

An
Bord
Pleanála

Memorandum ABP-317560-23


To: Paul Caprani, ADP
From: Mary Mac Mahon, SPI
Re: Oral Hearing Direction for ABP317560-23
Date: 14th February, 2024

1. This is an application for permission for a wind farm development and hydrogen plant. The wind farm, which consists of 13 turbines, up to 185 metres to tip height and can generate 65-78 MW of power and is located in Mayo. The hydrogen plant can generate up to 80MW from the electricity generated by the wind farm, and is located in Sligo.
2. The application is accompanied by an EIAR and NIS. The hydrogen plant, if permitted, would be subject to an IED Licence from the EPA and would be subject to regulation as a Lower Tier COMAH establishment by the HSA. The HSA requested a revised Quantitative Risk Assessment of the Technical Land Use Plan. This was submitted by the applicant. The HSA did not recommend against granting planning permission, but considered that in a worst case scenario, the contour lines would extend to 340 metres - some 51 metres beyond that indicated the applicant and would include houses within this contour.
3. To date, no Chief Executive Report has been submitted by Mayo County Council, although one has been received from Sligo County Council.

4. There are 39 observers to the application. The majority of these has requested an oral hearing. The hydrogen plant, its safety and the safety of the N59 have been the focus of many of the observations. The EIAR prepared provides a very limited Emergency Response Plan for the hydrogen plant. While discussions have been had with local fire services, the outcome of these consultations is not known. A design report on the upgraded access to the N59 has not been provided, which has been requested by TII.
5. There is a number of technical issues with the application that could be resolved via the submission of additional information.
6. Having regard to the absence of a response from Mayo County Council, concerns of observers in relation to the hydrogen plant, the opportunity for the missing information to be provided and the request from numerous parties for an Oral Hearing, I recommend that an oral hearing is held.



Mary Mac Mahon, SPI



Paul Caprani, ADP