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An Comisiun Pleanála.
64 Marlborough Street,
Rotunda
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RE; Planning Referecne Number 324113

Project Name; Cashla Peaker Power Plant Athenry.

Date; 16th April 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Athenry and believe the proposed Cashla Gas and Diesel Power Plant should not be built for the following reasons, I have lived in this area my whole life and have recently built close by the proposed location of the new Power Plant. We hope to raise our family without the concern of air pollution, water contamination and Climate Impact. This Power Plant is not necessary or needed in the area and especially beside residents and multiple schools. Please see below for more factual information supporting these concerns.

Cumulative Health Impacts Over Time

The intermittent but high-intensity operation of a peaker plant, combined with periodic diesel use, can result in repeated short-term spikes in air pollution. While individual emission events may appear limited in duration, repeated exposure over time (until at least 2050) creates a cumulative health burden. Pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and

fine particulate matter can worsen asthma, trigger respiratory symptoms, and contribute to long-term health impacts, including chronic respiratory disease and cardiovascular conditions. The cumulative effect of these emissions over the operational lifespan of the development has not been fully assessed, particularly in relation to long-term exposure pathways and sensitive populations living nearby.

Long-Term Accumulation of Pollutants and Chemical Residues

The presence of diesel storage tanks, hardstanding areas, drainage systems, and associated infrastructure increases the risk of pollutants entering soil and groundwater over time (until at least 2050). Hydrocarbons (pollutants from gas, diesel) and chemical residues may accumulate gradually, particularly where there are repeated minor leaks, operational losses, or accidental discharges. These impacts may not be immediately visible but can result in long-term degradation of groundwater quality and soil health, affecting both environmental protection and agricultural productivity.

Exposure During Daily Activities and School Times

Children living or attending school near the site may be exposed to elevated air pollution during peak operation periods, which may coincide with times when children are outdoors, including school drop-off, break times, and after-school activities. During physical activity, children breathe more rapidly, increasing their intake of pollutants. This raises concerns about repeated exposure to harmful emissions during critical stages of development.

Cumulative Impact on Child's Development

Fine particulate matter can travel significant distances and accumulate over time, meaning children may be exposed not only during peak events but also through repeated low-level exposure. The cumulative effect of these exposures is particularly concerning during key stages of physical development, where long-term impacts on lung function and overall health may arise.

Lack of Worst-Case Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment relies on assumed operational scenarios rather than assessing worst-case conditions. Given that the plant will operate in response to electricity demand, there is no certainty regarding how frequently or intensively it will operate. This includes diesel use, which may result in higher emissions than those modelled. In the absence of a robust worst-case assessment, it cannot be concluded that significant environmental impacts will not occur.

Protection of Community, Health, and Environment

This proposal raises real and valid concerns for people, public health, agriculture, and the local environment. The complexity of the documentation and limitations in community engagement have made it difficult for the public to fully participate in the decision-making process. Communities should not be exposed to uncertain and potentially significant environmental impacts. I strongly urge that planning permission is not granted.

Yours Sincerely,

Conor Lane