

Our Case Number: ABP-317810-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Niamh and Stephen Loughrey
Derryfrench
Tynagh
Loughrea
Co. Galway

Date: 04 July 2024

Re: Open Cycle Gas turbine power plant (350MW) and associated infrastructure
Located on land to the north of Tynagh Power Station, Derryfrench, Tynagh, Loughrea, Co.
Galway.

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.

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.

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,

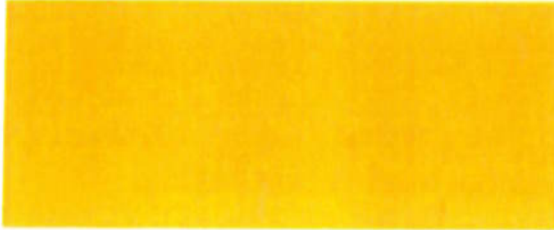
Raymond Muwaniri
Executive Officer
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PA04

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From: Niamh Briscoe <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:51 PM
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ABP - 317810 - 23



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To whom it may concern,

We have recently sent a submission in relation to the proposed development of another Power Station at the Old Tynagh Mine Site in Derryfrench Tynagh Loughrea Co. Galway and would like to add to this submission.

The waterways surrounding the site that are connected to the north Galway vault, which lies adjacent to the proposed development, will be extremely affected by development at the site. As the EPA EIA report in 2003 states:

"the Tynagh mines site is heavily contaminated with heavy metals and in particular lead and zinc, the most heavily contaminated mine waste is located in the west tailings pond, the mine waste deposit west of the Sperrin site and from the waste sludge which was allegedly deposited on the mine site during construction activities at the Sperrin site". The proposed development is ridiculously close to the location mentioned here. It cannot be safe to develop a power station at this site.

"There are large areas of the western tailings bare of vegetation, which increases the risk of dust blow from the site onto adjoining property. The lead concentration in these wastes ranged from 19080 mg/kgDW to greater than 32000 mg/kgDW. The low-grade lead deposit located adjacent to the open-cast pit had a relatively high concentration of lead. The surface water discharging from this waste dump also had elevated concentrations of lead and zinc". Where will the runoff and rainwater from the proposed power station go? If it mixes with the ground water and deposit from the soil mentioned it will enter the local waterways through the Barniculia stream and cause serious concerns for locals, farms and businesses in the area and especially the water supply in south east Galway and continuing to Lough Derg. What actions will be in place to deal with high volumes of water

from such runoff? Dr Graham Bird speaks about the environmental issues relating to climate change and mining and metal pollution. Our climate is getting progressively wetter and as a result this will effect the tailings ponds at the Tynagh mine. In particular if stormy events occur, the excess rainfall will evolve the acid mine drainage issue rapidly at this site.

The report also states "The results from the leaching tests carried out on the mine wastes indicate that zinc, cadmium and to a lesser extent lead can potentially leach from some of these wastes. This has implications in relation to future disturbance and movement of wastes around the site or for the potential movement of mine wastes off site."

"Wastes arising from mining activities are heterogeneous in nature, which makes an assessment of their properties and a classification of waste types extremely difficult. The type of wastes and their properties (e.g. mineralogical or leachability) within any specific waste deposit vary both vertically and horizontally within a very small volume of material making it very difficult to predict what reactions will occur where this waste is disturbed." If it is unknown the extent of how dangerous the soil disturbance can have then how can the development be given the go ahead? This site is simply too dangerous to disturbed. This is not a green field site and is regarded the "most toxic mine site in Europe". The developers have stated that soil sampling has taken place. We ask for independent soil sampling take place to get a second opinion on the levels of toxicity in the soil at the proposed site before any development is considered. To test zinc levels in the water, a sample must be sent to England as there are no facilities on the island of Ireland.

"Proposals for future development of the site should take account of the history of mining activity on the site, the presence of mine wastes and dangerous substances and the potential negative impacts that disturbance to these wastes could have on human and animal health and the environment". The EPAs report clearly states how any disturbance can lead to a negative impact on the environment and health and safety.

Not to mention how wildlife will be impacted, fisheries in the area, additional pollution including noise, air, dust, light and traffic pollution. The county council planner at a local meeting mentioned importing 300mm of top soil to the site to deal with dust pollution. Driving on this said soil will only disturb the soil more as mentioned above, as well as the addition of 2000 lorries entering the site on a weekly basis to deliver such soil. That means 4000 lorries will be passing by our home each week. This is ridiculous and a serious road safety issue in the small townland of Derryfrench. When the mine was operational the lorries exiting had to be washed down to reduce the dust pollution leaving the mine.

Noise can change direction when further development is added to an area. In the application we do not see any mention of noise control or any noise suppressant strategies if the development is to go ahead. Can you advise us on this issue?

The old mine was suddenly closed in 1982 and left untouched. It was supposed to be rehabilitated but we are still waiting. There are numerous cyanide barrels dumped both, in the hill (formed by mine waste) and underground in the tunnels that were used to mine many years ago. These tunnels have since flooded and the cyanide is leaking from these barrels. The disturbance of these tunnels and shafts underground will have detrimental effects to the health of everyone and everything in the locality. The additional weight of a turbine, power station and machinery on top of these tunnels can cause these tunnels to collapse. These tunnels run in all directions under the ground for miles around the area.

The current power station is not working to its capability. It is old and outdated. It is noisy and emits way too much yellow discharge and steam for it to be within tolerance levels. Two years ago the current power station let off a serious and ongoing loud noise in the middle of the night. We later found out that a pipe blew due to too much pressure and was deemed a catastrophic failure. The pressure release valve did not work. The safety of this power station is questionable. Another one cannot be safe in the same location.

Thank you for reading our concerns and we hope you can understand why we are so worried about development at this site.

Yours faithfully,
Niamh & Stephen Loughrey