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Wednesday 12 November 2025

Re: Observation/Objection to Development of a 110kV Electrical Substation and Grid Connection
An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: VA93.323791

Dear Recipient,

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the above application by Future Energy for the development of a 110kV Electrical Substation and Grid Connection from the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm site to Dungarvan.

1) Project Splitting and Lack of Transparency

- The new application repeats material from the original Scart Mountain Wind Farm submission, offering limited new or specific information about the EirGrid connection itself.
- This approach represents a form of project splitting, contrary to the principles of the EU Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and Irish planning law, which require that cumulative and interdependent elements of a single project be assessed together.
- The developer explicitly refers to this connection as part of the same overall project; therefore, the cumulative effects of both the wind farm and the grid connection must be evaluated as one.

2) Inadequate Assessment of the Grid Connection Route

- The proposed route (via L5056, R671, L1032, L5065, R672, L5103, L3003, L7001, and N72) is long and complex, yet the EIAR contains minimal detail about the specific works, traffic management, and construction methods along each section.
- The Modeligo water pump and associated infrastructure — located directly adjacent to a section of the proposed trenching route — are not mentioned at all in the application. Any excavation or road opening in this area poses a serious risk to the public water supply and must be explicitly assessed.
- The route through Colligan Wood raises serious environmental and amenity concerns. These areas include biodiverse habitats, recreational walking routes, and forestry access roads, which would be heavily impacted by trenching, cabling, and construction traffic.

3) Traffic, Safety, and Road Infrastructure

- The local roads identified are narrow, rural, and in many cases residential, not designed for sustained heavy-goods or construction traffic.
- The application's *Chapter 16 – Traffic and Transportation* provides insufficient assessment of potential congestion, damage to local road surfaces, or the impact on residents, schools, and local businesses.
- No detailed road condition surveys or mitigation commitments are provided.

4) Environmental and Cumulative Impacts

- Because this grid connection is an essential component of the overall wind farm, the combined impacts of the entire project (turbines, substation, cabling, and access routes) must be considered together.
- The failure to assess the combined effects on landscape, noise, hydrology, biodiversity, and community amenity renders the EIA incomplete and inconsistent with EU and Irish planning requirements.

5) Public Participation and Accessibility of Information

- The submission is voluminous yet contains little relevant material about the actual grid connection proposal. This makes it extremely difficult for the public to meaningfully engage with the process.
- Maps, route descriptions, and impact assessments are scattered across multiple appendices (e.g., Appendix 2.5 – Grid Connection Construction Methodology, Appendix 1.1 – Planning Drawings), without clear summaries or standalone analysis.
- Such lack of clarity runs contrary to the principles of transparency and fair public consultation under the Aarhus Convention.

6) Request

Considering these issues, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for this application on the grounds that:

- The application fails to adequately address environmental, traffic, and community impacts;
- It represents project splitting contrary to proper planning and sustainable development;
- It would have significant negative effects on the local environment, amenity, and safety of residents.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Sheridan
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