

## Lauren Murphy

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**From:** Andrew Sulley <Andrew.Sulley@hse.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 12 January 2026 14:04  
**To:** SIDS  
**Subject:** VA01.323860 Sub station and Grid Connection Ballyloo Solar Farm Carlow NEHS Observations  
**Attachments:** NEHS obs VA01.323860 220kV AIS 220kV GIS substation Ballyloo Carlow.pdf  
**Categories:** Lauren

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Please find enclosed observations from the NEHS on VA01.323860 Sub station and Grid Connection Ballyloo Solar Farm Carlow NEHS

Any clarification required should be sent in the first instance to [Andrew.sulley@hse.ie](mailto:Andrew.sulley@hse.ie)

Regards,

  
Andrew Sulley  
Senior Environmental Health Officer

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"Tá an fhaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon fhaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaoileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seans gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag [+353 818 300300](tel:+353818300300) nó ar an ríomhphost chuig [service\\_desk@hse.ie](mailto:service_desk@hse.ie) agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

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An tOifig Náisiúnta um Sláinte Chomhshaoil  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Urlár 2, Teach na Darach, Ascaill na Teile  
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara.

National Office for Environmental Health Services  
2nd Floor, Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue  
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare  
Eircode: W91KDC2

An Coimisiun Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

9th January 2026

**NEHS ref: ID5438**

Enclosed are the observations of the National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) on An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: VA01.323860

located in the townlands of Ballyloo, Knockbower, Linkardstown, Kilballyhue, Graiguenspiddoge, Castletown, Moyle Big, Leagh or Ballybeg, Kellistown West & Kellistown East, County Carlow

10 year planning permission for a 220kV AIS/ 220kV GIS substation OR a 110kV electricity substation, associated 220kV or 110kV underground grid connection and ancillary works

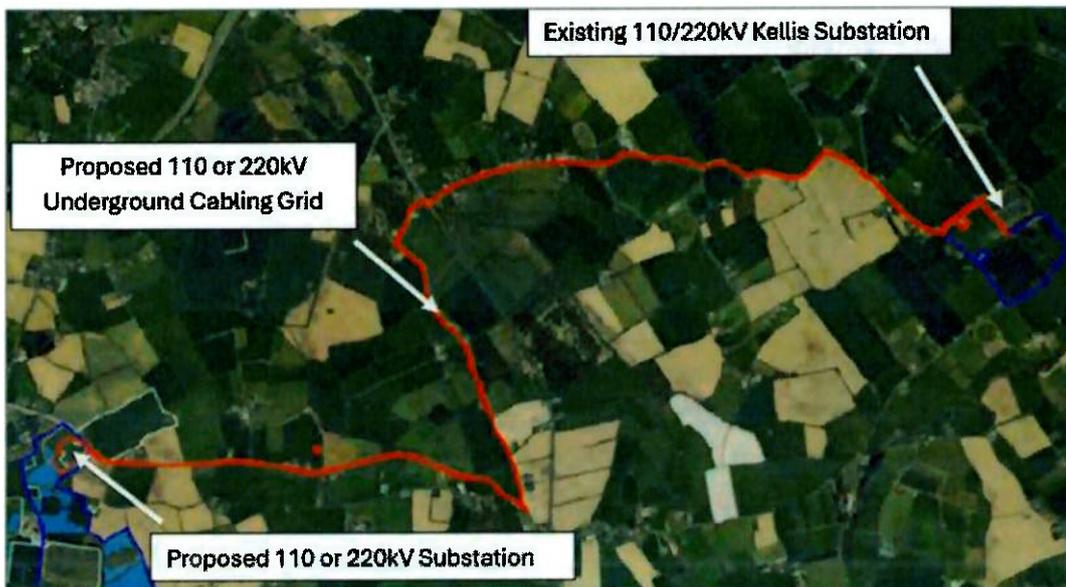
Any clarification on the contents of this submission should be made, in the first instance [Andrew.sulley@hse.ie](mailto:Andrew.sulley@hse.ie) quoting NEHS ID5438

  
Andrew Sulley  
Senior Environmental Health Officer



The following HSE stakeholders were notified of the application on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025:

- HSE South Emergency Management
- National Capital Estates Office
- Director of National Health Protection
- REO Dublin & South East



*Figure 05: Underground Cabling Grid Connection Overview*

### **Observations of the National Environmental Health Service**

It is noted that the requirement for an EIA has been screened out in a determination report dated November 2025.

Whilst an EIA has been screened out for the development, the screening report identifies a number of likely impacts on Public and Environmental Health from the proposed development that will require adequate controls and mitigation during the construction phase.

It is these likely impacts that have been considered by the NEHS in these observations.

## Temporary Construction Compound

- a) Ensure that any water supply used for the preparation of food or as a drinking water source meets the requirements of European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 99 of 2023)

The following is noted:

It is proposed to provide the required potable water demand of the station (all options) with a bored well on site. The potable water demand within the site will be low as the proposed station is to be unmanned. To avoid issues like stagnation in the water supply line and problems resulting from this, there will be a continual water demand of 24 litres per week from automatically flushing WCs within the station.

- b) Ensure that there are no direct emissions to ground or surface water of foul wastewater. All foul wastewater should be contained and taken off site to a licensed treatment facility.

Following is noted:

There are no existing foul sewer water drains on or near the proposed substation site.

The foul drainage proposal must cater for the wastewater generated in the welfare facilities of the proposed substation. These welfare facilities include a toilet and wash hand basin both the EirGrid and IPP control buildings. The station will be unmanned in normal operation so demand for facilities which generate foul flows will be low.

Foul holding tanks are normally used in EirGrid and ESB substations. The foul holding tanks will have a capacity of 5m<sup>3</sup> which is a multiple of the foul water generated over three months of normal operation of the station. The foul holding tank will also be inspected by a suitably qualified and indemnified person at these intervals and records of inspections will be held on site for inspection by the local authority.

- c) Waste facilities that integrate and facilitate separation and recycling of waste.

## Protection of Groundwater from Contaminated Surface water Run off

The NEHS notes the following from the Planning Statement.

The surface water generated in the hardstanding areas and in the bunded areas within the substation compound will discharge to soakaway via Class 1 Full Retention Oil Separators. The electrical transformer in the substation is oil filled equipment and, as such, is protected with impermeable bunds. Surface water generated in this bund will be pumped out by an oil sensitive pump ensuring that only non-contaminated water enters the site drainage network.

### 220kV GIS Substation

Section 7.2 of the Construction Mitigation Plan details mitigation measures to protect water bodies during construction. The NEHS considers that this details adequate protection for Public and Environmental Health if implemented in full.

The NEHS has considered the Construction Methodology detailed in the application and in particular Chapter 7 – Best Practice Design and Mitigation.

*‘Prior to commencement of construction works the contractor will draw up a final Method Statement including a Construction Environmental Management Plan which will be based on established best practice measures. These documents will be adhered to by the contractors and will be overseen by the project representative/foreman.’*

*‘The final Construction Method Statement and CEMP will comply with any conditions of planning’*

## 7.6 Noise

All plant will be required to conform to the British Standards (BS) 5228 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open site. BS5228 provides a comprehensive guidance on construction noise including details of typical noise levels associated with various items of plant or activities, prediction methods and measures and procedures and is an accepted standard for construction practise in Ireland given the absence of statutory Irish guidelines.

The NEHS is of the opinion that the most effective way of protecting Public Health during construction phases of large scale projects is to condition the time of construction activity.

Particularly to prevent sleep disturbance. The recommended hours of construction are:

**Monday to Friday 08.00 to 19.00**  
**Saturday 09.00 to 14.00**  
**No work on Sunday or Bank Holidays**

**Exceptionally work outside these hours at the express permission of the Planning Authority.**

**This recommendation is made in the interest of the protection of Public Health**

## Noise Impact Assessment

The NEHS has considered the noise impact assessment accompanying the application. From the report:

**Based on the assessment outlined in this report it is predicted that the operational noise levels at the proposed substation and underground grid connection will comply with the project criteria and not produce a negative noise impact.**

A predicted compliance with an absolute noise criteria does not necessarily mean there will be no negative noise impact.

The impact of noise on NSL is generally the change in the existing noise environment, particularly at nighttime.

It is noted, however, that the existing background noise levels would not be classified as a quiet area or low background under criteria set out in EPA NG4 Guidance. It is also noted that the assessment under BS4142 does not predict the likelihood of a significant impact in that the existing noise environment is above the specific sound from the development.

It is therefore the opinion of the NEHS that the reported predicted change in the existing noise environment due to the proposed development is not likely to be a significant Public Health issue.

This opinion is formed on the reported existing background levels of noise, the reported predicted levels of noise from the proposed development and consideration of objective criteria used in assessing the likely significant effect on health from noise, particularly BS4142 and EPA Guidance Note NG4.

  
Andrew Salley  
Senior Environmental Health Officer