

Niall Walsh

Ballyquin

Mullinavat

Co Kilkenny

X91Y9F8

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 Ballyfasy 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.
- EIAR Chapter 9 Hydrology & Hydrogeology  
This report is a duplication of the report submitted in the Wind Turbines application focusing only on the Wind farm site . GCO option one requires digging a trench 12 kilometres long . The following is from the site notices “Circa 12 km long 110 kV underground cable grid connection to the consented Castlebanny Wind Farm (ACP Ref. PA10.309306) substation consisting of 6 No. ducts in an excavated trench”  
“horizontal directional drilling under watercourses and bridges, road and grid crossings, drainage and ancillary works. “ – No Hydrology / Hydrogeology Reports Submitted for this proposal by the applicant .

SSEN-Transmission.co.uk state the following “Cable trenches can also modify water drainage pathways to groundwater flows, with potential impacts on environmentally

sensitive wetland habitats such as marshes, flushes; and heightened risk to groundwater fed Private Water Supplies”

The applicant has not considered any effects on the Human or Wildlife population in its application for a 12Km long cable trench as part of its grid application GCO one or GCO Two which proposes a 2.3km trench .

- 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.
- The bat survey concludes that the possibility of 4 Wind farms in close proximity with 43 turbines proposed in total ( 12 currently active ) would have a significant negative impact on all bat populations “Operational residual impacts post implementation of mitigation would result in a long-term negative impact on bat populations of significance at a local geographic scale.”
- An ornithology report specific to grid connection GCO One was not included in the planning application.
- Ballyfasy is an area with high radon levels, there is a concern 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 , Hen Harrier , Kestrel are all present in Ballyfasy as per the Ornithology report submitted by the applicant. They are known to undertake 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

Niall Walsh