

Department of Housing
Local Government
and Heritage
Custom House
Dublin
D01 W6X0

27th February 2026

Re: Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application by Bord Gáis Energy Limited on lands at Rathmorrissy and Pollnagroagh (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir / Madam,

In accordance with section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Bord Gáis Energy Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a 10-year permission for the proposed development of a natural gas-fuelled electricity generation plant (named 'Cashla Peaker Plant') designed to provide flexible support to Ireland's power system. The plant will operate primarily on natural gas. The facility will be designed with dual-fuel capability, allowing the use of low sulphur diesel on a limited basis for emergency or back-up operation where required to ensure security of electricity supply. The proposed development site is 11.54 hectares and is located on lands at Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway. The proposed development is intended to operate on a time-limited basis only, with an operational life up to and including 31 December 2050.

The proposed development will consist of:

- a. The construction of a proposed power plant which will comprise an open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) and generator with ancillary equipment including a 30m high stack and emissions monitoring unit, fuel storage and supply systems, cooling and air systems, compressed air and gas handling skids, a grid step-up transformer within a bund, an auxiliary transformer and an emergency diesel generator. The construction of ten buildings on-site including one single-storey administration building (approximately 390sqm), one single storey ESB Substation building (approximately 32.5sqm), one single-storey workshop building (approximately 750.5sqm), one single storey water treatment plant building (approximately 104sqm), one covered fuel forwarding and unloading area (approximately 104sqm), one single-storey electrical control building (approximately 243.5sqm), one single storey gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25sqm), one single-storey boiler house kiosk (approximately 37sqm) including ten boiler flues (approximately 5.67m above ground level), one single-storey ancillary pressure reduction kiosk (approximately 21.7sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and a single-storey electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19sqm). The installation of five above-ground tanks including two banded fuel tanks (approximately 11.1m high), one fire and service water tank (approximately 13m high), one demineralised water tank (approximately 15.4 high) and one demineralised waste tank (approximately 5m high).

- b. Ancillary works including the provision of a new gated vehicular entrance from the L3103, the construction of an access road from the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant site entrance to the proposed new entrance on the L3103, the demolition of one farm outbuilding (in ruin), construction of internal circulation routes, hardstanding, security fencing (2.4m high), CCTV and gates, provision of a wastewater treatment system and associated underground wastewater storage tanks, drainage (foul and storm), soakaway retention pond, propane tank, underground firewater retention tanks, parking (12 no. spaces including mobility and EV Parking) and laydown area, 20 no. cycle parking spaces, landscaping and all ancillary on-site development works.
- c. The construction of a Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) above ground pressure regulating installation, known as an Above Ground Installation (AGI). The AGI (named Rathmorrissy AGI) will connect to the mains transmission gas network which exists within the site. The AGI infrastructure will occupy an enclosed area of approximately 2,500 sq.m. It encompasses five single-storey buildings: a gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25 sqm), a boiler house kiosk (approximately 37 sqm) including ten boiler flues approximately 5.67m above ground level and emergency generator, two pressure reduction kiosks – main kiosk (approximately 72 sqm) including nine vents (approximately 5.24m high), and ancillary kiosk (approximately 21.7 sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and an electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19 sqm). Ancillary infrastructure will include a gas meter, filters, heat exchangers, and above-ground pipework. The compound will include lighting, 3 no. parking spaces, internal circulation routes, concrete bases to support the infrastructure, and stone-chipped surfacing. It will be secured by an approximately 2.4 m high fence with an access gate.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

In addition to the above outlined proposed development, the “project”, subject of the EIAR and NIS, includes the above proposed development and the construction of a 220kV substation compound within the Cashla Peaker Plant site and the construction an underground grid connection route from the proposed ESB Substation in the Cashla Peaker Plant Site to the Cashla 220kV Substation located across the townlands of Rathmorrissy, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark, Cashla, Athenry, Co. Galway. The grid connection route traverses approximately 8.1km including along the L7109, L71093, L7108 and L3103 roads. The substation and grid connection will be subject to a separate Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála. It is noted that the project, subject of the EIAR and NIS, also includes the connection to the existing mains gas network (Mayo–Galway pipeline (BGE/85)) which will be undertaken via a new transmission pipeline (named GNI146) located within the townland of Rathmorrissy, Athenry, Co. Galway. A separate application to obtain approval for the GNI146 gas pipeline will be submitted under section 39A of the Gas Act 1976, as amended. It is anticipated that the substation, grid connection, AGI and gas connection will remain part of the national infrastructure and are not subject to the 2050 operational life end proposed for the Cashla Peaker Plant.

The application relates to development for the purposes of an activity requiring an Industrial Emissions license from the Environmental Protection Agency under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, as amended.

It also relates to a COMAH establishment and therefore falls under the requirements of the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2015.

The planning application, EIAR and NIS, may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on 6th March 2026 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902 (9:15am – 5:30pm, Monday to Friday).
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The planning application, including the EIAR and NIS, may also be viewed or downloaded on the following website: www.cashlapeakerplantsid.ie

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála (“the Commission”), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902; in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

- i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned, and
- ii. the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out, and
- iii. the likely effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission not later than 5:30 p.m. on the **24th April 2026** and must include the following information in accordance with Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended:

- the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
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Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission. The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to “A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development” at www.pleanala.ie).

The Commission may in respect of an application for permission decide to -

1. grant the permission, or
2. make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
3. grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the forgoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
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Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order

84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

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The full suite of documents submitted as part of the application can be found in the cover letter to An Coimisiún Pleanála. One copy of the application is enclosed for your information. A further electronic copy of the application documents is available to view and download at: www.cashlapeakerplantsid.ie

Yours sincerely,



Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

Department of the
Environment, Climate
and Communications
Tom Johnson House
Haddington Road
Dublin 4
D04 K7X4

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McCutcheon Halley

Galway County Council
Áras an Chontae
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Commission for
Regulation of Utilities
The Grain House
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Tallaght
D24 PXW0

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- c. The construction of a Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) above ground pressure regulating installation, known as an Above Ground Installation (AGI). The AGI (named Rathmorrissy AGI) will connect to the mains transmission gas network which exists within the site. The AGI infrastructure will occupy an enclosed area of approximately 2,500 sq.m. It encompasses five single-storey buildings: a gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25 sqm), a boiler house kiosk (approximately 37 sqm) including ten boiler flues approximately 5.67m above ground level and emergency generator, two pressure reduction kiosks – main kiosk (approximately 72 sqm) including nine vents (approximately 5.24m high), and ancillary kiosk (approximately 21.7 sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and an electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19 sqm). Ancillary infrastructure will include a gas meter, filters, heat exchangers, and above-ground pipework. The compound will include lighting, 3 no. parking spaces, internal circulation routes, concrete bases to support the infrastructure, and stone-chipped surfacing. It will be secured by an approximately 2.4 m high fence with an access gate.

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Yours sincerely,



Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street
Dublin 8
D08 DK10
Ireland

27th February 2026

Re: Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application by Bord Gáis Energy Limited on lands at Rathmorrissy and Pollnagroagh (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir / Madam,

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The proposed development will consist of:

- a. The construction of a proposed power plant which will comprise an open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) and generator with ancillary equipment including a 30m high stack and emissions monitoring unit, fuel storage and supply systems, cooling and air systems, compressed air and gas handling skids, a grid step-up transformer within a bund, an auxiliary transformer and an emergency diesel generator. The construction of ten buildings on-site including one single-storey administration building (approximately 390sqm), one single storey ESB Substation building (approximately 32.5sqm), one single-storey workshop building (approximately 750.5sqm), one single storey water treatment plant building (approximately 104sqm), one covered fuel forwarding and unloading area (approximately 104sqm), one single-storey electrical control building (approximately 243.5sqm), one single storey gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25sqm), one single-storey boiler house kiosk (approximately 37sqm) including ten boiler flues (approximately 5.67m above ground level), one single-storey ancillary pressure reduction kiosk (approximately 21.7sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and a single-storey electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19sqm). The installation of five above-ground tanks including two banded fuel tanks (approximately 11.1m high), one fire and service water tank (approximately 13m high), one demineralised water tank (approximately 15.4 high) and one demineralised waste tank (approximately 5m high).

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Yours sincerely,



Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

Uisce Éireann
Colvill House
24-26 Talbot St
Mountjoy
Dublin

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Yours sincerely,



Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

Office of Public Works
Jonathan Swift Street
Trim
Co Meath
C15 NX36

27th February 2026

Re: Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application by Bord Gáis Energy Limited on lands at Rathmorrissy and Pollnagroagh (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir / Madam,

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The proposed development will consist of:

- a. The construction of a proposed power plant which will comprise an open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) and generator with ancillary equipment including a 30m high stack and emissions monitoring unit, fuel storage and supply systems, cooling and air systems, compressed air and gas handling skids, a grid step-up transformer within a bund, an auxiliary transformer and an emergency diesel generator. The construction of ten buildings on-site including one single-storey administration building (approximately 390sqm), one single storey ESB Substation building (approximately 32.5sqm), one single-storey workshop building (approximately 750.5sqm), one single storey water treatment plant building (approximately 104sqm), one covered fuel forwarding and unloading area (approximately 104sqm), one single-storey electrical control building (approximately 243.5sqm), one single storey gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25sqm), one single-storey boiler house kiosk (approximately 37sqm) including ten boiler flues (approximately 5.67m above ground level), one single-storey ancillary pressure reduction kiosk (approximately 21.7sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and a single-storey electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19sqm). The installation of five above-ground tanks including two banded fuel tanks (approximately 11.1m high), one fire and service water tank (approximately 13m high), one demineralised water tank (approximately 15.4 high) and one demineralised waste tank (approximately 5m high).

- b. Ancillary works including the provision of a new gated vehicular entrance from the L3103, the construction of an access road from the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant site entrance to the proposed new entrance on the L3103, the demolition of one farm outbuilding (in ruin), construction of internal circulation routes, hardstanding, security fencing (2.4m high), CCTV and gates, provision of a wastewater treatment system and associated underground wastewater storage tanks, drainage (foul and storm), soakaway retention pond, propane tank, underground firewater retention tanks, parking (12 no. spaces including mobility and EV Parking) and laydown area, 20 no. cycle parking spaces, landscaping and all ancillary on-site development works.
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Yours sincerely,



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McCutcheon Halley

An Taisce
Tailors' Hall
Back Lane
Dublin
D09 X2A3

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McCutcheon Halley

The Heritage Council
Áras na hOidhreachta
Church Lane
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R95 X264

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Yours sincerely,



Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

The Arts Council
70 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
D02 NY52

27th February 2026

Re: Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application by Bord Gáis Energy Limited on lands at Rathmorrissy and Pollnagroagh (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway.

Dear Sir / Madam,

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The proposed development will consist of:

- a. The construction of a proposed power plant which will comprise an open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) and generator with ancillary equipment including a 30m high stack and emissions monitoring unit, fuel storage and supply systems, cooling and air systems, compressed air and gas handling skids, a grid step-up transformer within a bund, an auxiliary transformer and an emergency diesel generator. The construction of ten buildings on-site including one single-storey administration building (approximately 390sqm), one single storey ESB Substation building (approximately 32.5sqm), one single-storey workshop building (approximately 750.5sqm), one single storey water treatment plant building (approximately 104sqm), one covered fuel forwarding and unloading area (approximately 104sqm), one single-storey electrical control building (approximately 243.5sqm), one single storey gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25sqm), one single-storey boiler house kiosk (approximately 37sqm) including ten boiler flues (approximately 5.67m above ground level), one single-storey ancillary pressure reduction kiosk (approximately 21.7sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and a single-storey electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19sqm). The installation of five above-ground tanks including two banded fuel tanks (approximately 11.1m high), one fire and service water tank (approximately 13m high), one demineralised water tank (approximately 15.4 high) and one demineralised waste tank (approximately 5m high).

- b. Ancillary works including the provision of a new gated vehicular entrance from the L3103, the construction of an access road from the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant site entrance to the proposed new entrance on the L3103, the demolition of one farm outbuilding (in ruin), construction of internal circulation routes, hardstanding, security fencing (2.4m high), CCTV and gates, provision of a wastewater treatment system and associated underground wastewater storage tanks, drainage (foul and storm), soakaway retention pond, propane tank, underground firewater retention tanks, parking (12 no. spaces including mobility and EV Parking) and laydown area, 20 no. cycle parking spaces, landscaping and all ancillary on-site development works.
- c. The construction of a Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) above ground pressure regulating installation, known as an Above Ground Installation (AGI). The AGI (named Rathmorrissy AGI) will connect to the mains transmission gas network which exists within the site. The AGI infrastructure will occupy an enclosed area of approximately 2,500 sq.m. It encompasses five single-storey buildings: a gas analyser kiosk (approximately 6.25 sqm), a boiler house kiosk (approximately 37 sqm) including ten boiler flues approximately 5.67m above ground level and emergency generator, two pressure reduction kiosks – main kiosk (approximately 72 sqm) including nine vents (approximately 5.24m high), and ancillary kiosk (approximately 21.7 sqm) including four vents (approximately 3.72m high) and an electrical and instrumentation kiosk (approximately 19 sqm). Ancillary infrastructure will include a gas meter, filters, heat exchangers, and above-ground pipework. The compound will include lighting, 3 no. parking spaces, internal circulation routes, concrete bases to support the infrastructure, and stone-chipped surfacing. It will be secured by an approximately 2.4 m high fence with an access gate.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

In addition to the above outlined proposed development, the “project”, subject of the EIAR and NIS, includes the above proposed development and the construction of a 220kV substation compound within the Cashla Peaker Plant site and the construction an underground grid connection route from the proposed ESB Substation in the Cashla Peaker Plant Site to the Cashla 220kV Substation located across the townlands of Rathmorrissy, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark, Cashla, Athenry, Co. Galway. The grid connection route traverses approximately 8.1km including along the L7109, L71093, L7108 and L3103 roads. The substation and grid connection will be subject to a separate Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála. It is noted that the project, subject of the EIAR and NIS, also includes the connection to the existing mains gas network (Mayo–Galway pipeline (BGE/85)) which will be undertaken via a new transmission pipeline (named GNI146) located within the townland of Rathmorrissy, Athenry, Co. Galway. A separate application to obtain approval for the GNI146 gas pipeline will be submitted under section 39A of the Gas Act 1976, as amended. It is anticipated that the substation, grid connection, AGI and gas connection will remain part of the national infrastructure and are not subject to the 2050 operational life end proposed for the Cashla Peaker Plant.

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Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

Failte Ireland
88 - 95 Amiens Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 WR86

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Paula Galvin

McCutcheon Halley

Health Service Executive
Dr. Steevens' Hospital,
Steeven's Lane,
Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8

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