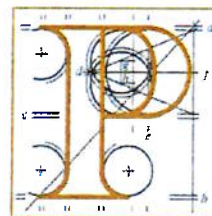


Our Case Number: ABP-319866-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Elaine Whelan
9 Lambreecher
Balbriggan
Co. Dublin

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	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

SUBMISSION 319866

I am alarmed that Statkraft would appear to have duped the people at their public meetings as they originally presented plans for 30 turbines of 250/276m height, then changed to 49 turbines of 290m and finally as per their current proposal 35 turbines of 316m high and closer to our shore. It has also been noted that their advertising photographs are inaccurately scaled which is alarming in itself and does not inspire confidence.

Most windfarms across Europe including Norway are smaller than the proposed turbines in this application and are a minimum of 22km from shore. The Norwegian's coastal map display all proposed/planned windfarm development areas at least 25km offshore but Statkraft propose for example one turbine only 12.3km off *our* coast and includes a turbine 200meters from the area of Rockabill which is already protected by EU legislation due to it being the largest breeding colony in Europe for roseate terns. Unfortunately, there is a lack of governmental policies regarding marine/avian life which should be protected, and such policies should be in place before such windfarms are considered at all.

Statkraft are a Norwegian company that are interested in profits and not wildlife because of the nature of their business which is fund management. The bottom line is what matters to them and moving the turbines further out to sea will only add to the costs and reduce their profits. Our Government getting just 2% on the 40 year seabed lease and a fixed price of 86 euro/mw being paid to the operator isn't a good deal for Ireland particularly if energy prices drop, while yet again a foreign company reaps the rewards. There is no mention of consideration to what happens to the turbines after this period ends as this is their lifespan. The long-term environmental and economical impacts of such a project need to be considered.

On a personal note, I walk from Balbriggan to Gormanstown using the coastal route almost every day, and the evidence is there of paths worn down by other like-minded walkers. This is a natural walkway that gives pleasure to many and is part of the proposed Fingal Coastal Way. Balbriggan like others is still a fishing town and there will inevitably be a reduction to our fishing grounds. The beaches are a huge draw for recreation, tourism and sea sports and the coastal residents deserve not to have gigantic turbines on their doorstep when so many of them spend hours every day commuting for work.

It is my opinion that the small island of Ireland cannot afford to become a guinea pig for larger and closer to shore turbines as the impact to marine and avian life is unproven. I agree with wind power but not at an unwarranted cost to our coast which cannot be determined in advance, so I ask for your consideration of best practice for our communities and our avian and marine life.

Elaine Whelan, 9 Lambreecher, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin