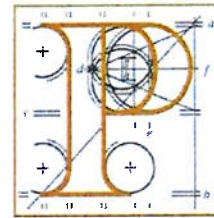


**Our Case Number:** ABP-319866-24

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Denis and Rachel O'Leary  
Black Barn  
Coney Hill  
Bremore  
Balbriggan  
Co. Dublin  
K32 XN82

**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](http://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.

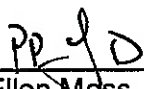
The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

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](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email [marine@pleanala.ie](mailto: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               | Tel     | (01) 858 8100                                          |
| Glaao Áitiúil      | LoCall  | 1890 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              |

8 August 2024

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01V902

**Bord Pleanála Case Reference: OA29N.319866 (NISA Offshore Windfarm)**

Dear Sir/Madam

We, Denis and Rachel O’Leary, residents of the Bremore, Balbriggan area wish to make the following observations/comments in regard to the proposed development of the NISA Offshore Windfarm. While in general, we support the development of wind energy in Ireland there are a number of the onshore aspects of NISA’s plan on which we would like to comment.

The proposed Grid Facility, consists of two separate substations to be built on land in Bremore which is zoned Rural (RU). The Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 (the Development Plan) states that the objective of the RU zoning is “to protect and promote in a balanced way, the development of agriculture and rural-related enterprise, biodiversity, the rural landscape, and the built and cultural heritage”. The Development Plan goes on to state that the County Council’s vision is to “protect and promote the value of the rural area of the County” and seeks to promote the integrity of the landscape. This rural value is based on, amongst other things,” the visual remoteness from significant and distinctive urban influences”.

We would contend that two 17m high large scale industrial type buildings including up to 30m high lightning masts and covering an area of approximately 5 hectares (the Grid Facility) is not in keeping with the County Council’s vision to protect and promote the rural value of the landscape and protect the remoteness of the visual landscape. While the RU zoning allows for utility installations we would suggest that the nature and scale of the Grid Facility is visually intrusive, will have an adverse effect on the character and integrity of the rural landscape and is way beyond what is envisioned by the RU zoning. It is respectfully suggested that this part of NISA’s infrastructure should be reconsidered and perhaps located in an already industrialised area. It is also worth noting that there are no other buildings of this height in the area and it is highly unlikely that the County Council would give planning approval for any proposed dwellings of this height in the area. Indeed, a number of planning applications for two storey buildings in this area have been discouraged or refused planning permission in recent years.

Given the proposed size and scale of the Grid Facility which contains perhaps the largest ever sub-stations built in the country we would suggest that more information needs to be provided

as to what the need for such large sub-stations is and what are their intended use both now and into the future. The proposed sub-stations do not appear to be sub-stations as the general public would know them and are certainly vastly larger than any current sub-stations in operation in Fingal. The health and safety of the public is of the utmost importance in this regard. The potential fire safety of the Grid Facility needs to be considered in depth and the ability of the local fire services to deal with any large scale disasters. It must also be questioned why two noisy diesel powered generators are needed for the Grid Facility given the project is a sustainable “green” energy project.

In regard to the offshore turbines we note that their proposed height has increased a number of times between the initial public consultation and the eventual planning submission to the Bord and that their location has moved closed to the shoreline. We believe that these proposals are somewhat experimental and outside the norm when it comes offshore wind energy and we are concerned that these proposals are coming from an entity (Statkraft) with little or no experience in offshore wind energy projects.

In the event that the NISA proposal is approved we would ask that any onshore building and drilling activities be restricted to normal working hours in order to minimise disruption to the peace and quiet of residents in the rural landscape and ensure that they will not be kept awake at night. We would also ask that the use of diesel generators be discouraged completely to reduce noise levels.

Yours sincerely,

Denis & Rachel O’Leary  
Black Barn  
Coney Hill  
Bremore  
Balbriggan  
Co Dublin  
K32 XN82