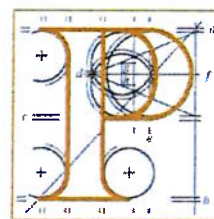


Our Case Number: ABP-319866-24

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Peter and Anita Dice
33 Harbour Road
Skerries
Co. Dublin
K34 HR97

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.

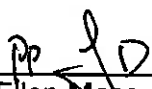
The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

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

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**Observations and Objection to NISA planning application for proposed Wind Farm
off the North Dublin and Meath Coast
Case #: 319866**

Name: Peter and Anita Dice
Address: 33 Harbour Road, Skerries, Co Dublin K34HR97

To Whom it may Concern:

Thank you in advance for your attention and time in review of our observations as full-time residents of Skerries and parents of two teen boys. We believe that our lives and our children's future will be severely impacted by this proposed wind farm.

We wholly object to the planning submission of NISA for their offshore windfarm for the following reasons:

1. The extreme negative impact it will have on sea birds in the area, especially the Terns on Rockabill Light House and the thousands of birds in sanctuary on Lambay Island.
2. The negative impact it will have to marine mammals off the northern Irish coast during construction and continued long term health impacts to same.
3. The negative impact to tourism along the Irish north coast.
4. The negative impact to property values to the Fingal and Meath areas which currently enjoy sea views.
5. Fisheries and fisherman in the local area with working harbours off Skerries and Balbriggan villages.
6. Small boats and large ships sailing to/from any of the Fingal harbours will be directly impacted and create serious hazards to sailors needing to circumnavigate 50 man-made obstacles.
7. NISA have continually changed their proposals for the heights and numbers of turbines and as technology advances they will continue to push the limit for financial gains at the cost of Ireland and its people. They should not be trusted to keep to the current submission.
8. The height of the power plant proposed in Balbriggan can be halved. Large structures do not need to sit 100% above ground.

To following details should clarify the objections listed above.

1. The impact to sea birds cannot be overstated. Where the submission has considered some of the data from Lambay Island, it has largely ignored the birdlife of Rockabill Island and the endangered species that live there. Previous maps shown during community information sessions did not have Rockabill on them at all.

Some have suggested a 15km keep-out zone for birds. Please see the Habitats directive, 23 EEC, an EU directive which protects the species like terns gulls divers and geese. We should expand the cSPA candidate special protection area to give wider exclusion from Rockabill.

We would recommend a 25km keep out zone as Terns travel much larger distances in search for food, and do not know to keep below the 40m safe height of the wind turbine blades. Other studies have shown sea birds abandon such areas all together and likely will not just 'find somewhere else to live'. This will threaten to decrease and make extinct our existing bird species.

2. The Negative effect on Marine Mammals during construction is partially highlighted in section 11 of the original submission. Past and ongoing research performed on such installations show that construction will impact marine mammals, there is mounting evidence that the damage continues during long term operation in the regions. Such installations will drive our native sea life away from the Irish coastal waters. As noise carries extremely long distances under water, continued exposure to the noise from the turbines and/or from the pile driving during construction or maintenance will continue to impact and injure marine life for generations. It is cruel and long lasting and not acceptable. We strenuously object to this installation.
3. The negative effect on tourism that an industrialized seascape will have on the growing tourist destinations of Skerries, Balbriggan, Bettystown, and Julianstown along the northern coast. Some studies suggest a drop of 30% of tourist traffic which will greatly impact the economies in these communities. The visuals shown in their submissions are **not** accurate to the heights of the turbines they are now proposing or are likely to propose in the future.
4. The negative effect on property values in the Skerries and North coast area if most of the sea view is now of a view of a wind farm, and not an unspoiled and inspiring horizon. People will move away rather than wait for such industrialization to take effect. The properties being dumped on the market will greatly reduce the generational wealth of the area, not just in financial terms, but in our community amenities and destroy the natural beauty that exists today. No one wants a sea view that is dominated by a wind farm of such scale (the largest turbines ever built) stretching across the horizon. No one. It is a deterioration of the area and will lower our property values.
5. Commercial fisheries will be prevented from entering the area and will have to go around the area. This will cost our fisherman valuable time and money and present a virtual wall that stretches for miles across the Irish sea. The fisheries will also be adversely altered due to migration of fish --which will be negatively impacted-- essentially killing our local fisherman's way of life.
6. Sailing out of any north Dublin harbour will be severely impacted.

Sailing in fog or adverse conditions (which commonly occur off the Irish coast) While local sailors may know about the mega obstacles and can see them during clear weather and in the daylight and be able navigate away, in storms and in dense fog, these megastructures will present significant dangers to boating in the area. If a small boat has difficulties and requires assistance, the RNLI and other coast guard aircraft may need to get close to the array to save lives and/or property. Such a wide swath of megastructures puts human lives in danger.

Large ships which anchor off Skerries, including Irish naval vessels and tall ships, will no longer be able to easily take shelter in the area without circumnavigating around the wind farm on the way in and then again on the way out. This will take significant forethought, costing time and money.

7. The target size and number of the structures has changed regularly as evidenced by the series of community meetings that NISA has hosted over the past year. The wind farm's impact will grow in direct proportion to the number and size of the turbines. We strongly believe that NISA team cannot be trusted to keep to the current list of sizes and numbers which they have proposed today in their submission.
8. Onshore, the above-ground height of the power plant proposed in Balbriggan can be halved. Large structures do not need to sit 100% above ground. Many large infrastructures such as these can be made less obtrusive to the surrounding town and landscape if they are lowered by half their height. The current proposal is 6 stories high and would dominate the surrounding area for miles. If that were built lower into the ground to have 3 stories below grade, for example, trees could be planted around the site to completely buffer the area from a then 3-story industrial eye sore and help retain the visual appeal of some of the nearby amenities of the Balbriggan community, an area Fingal County Council are spending a lot of money to improve.

Today each of the proposed wind turbines are approximately the size of the Eiffel Tower which by itself dominates the city of Paris. We believe that such a large number of megastructures stretching across the horizon will be extremely detrimental to the area. The wind turbines shown on pages 65 and 66 are NOT representative of their actual size and they specifically omit showing Rockabill Lighthouse as a comparison and instead only show a limited arc of the horizon. **This is a dishonest portrayal of the visual impact.** NISA should be obliged to correctly show the impact and actual height of the megastructures they are proposing to build, using Rockabill Light house as a reference, and then be held to that if this project should ever be allowed to go forward.

For all the above reasons we strenuously object to the submission for NISA's wind farm off the north coast. While some of the issues listed above can be mitigated if the structures are placed further offshore, the problems will only be mitigated fully if the wind farm proposal is rejected wholly.

If you have any questions, please reach out for clarification.

Thank you for your attention,
Peter and Anita Dice
33 Harbour Road, Skerries, Co Dublin, K34HR97