

Caroline Mc Garr

14 Fernhill

Athenry

H65HF54

Re : Planning reference number 324113

Project name: Cashla Peaker Power Plant Athenry.

I am a Health care professional working in The HSE West Merlin Park university Hospital. Among other disciplines it is the Respiratory hospital for the west of Ireland .As such I am in a favourable Position of knowledge to object to the installation of a Peaker plant in such close proximity to Athenry Town. The installation of this Peaker plant capable of burning fossil fuels cannot go ahead based the on overwhelming evidence provided in international studies of the effects that emissions from these plants have to the Health of those living in close proximity. As a Radiographer for 26 years, I have a great knowledge and extensive experience of the lifelong debilitating effects that Chronic conditions such as Asthma, Chronic obstructive Airways disease and Lung cancer\_has on adults and paediatric patients.

The evidence is very clear coming from the poorer socioeconomic areas in The USA where Peaker plants were located near towns. In its publication on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2022 , the clean energy group states More that 4.4 million people in Urban areas in the united states live near a Peaker Power Plant and are directly exposed to to Peaker emmissions . Long term exposure to Peaker emissions such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter can cause Asthma ,Alzheimers Heart disease kidney disease miscarriages etc. ([www.cleanegroup.org](http://www.cleanegroup.org))

The US Government Accountability Office published an article on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 with information on peak demand power plants. It states:

“ Peaker , and other plants, emit multiple pollutants associated with various negative health effects for the people exposed, according to the EPA data and Gao’s review of selected studies. For instance, Short term exposure to Sulphur dioxide, which Peaker plants emit, can lead to harmful Respiratory effects such as decreased lung function, cough chest tightness and throat irritation. “

The American lung association ([www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org)) states:

“ The burning of fossil fuels like oil, gas and Coal at power plants emits a host of harmful pollution .....Burning other fuels in power plants besides fossil fuels, such as biomass or trash ,produces harmful emissions too.”

A case study was published by the faculty of Agriculture in the Naresuan University Phitsanulok , Thailand. In their findings, they concluded that residents who lived close to the plants reported a very high incidence of various respiratory diseases and symptoms not seen in those residing further

away. (International Journal of Occupational medicine and environmental health 2013;26(5):813-821.)

The Cashla Peaker plant is capable of burning fossil fuels. The regulation governing the extraction and burning of Fossil fuels in Ireland is dismal. One has only to look at the EPA's recent publication relating to large scale illegal extraction of peat exploitation in Ireland to the value of 40 million. The extraction and use of fossil fuels is basically unregulated in Ireland. As such the private company can in theory burn any harmful substance with next to no regulation.

The medical evidence is very transparent and plentiful. Should the Peaker plant be installed, you cannot claim nonfeasance at a future date when there is an increase in the above chronic medical conditions in the thousands of children who attend Athenry schools every day.

The installation of a Peaker plant in such close proximity to Athenry is equivalent to handing our Children cigarettes and forcing them to smoke.

Mise le meas,

Caroline Mc Garr,

Radiographer Merlin Park Hospital.