

Anne Monaghan,
Rosebury
Athenry
Co Galway
H65 WP23

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Planning Reference No 324113

Project Name: Cashla Peaker Power Plant, Cashla, Athenry, Co Galway

Date: 20/04/2026

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing as a resident of Moanbaun, Athenry to formally object to the proposed construction of a peaker power plant at Cashla, Athenry. I live in very close proximity to the proposed site, along with my partner, family, and pets. We are an active household who regularly participate in outdoor sports and recreation, including walking, running, and Gaelic games. The quality of our local environment—its clean air, open green space, and safety—is fundamental to our daily lives and wellbeing. Especially as all 3 of my children have asthma and eczema so it's imperative the air they breathe is not impacted with pollutants. I believe it should not be built for the following reasons:

1. Proximity and Direct Impact

Our home lies within 3 kilometres of the proposed site. This proximity places us directly within the area most likely to experience adverse effects from the plant's operations. These include:

- **Air quality degradation** from nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and particulate matter emissions.
- **Noise pollution**, particularly from turbines, generators, and cooling systems, which can disrupt sleep, affect concentration, and diminish quality of life.
- **Visual intrusion** that changes the landscape character of our community and may lower property values.
- **Unsafe Traffic Intrusion**, our roads are not equipped to deal with additional traffic let alone heavy articulated vehicles such as Lorries. Our roads are narrow with no suitable lay byes to facilitate safely of such vehicles with other traffic. Not to mention the additional pollution this will add. We walk daily 5-8 km within this area with our 3 dogs. The peaker plant with both air pollution and increased volume of heavy vehicles would make this impossible.

2. Health and Environmental Concerns

We are deeply concerned about the **short- and long-term health consequences** of locating a fossil-fuel-powered plant so close to homes, schools, and recreational areas. Numerous studies show that communities near peaker or gas plants experience higher rates of:

- Respiratory illnesses such as asthma and bronchitis
- Cardiovascular diseases linked to air pollution exposure
- Increased hospital admissions on high-emission days
- Documented reduced life expectancy and elevated disease rates from a Peaker Plant facility in Pittsfield, Massachusetts USA

Children, older adults, and pets are especially vulnerable to these pollutants. As a family that spends significant time outdoors—walking, running, and playing GAA—the increased exposure to pollutants is of grave concern to us.

Additionally, the increase in traffic volume of heavy vehicles will hinder the safety of our community young and old, from their right to exercise. Walking, cycling & running will no longer be an option. Physical exercise is essential across all ages, it supports both physical and mental health, reducing the risk of chronic conditions, improving resilience and recovery outcomes when individuals face illness.

The proposed development also undermines Ireland's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning toward renewable energy sources. Building new fossil-fuel infrastructure now is inconsistent with national climate goals and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

3. Cumulative and Community Impact

The cumulative environmental burden is significant, and the addition of a peaker plant would further degrade air quality, contribute to noise, and reduce the appeal of the area for families and wildlife alike.

Local residents have invested their lives, finances, and futures into this community on the understanding that it is a safe and healthy environment. Approving this plant would compromise that trust.

4. Alternatives and Future-Oriented Planning

Ireland and the EU are moving rapidly toward renewable and community-based energy systems. Instead of locking us into decades of fossil fuel use, resources should be directed toward:

- Battery energy storage systems (BESS)
- Demand-response technology
- Local renewable generation such as wind and solar

These solutions provide grid stability **without endangering public health or the environment.**

In summary, **this proposal is contrary to the principles of environmental justice, public health protection, and sustainable development.** It places an undue burden on local residents for the benefit of short-term energy supply measures.

For the sake of our health, our children's future, our pets, and our community's wellbeing, I respectfully urge the planning authority to **refuse** permission for the proposed peaker plant and instead pursue cleaner, more sustainable alternatives.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Monaghan

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