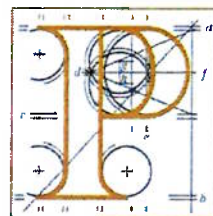


Our Case Number: ABP-319866-24

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Elin Payne
Ard West
Carna
Co. Galway

Date: 16 August 2024

Re: Proposed development known as North Irish Sea Array ("NISA") Offshore Wind Farm
Located off the coast of Counties Dublin, Meath and Louth (www.northirishsearraysid.ie)

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission and fee 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 Dublin City, Fingal, Meath and Louth County Councils and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to marine 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 or email marine@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Ellen Moss
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737285

OA03

Teil
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Facs
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Offices of An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Re: An Bord Pleanála Case Reference: OA29N.319866 Proposed Offshore Wind Energy Development North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd.

Dated: 09/08/2024

Submission By: Elin Payne, Ard West, Carna, Co. Galway / E-mail: elinpayne@yahoo.com

The following is my observation **opposing** the Direct Planning Application submitted by North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd to build an offshore wind farm

I strongly support offshore wind farms but only if they are appropriately sited. Inappropriately sited offshore wind farms risk damaging the very environments, species and habitats which are meant to benefit from the transition to renewable energy.

I feel that this project is located on an environmentally inappropriate site and risks causing damage to this coastline and it's associated Natura 2000 species and habitats (the North Irish Sea SPA, the Rockabill SPA and the Skerries Islands SPAs).

I feel that the proposed wind farm is too big and too close to shore and risks damaging tourism to the area and consequently the local economy. I also feel that the visual impact of this windfarm may negatively affect the quality of life enjoyed by all who visit the north Dublin coast to enjoy its outstanding natural beauty. There must be alternative sites that are more appropriate and I am at a loss as to why these have not been considered in this application.

There must be other areas suitable for this type of industrial development that will not disturb the sensitive species and habitats supported by this fertile coastline. In my opinion, it is unacceptable that the government's designation of 'relevant project' status and it's award of the MAC allows projects such as this one to avoid requirements to propose alternative sites and to proceed in the planning process without any independent SEA, AA or EIAR.

The significant visual impact of turbines nearly the height of the Eiffel Tower only 13 km from shore will dominate this landscape renowned around the world for it's outstanding unspoiled seascapes. The beauty of this coastline risks being negatively changed by such huge industrial machines. This may have a correspondingly negative effect on the area's tourism and economy and may lead to a diminution in the quality of life enjoyed by the areas residents and visitors alike. Why would this level of environmental, scenic and economic risk be considered if there are other alternatives? Ireland has significant seas to use for it's offshore renewable energy goals - why use nearshore areas that will suffer significant biodiversity, environmental and economic loss from huge industrial developments. Ireland's iconic coastline should not be for sale unless the government can prove from independent research that there is absolutely NO available alternative which present more minimal risks to the marine and coastal environment, their habitats and species.

I feel this proposal is poorly conceived and should be refused. Sincerely Yours, Elin Payne