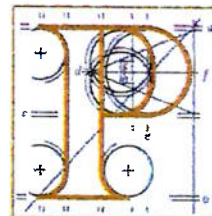


Our Case Number: ABP-319866-24

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Joe O'Brien TD
63 Mourne View
Skerries

Date: 15 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
Glaó Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

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

Submission to An Bord Pleanála on Case Reference: OA28N.319866, North Irish Sea Array Windfarm

Development of renewable energy in Ireland is urgent and pressing in order for Ireland to reach its climate action targets and further develop a huge untapped resource that we as a country have control over. The planet continues to warm at an alarming rate and we are getting closer to irreversible damage to biodiversity, but human life is increasingly under threat with increasing extreme weather events across the globe leading to loss of life. Deployment of renewable energy at pace is key in the battle against planetary destruction.

The development of offshore wind turbines is the key way forward for Ireland to not just make its contribution globally in the battle against climate change but to gain full control of our national energy needs and ultimately be a source of energy that is a net exporter rather than importer. This will lead to very significant price stability of energy into the future for Ireland.

The proposed North Irish Sea Array (NISA) can make a valuable contribution in the context laid out above. I have some specific points to make in relation to the specific site that has been chosen for the project.

The site in question overlaps three different areas of protection under wildlife legislation:

- In July 2023 my Green Party colleague Minister Malcolm Noonan TD announced Ireland's largest ever protected area for birds. The [North-West Irish Sea Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#) is designated under the EU Birds Directive and covers more than 230,000 hectares of important marine waters for a range of bird species throughout the year. It increases the percentage of Ireland's marine waters which are protected under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives to over 9%. The new site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Common Scoter; Red-throated Diver; Great Northern Diver; Fulmar; Manx Shearwater; Shag; Cormorant; Little Gull; Kittiwake; Black-headed Gull; Common Gull; Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot.
- The Rockabill to Dalkey [Special Area of Conservation](#) also overlaps the area proposed by NISA. It holds particular importance for the Harbour Porpoise. The Habitats Directive is the key protecting instrument in this regard.
- Finally and perhaps most importantly the site in question includes the [Rockabill Special Protection Area](#). Rockabill is a site of European and international significance in terms of its provision of a habitat to the Roseate Tern. Again, this site is designated under the Birds Directive.

While it is important that the NISA project proceeds it must be done in line with very the very strong legislative protections in place for wildlife off the north Dublin coast. In particular the Rockabill Special Protection Area and the legal protection associated with it need to be adhered to.

Thorough examination of the proximity of the some of the proposed turbines to Rockabill Island must be conducted in the context of the legal protections it holds. I have concerns that a number of the turbines in the plan will jeopardise adherence to the wildlife protections in force for Rockabill and propose that some of the planned turbines are moved further away from Rockabill.

Some local groups have also raised concerns about the impact of the drilling work on the local wildlife. I would like to see more detail and reassurance in this regard and evidence that all measures are being taken to prevent long term damage to local wildlife.

Sincerely,

Joe O'Brien TD
63 Mourne View
Skerries
Co. Dublin