

Loughatorick
Woodford
Co Galway
Alor1916@gmail.com

10th June 2026

Formal Objection Submission

Re: An Bord Pleanála Applications 320095 (Gas Plant), 320094 (GIS Substation),
and 320916 (BESS Development)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to formally object to the above proposed developments.

1. Scale of Emissions and Climate Policy Conflict

The proposed gas plant in East Galway will lead to an emissions scale at a single site in Ireland that could represent a substantial proportion of Ireland's total allowable emissions limit by 2030. In one area of rural Galway.

Ref: Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. Carbon Budget Programme, adopted by Government, which sets strict economy-wide emissions ceilings. Ireland's EU Effort Sharing Regulation targets

This development would effectively lock in long-term fossil fuel dependency and significantly undermine the State's ability to meet our legally binding limits. It runs contrary to sustainable planning.

2. Inconsistency with National Planning Framework (NPF) and Climate Action Plan

The proposal conflicts with key objectives of the National Planning Framework (Project Ireland 2040), including:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low-carbon economy
- Promote renewable energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels
- Support sustainable energy use and efficiency

Furthermore, the Climate Action Plan 2023 (and subsequent updates) prioritises:

- Rapid expansion of renewable energy

- Electrification of energy systems
- Demand reduction and flexibility

To commence at this stage with this development flies in the face of our climate action objectives. This is new gas infrastructure intended to be a primary provider; when we as a country should be directing resources to renewable options.

3. Not Critical Infrastructure – Misalignment with National Energy Strategy

It is evident that the primary function of this infrastructure is to facilitate the expansion of private data centre operations, particularly concentrated in the east of Ireland.

This raises serious concerns in relation to:

- The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) Data Centre Connection Policy (CRU/21/124), which emphasises constraints on data centre growth unless aligned with renewable energy and system needs
- The need to prioritise energy infrastructure that serves the public interest. This development instead supports private commercial demand

This development cannot reasonably be considered critical national infrastructure under Government policy.

4. Roads, Infrastructure Capacity and Safety

The proposal would place significant additional pressure on local and regional road infrastructure, particularly during the construction phase and ongoing operation. This is inconsistent with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) and general planning principles requiring:

- Safe and sustainable transport movement
- Protection of existing infrastructure capacity
- Avoidance of excessive HGV traffic through unsuitable road networks

There is insufficient evidence that the road network can safely accommodate the projected increase in traffic.

For context in 2024:

- Clare County Council maintained approx. 4,000 km of roads with ~990 staff and a €190 million budget
- Galway County Council maintained nearly 7,000 km of roads with ~925 staff and a €175 million budget

These figures demonstrate the already significant strain on local authority resources.(source Galway County Council.

The addition of large-scale industrial traffic will:

- Accelerate road degradation
- Increase accident risk
- Place further financial and operational pressure on public bodies

The combined nature of the gas plant, GIS substation, and BESS infrastructure constitutes a major industrial energy hub.

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

This development risks:

- Locking our community and country into fossil fuel infrastructure at scale
- Undermining investment in renewable alternatives which we would gladly welcome

- Creating regional imbalance in energy demand and infrastructure provision where other services are already under pressure

In summary, the proposed developments:

- Are not compatible with Ireland's Climate Act 2021 and carbon budgets
- Conflict with the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan
- Primarily support private data centre enterprise, not critical public infrastructure
- Place unacceptable strain on road safety and infrastructure capacity
- Fail to align with principles of proper planning and sustainable development

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission for Applications 320095, 320094, and 320916.

Yours faithfully,
Ailish O'Reilly

100

(

100