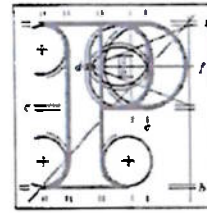


Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Maria C Fleming  
The Swan House  
The Swan  
Via Athy  
Co. Laois  
R14A892 (Slatt)

Date: 04 October 2023

Re: Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works  
In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill,  
Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development 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.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the 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](http://www.pleanala.ie).

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

Yours faithfully,

*PP EGM*

Evan McGuigan  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: (01) 858 7200

PA04

Tell	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Malborough Street  
Dublin 1

Case Reference: PA11.317809

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG-	<b>066900-23</b>
ABP-	
<b>03 OCT 2023</b>	
Fee: € <b>50</b>	Type: <b>CHA</b>
Time:	By: <b>Paul</b>

1 st October 2023

Development address; I the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

**Proposed Coolglass Windfarm and related works**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, **MARIA C FLEMING**, write in connection with the above listed planning application. As a local resident with knowledge of the location, I wish to object to the proposed development by Statkraft.

Listed below are some of my summarised observations and concerns, which resonates with those of other local residents.

The location of these two clusters of turbines are on two different sites one on Fossy Mountain and the other on the townlands of Wolfhill presented by the developer as one site is disingenuous and misleading.

The Bord needs to regard the cumulative effects of both sites of this proposed windfarm on Fossy Mountain and Wolfhill named by the developer as 'Coolglass Windfarm', combined with the following projects, which have already secured planning permission.

- a. EirGrid's Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project (Coolnabacky 400kv Substation).
- b. 18 No. wind turbines in the nearby townlands of Ballinclogh Upper, Garryglass, Clarabarracum, Clontycoe, Dooary, Cloncullane, Crubeen, Cullenagh, Rahanavagh and Raheenduff. Ref.11.242626 (Laois County Council).
- c. 11. No. wind turbines Pinewoods Wind Farm Ref. PL11.248518 (An Bord Pleanala).
- d. 300 Acre Solar Farm at Bigbog, Coolnabacky, Esker, Money Lower and Loughteeog, Stradbally. Ref.17/532 (Laois County Council).

The Bord must consider the cumulative effects of this proposed development along with the other granted developments mentioned above, all of which are within a 10km radius of the subject development. The Bord must consider the visual impact on the rural scenic landscape close to the Heritage village of Timahoe and the rural scenic uplands of the Coolglass, Aughadrine, Moyad, Scotland, Wolfhill, and Slatt areas. The proposed development alone would form a visually obtrusive feature in the landscape and negatively impact the nationally significant archaeological, heritage sites and sacred spaces. (2003 Unesco Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage).

The location for the proposed development is in an area not open for consideration by the Laois County Development Plan and deemed unsuitable for wind development due to the sensitive environment. The proposed development sits in a Water Source Protection Zone (see CDP map 10.4). The Swan public water scheme identified by the EPA as being 'vulnerable and without an alternative source' is fed by the entire area of the proposed Wolfhill cluster. Water courses and streams which originate throughout the catchment of the proposed windfarm development, ultimately feed the River Nore and River Barrow, which are both noted for its sensitive stocks of fresh water pearl mussels and crayfish. The Bord needs to have regard in particular to the cumulative effect with regard to Margaritifera, dwrovcmsis, which requires protection under Directive 92/43/EEC, on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna.



Laois is well known for its peregrine falcons. The bord must consider the locally known established nesting sites of the identified and documented pairs of ringed peregrine falcons, and their yearly chicks located between Slatt, Spink and Dunamaise. The nesting site in Slatt is only meters from the proposed turbines on the Wolfhill site. The hunting ground of the peregrine falcons nesting at Slatt is directly over the proposed turbine area on Wolfhill and the surrounding area (Birdwatch Ireland/NPWS). The bord must consider the cumulative effects of the Coolglass windfarm project in conjunction with the above mentioned projects already granted permission. I urge in the strongest possible way not to hinder the feeding ground of these protected birds. In accordance with the EU Habitats Directive, these birds must be protected.

According to the guidelines issued by The Bat Conservation Council of Ireland (2012), Wind Turbine/Wind Farm Development a preliminary desktop study should include all details of known bat roosts, bat activity and other records of these animals from within a 10km radius of the proposed wind turbine development. The bord needs to consider the cumulative effects of Coolglass windfarm development in conjunction with the above mentioned projects on the locally known bat populations and all wildlife in accordance with EU Habitats Directive.

The developer cannot mitigate against the noise of a 180mtr turbine with a setback distance of approximately 700mtrs to the nearest homes. The developer cannot realistically mitigate how the uphill/downhill gradient will treat the noise from turbines of this measure and what effect it will have on the nearest homes. This development is too close to the homes of local people for turbines of this scale, notwithstanding, to the two primary schools in the area, Wolfhill N.S. and The Swan N.S.

The bord must consider the cumulative effects of the Coolglass windfarm development in conjunction with the above mentioned projects already granted permission, on the local community and its people. The community has had no meaningful engagement with the developer Statkraft. Glossy brochures delivered through letter boxes does not constitute public participation. No public meetings were held with the community. Therefore, we were obliged to have our own public meetings in the local halls of The Swan and Timahoe to discuss our concerns regarding the environment and protection of our homes. (Article 7 Aarhus Convention) We are a civilised community of people, all with our concerns of climate change and willing to play our part.

I have experienced accommodations nearby turbines of about 100 meters before, but I could not envisage to live in such environment for long. If this project goes ahead, it means that most of the turbines will be in direct view from the kitchen window of our home, The Swan House, The Swan (less than a 1km), a place where our family have resided and farmed during all our lives together, and my husband's family before us. The next generation is already giving continuity to that family farm tradition, and with the help of God, they will succeed. We fear this project will be a hindrance to their future livelihood.

It is my firm belief that the above mentioned project would be a threat to our peace and health, and to the detriment of all those living in that area, and therefore I respectfully urge that planning permission for this development DO NOT BE GRANTED.

I enclose 50 Euro in respect of this objection. All correspondence in this matter can be sent to me at:

Yours very sincerely

*Maria C. Fleming*  
Mariá C. Fleming

Address: The Swan House, The Swan, Via Athy, Co. Laois, R14 A892 (Slatt)