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To whom it may concern.

I would like to formally lodge an objection to the construction of Ballinla Windfarm at Clarkeville Edenderry Co Offaly.

I am a local resident who lives only 3 km from the project. I am a local farmer who has lived in Ballyfore, Edenderry my whole life. My family farm is located on the edge of the Bog of Allen and we can see the Edenderry power station from our back garden. In recent years we can also see the 21 ,170metre, turbines of the Cloncreen windfarm which borders our farm. This is in addition to the Mountlucas wind farm which is 7 km west.

I have no objection to these wind farms and I understand the need for sustainable renewable energy in our country. I welcomed the projects as they were on used exhausted peatlands and it is a great use of the Bord na Mona land.

This project however is located on land running along side the Grand canal. This part of north Offaly has seen its fair share of windfarm and solar farm development over the past decade but I see this project as not suitable for the area. The canal is a fantastic local amenity where all people in the area can escape to walk, cycle and run. This area deserves to be protected from noise and aesthetic pollution.

This canal way has recently been recognised as a national greenway and as such should be treated with more respect than to put 185m turbines along its banks. The turbines are a huge eyesore for us locals and tourists using the canal's magnificent facilities.

The land purposed for development is dry, well drained agricultural land which is owned by a landlord who does not live in north Offaly and has no local perspective of the noise and aesthetic pollution they will cause to the grand canal green way. They have no local interest in the consequences of the project.

In addition to the turbines along the grand canal greenway, the remainder of turbines will be built on forestry land. I was in contact with Coillte already on the purposed development and they have said 21 hectare of felling of forestry would be required to complete the project. They assured me the forestry would be replaced elsewhere but I find this unsatisfactory as Coilltes main aim is the establishment and maintenance of forestry so I feel it doesn't need be felled mature forest in the first place.

I will finish by saying I have no problem with the construction of windfarm projects but I implore you to consider the site on which this project sits. North Offaly has a huge number of turbines but this site is unsuitable for the scale of this project.

The grand canal is a hugely important local amenity.

Thank you.

Patrick Evans.

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