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Application Name: Proposed development of a 110kV Grid Connection for Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: VA10.323958

FORMAL OBJECTION TO Proposed development of a 110kV Grid Connection for Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Dear Secretary

I am writing as a resident who is impacted by the proposed Ballyfacey Wind Farm to formally object to the Proposed development of a 110kV Grid Connection for Ballyfasy Wind Farm.

The applicant was awarded Design Review flexibility by An Coimisiun Pleanala and has provided two options within the application:

- GCO One: Grid connection to the consented Castlebanny Wind Farm substation
- GCO Two: Proposed loop-in grid connection to existing Great Island-Kilkenny 110 kV overhead line

My objection is based on the following fundamental grounds:

- GCO One will be constructed primarily within public roads within the jurisdiction of Kilkenny County Council, with a section within privately owned lands. As per *Dromada v Cremins* High Court Case, using such an area without consent is trespass.
- Electromagnetic Interference from the 110kv cable to be laid for the connection to the grid in Castlebanny. This cable is a risk to households living within 50m on either side of the underground grid cable. Any person with a pacemaker is identified as at serious risk from this magnetic field. A public health assessment does not seem to be included in the application to determine if there are people that will be impacted.
- Mullenakill Church, graveyard and mill are located immediately east of the proposed GCO One. The construction of the proposed GCO One will involve the excavation of a trench through the site.
- There was no bat survey carried out on the GCO One grid route as part of the grid connection application. A reference to the Tobin (2021) Castlebanny Windfarm Ecological Impact Assessment Report. Chapter 6 – Biodiversity. This study is 5 years old, and not specific to the grid connection route.
- An ornithology report specific to grid connection GCO One was not included in the planning application.

- Ballyfacy is an area with high radon levels, we are concerned that significant excavation can cause radon gas to migrate into buildings that previously had safe levels and potentially increase readings in buildings where radon was not previously detected.
- The Curlew is present in Ballyfasy as per the Ornithology report submitted by the applicant. They are known to undertake regular low-level flights over distances of several kilometres between breeding, foraging and roosting areas. Overhead grid lines within these landscapes – GCO Two - therefore present a collision risk even where no nests are recorded immediately adjacent to the route.

For the reasons above, . I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the Ballyfasy Wind Farm.

Kind Regards

Geoff and Claire Evans