted.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

PP HCM

Ashling Doherty
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737160

PA36

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Ashling Doherty

From: mark mckeown <markheatherview@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: Monday 12 February 2024 16:58
To: SIDS
Subject: Ref : ABP-316212-23 FAO Executive Officer Ashling Doherty
Attachments: Submission 12Feb2024.docx

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

FAO Executive Officer Ashling Doherty

Please find enclosed for Ref : ABP-316212-23
No Fee enclosed as previously submitted,

Thank you in advance.

Mark McKeown

Mark McKeown,

Robinstown,

Ballivor.

Co Meath.

C15 TX90

An Bord Pleanála Case Reference: PA25M.316212

I Mark McKeown of Mark McKeown Services, who both resides and operates a business in Robinstown, Ballivor, Co Meath wish to add this submission which makes objective observations on the response of the applicant Bord na Mona Powergen LTD

After review, I still have serious concerns about the impacts of this wind farm on the local area, my business, my home and my family.

My bases for this are as follows;

1. Visual

At 200 meters, these turbines will totally dominate and overshadow the local and greater landscape. We as a nation have to strongly consider the vast number of colossal turbines, their pylon lines, grid connections and substations as they will totally dominate our skies & litter our beautiful landscape, particularly in our area with significant cultural & historical significance.

2. Biodiversity:

Can I recapitulate; the site sees many migratory species as well as provides breeding grounds for many protected species. Whilst there are many Desk & Field studies it must be noted that not all areas have been reviewed as there are seasonal exclusions of certain species which may lower the richness of a site at any given time, but different species will occupy that same site in different seasons

MKO on their "Response to Observations Received" suggest the following RED listed birds Woodcock/Snipe/Lapwing/Kestrel have breeding territories amongst the turbines and their immediate grounds (*Appendix 1-2, Figure 5*)

Fig 1.9.1 – Kestrel / Fig 2.6.1 – Lapwing / Fig 1.11.1 – Snipe / Fig 1.12.1 – Woodcock

Relocating birds can have unintended consequences on both the birds being relocated and the ecosystems they inhabit. Birds are often adapted to specific habitats and environmental conditions, and moving them to a new location can disrupt their natural behaviours, migration patterns, and interactions with other species. It can also impact the ecological balance of the area they are moved to. They may struggle to adapt to their new surroundings, which can affect their health and survival. Additionally, moving birds away from their breeding territories can disrupt their breeding activities and reproductive success. How will these matters be dealt with?

I have noted some discrepancies in the “Response to Observations Received” one of many for example is 2.1.5 which gives a full page to the

2.1.5 *Golden Plover Survey* (Annex I) with minimal documentation and states

“Golden plover surveys were carried out during the 2022-23 winter season: October to March. There were no golden plover observed during these surveys (Appendix 1-2, Figure 5)

“; this said appendix seems to verify this assessment, but on review Appendix 1 Table 2 Vantage Point Surveys Observations show the Golden Plover has been spotted multiple times on multiple dates over the said 2022-23 winter season. Can you please clarify the reasoning for these errors

3. Traffic & Safety Concerns

I am not happy with a suggestion of minimal impact on traffic & road safety - It has now being reported that there has been an error in the initial amount of trucks than was originally suggested – of course this happened to be in favour of the developer – The developer suggests that they will picture the road prior to use and return them in the same state, It hasn't considered the factors that may roads to include the road R156 where I am located has no foundations and currently is in a rather neglected state - I hope the board takes all these HGV trucks into consideration and the impact it will have on all road users for 2 years ;

Section 2.1.17 suggests just one school in the area but there are many schools in our immediate area – Boardmill is possibly the furthest at approx 10km distance

4. Living conditions nearby, including Turbine Noise, shadow flicker and other possible pollutions

As previously mentioned I both live and work within 900 meters from the nearest 2 turbines with the remaining 24 overshadowing in the background – That is me, my business and my home in full view of these 24 hours a day; Bord Na Mona have suggested in there planning that they will fit blinds in our homes to curtail this, which is totally unacceptable as everyone of us is entitled to the comforts and privacy of our homes.

Section 2.1.6 - How can MKO imply as a sample “ *that there is significant mature treeline vegetation between the property in question* “ and therefore we are expect to accept the COMPUTER SAYS there should be “no effects” on the property; bearing in mind that the average large tree grows to approx 20/25 meters and this colossal wind turbine standing at 200 meters isn't going to overpower and maintain the presence of shadow flicker

5. Reduce -house-prices / Compensation

I don't believe this has been taken into proper account, just because there are no previous findings – property that is affected by shadow flicker, increased noise and visually in the forefront of a commercial wind farm, will find itself severely reduced in value even to the extent of becoming unsaleable. This wind farm could seriously devalue this area and as such, substantial compensation would be payable. Could we please have assurance from Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd that any reduction in the value of any property within 5km of the nearest turbine will be fully compensated financially by Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd to the owner of such a property, as any reduction in the value of a home would be purely because of the development of wind farms.

6. Hydrology;

We have concerns over the effects that excavations of this scale to include borrow pits will have on our local streams , drains and our private wells, MKO report suggests ‘’ minimal ‘’ impact but we believe the local groundwater level will be adversely affected, Our well has been operational for 20 plus years providing pure clean unfiltered drinking water, coming from a shallow well approx 3.5 meters deep.

And the applicant has broached this subject again, confirm there will be localised issues and suggest once again negative impact and this again strengthens our objection as to this site being highly unsuitable as we are within 900 meters and therefore our well is localised

7. Other Negative effects

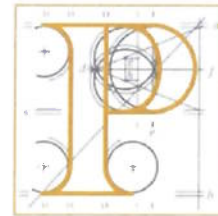
The negative health effects of wind turbines on local residents have been well documented all around the country.

For these reasons set out above, I strongly object to the proposed construction of this massive wind farm. I am passionate about the environment and believe we need to explore other options for green energy such as solar panels on homes that have no impact on the local environment. I ask the Board to take into consideration some of the facts that highlight this development, being in the wrong scale on the wrong site and to try and protect both the local environment and the people who live in it.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McKeown Services

Our Case Number: ABP-316212-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Vincent & Linda Cunningham
Clondalee Mor
Hill of Down
Enfield
Co. Meath
A83 PA99

Date: 15 February 2024


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at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath.

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Ashling Doherty
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737160

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