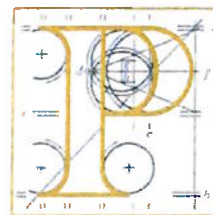


Our Case Number: ABP-317560-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Jennifer Harrison
Newtown
Castleconnor
Co. Sligo

Date: 30 May 2024

Re: Proposed windfarm development including 13 no. wind turbines in Bunnyconnellan, Co. Mayo and hydrogen plant in Castleconnor, Co. Sligo.
Carrowleagh, Bunnyconnellan, Co. Mayo and Curraun, Castleconnor, Co. Sligo.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

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.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Murphy
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737275

PA09

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Lauren Murphy

From: tom tuffy <tomtuffy@yahoo.ie>
Sent: Thursday 23 May 2024 21:54
To: SIDS
Subject: case number 317560 Firlough Windfarm and Hydrogen Plant
Categories: Lauren

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.

Hello,
I am sending in this observation on SID 317560-23 the Firlough Windfarm and Hydrogen Plant by Mercury Renewables at Carrowleagh in Mayo and Carraun in Sligo.
As I have already submitted my initial observations I understand that there is no fee for this observation on the request by An Bord Pleanála to Mercury Renewables for further information on their application for planning for the above mentioned SID case.
I have attached the following observations for your consideration.

Re Proposed Windfarm Development including 13 no wind turbines in Bunnyconnellan, Co. Mayo and Hydrogen plant in Carraun, Castleconnor, Co. Sligo.

Case Number 317560-23.

Submission by Jennifer Harrison, Newtown, Castleconnor.

I would like to submit the following, in relation to case number 317560-23.

Regarding the Wind Turbine site in Kilbride bog or Carrowleagh as the application states , the addition of further information from the applicant still does not contain any information referencing the consents for the proposal to commence.

There is no consent from our family regarding access to or on our plots of turbary from where we get our turf annually.

There is no further information regarding underground cables, be they communication or electrical between the turbines and windfarm substation. There exist no drawings in the planning application regarding these underground cabling systems. There also is a requirement for consent, which is noticeable in its absence from turbary owners in the bog. I would have figured that these would have been submitted in the initial planning application but then again there is a lot missing from that.

There is no further information on the hardstands that cross the bog road, they are incorrectly drawn on the planning drawings and have not been amended.

There is no further information of consent from singular turbary bog cutters whose plots of bog will be affected by either the creation of turbine sites or the dumping of material required for excavation purposes, again consent to facilitate such actions does not exist.

There is no further information in relation to the widening or reinforcement of the bog roads and whose property will be affected by this action to facilitate the movement of extra large vehicles on what is essentially a cart road.

There is no further information on the passing bays and their locations despite being queried on this previously.

There is no further evidence relating to access being hindered throughout the construction phase and what access will be allowed.

There seems to be a thought process that commonage rights allow the applicant to run riot through the area, however it must be noted that commonage rights do not supercede Turbary rights.

There is no further information on the effects that the turbines will have on the historical and heritage sites, some that may still be underground.

For the lack of information on the Windfarm site one would think that this would be an anomaly in an application, however that is not the case.

Moving on to the road network dealing with the windfarm to Hydrogen site there is still a lack of information regarding the installation of passing bays on local secondary roads as well as tertiary roads which formulate the access to both sites. This, combined with the lack of further information regarding consent for these installations have rendered this request for clarification and request of further information from the applicant as redundant as the initial planning application.

There is no further information in relation to the bird and bat investigations as they were clearly carried out in the off season at the Windfarm site due to lack of information relating to the proposed hydrogen facility. Despite this I again highlight the absence of seasonal information relating to the fauna in the areas affected due to one investigation. There is no mention of the many summer birds that are a familiar site on the bogs at the windfarm site nor the bats that are regular seen around the site of the proposed roundabout at the hydrogen site. This needs to be taken more seriously and a proper investigation throughout the year should be undertaken before this application goes any further in the planning process.

With reference to the appendix 9.8, ground water assessment , it is stated that "A constant rate discharge pumping test commenced on the 11th of July 2022 and pumping continued until the 3rd of August 2022 (approx 546 hours of pumping in 24 days) reductions in flow at local springs were noted"

This is a major concern and one that I raised previously, if the effects can be noticed during 24 days what could we expect from a hydrogen plant operating at full flow throughout the year? This will have a serious effect on the groundwater and aquifer and could result in local wetlands drying out and becoming a future fire hazard. With the constant talk about rewetting of lands from agriculture back to original state it is beyond comprehension how this proposed plant could be allowed planning permission considering the long term effects of draining the land from water sources necessary to keep the habitat, the vegetation and their environmental impact to continue to benefit nature.

Another point I raised in my initial submission related to the access to roads by my own as well as other local young people. The N59 is a busy road and the inclusion of industrial traffic on a daily basis will render that road and the roads included on the application most dangerous for cycling, walking or even driving.

With trucks accessing and exiting the industrial site during construction and everyday operations it will put even more stress on a road network that, despite the applicant's road surveys, simply cannot handle it.

I would therefore request that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission for this application on the grounds that while it is a very word heavy application, it is redundant in information and despite constant reminders about how strong the

applicants communication skills are, they simply don't exist, much like vast tracts of useful information that should be in the application.

This all culminates in the statement by the applicant that they have been responsibly developing renewable energy projects in the West of Ireland since 2009, again a little research provides no information relating to any projects that Mercury has developed, completed, or operates in the intervening 15 years.

I would request that An Bord Pleanála email me back with confirmation of this submission at your earliest convenience.

I have again requested that Tom Tuffy act as agent on my behalf and can be reached at his email address from which this email has been issued.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Harrison.