

Hanna Kavaleva

Creeva House,
Knocknacreeva,
Athenry,
Co. Galway
H65 NR29

14th April 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála

Strategic Infrastructure Developments,
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, D01 V902

Formal Objection — Cashla Peaker Plant, located in Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, Athenry, Co. Galway

Planning Reference: PA07.324113

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Ltd

1. My Situation

My name is Hanna Kavaleva. I am a long-term tenant living approximately 700 metres from the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant site, in the Athenry area of Co. Galway. I have made my home here. I have a two-year-old child. I intend to raise my family in this community, and I had every expectation that this would be a safe, healthy, and settled place in which to do so.

I am submitting this objection because the proposed development — a 334 MW gas turbine and diesel storage facility classified as a major hazard establishment under the Seveso III Directive — directly threatens the quality of life, the health environment, and the long-term safety of my home and my child. I ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to hear this objection not as a technical submission, but as the voice of a parent who will live 700 metres from this facility for years to come.

2. A Young Child and Air Quality

My child is two years old. Children are significantly more vulnerable to air pollution than adults. Their lungs are still developing, they breathe more air relative to their body weight, and they spend more time outdoors. The health impacts of early-life exposure to diesel particulates, NOx, and combustion by-products are well established in the scientific literature — including increased risk of respiratory illness, reduced lung development, and longer-term cardiovascular effects.

The proposed plant will burn natural gas continuously and diesel fuel during mandatory testing — confirmed at a minimum of 18 hours per year under EirGrid Grid Code requirements — and potentially far more during gas supply interruptions over a 24-year operating life. The plant's exhaust emissions will disperse under prevailing westerly winds toward the residential areas of Athenry, including my home. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not present a separate health impact assessment for sensitive receptors such as young children living within 700 metres of the site. That omission is not acceptable to me as a parent.

3. Living Next to a Major Hazard Establishment

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will store between 5,470 and 6,003 tonnes of diesel fuel — well above the threshold that triggers classification as a lower-tier COMAH establishment under the Seveso III Directive. This means the State formally recognises the potential for a major accident at this site involving the release of hazardous substances.

I was not consulted about this. I was not asked whether I was comfortable raising my child 700 metres from a Seveso-classified facility. The planning process is the only opportunity I have to register my objection, and I am doing so clearly: I do not accept that this is an appropriate location for a major hazard establishment in a populated residential area, and I do not accept that the risks to my family and my neighbours have been adequately assessed or disclosed.

The applicant's own COMAH Report, at Appendix B Figure B-120, models a scenario in which a tank rupture causes diesel bund overtopping and a pool fire extending off-site to the east. I live to the east of this site. The consequence zones modelled in that scenario extend approximately 120 metres beyond the site boundary. The societal risk calculation in the COMAH Report — an Expectation Value of 1.277 — cannot be independently verified because the full receptor inventory has not been published. I do not know whether my home and my child have been counted. I should not have to wonder.

4. The Right to a Settled Family Home

I am a long-term tenant. I have built my life here. The Athenry area is a growing community — families are putting down roots, children are attending local schools, and people are choosing to live here because it is a good place to raise a family. The proposed Peaker Plant is not compatible with that vision. A permanently lit, operational industrial facility visible from our homes, emitting exhaust gases, storing thousands of tonnes of diesel fuel, and classified as a major hazard site, will change the character of this community in ways that cannot be undone once planning permission is granted.

I intend to have more children. I intend to remain in this community. The decision An Coimisiún Pleanála makes on this application will shape the environment in which my family grows up. I ask that this be weighed seriously.

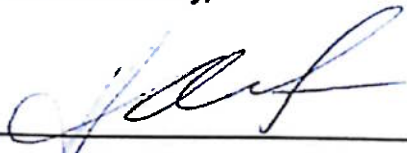
5. My Grounds for Objection

I formally object to the grant of planning permission on the following grounds:

- The proposed development is a COMAH-classified major hazard establishment located 700 metres from my family home. The risks to residents, and in particular to young children, have not been adequately assessed;
- The air quality assessment does not include a specific health impact assessment for sensitive receptors — including infants and young children — living within close proximity of the site;
- The COMAH consequence modelling includes an off-site pool fire scenario to the east of the site, in the direction of residential properties including my home, and the receptor inventory underpinning the societal risk calculation has not been made available for public scrutiny;
- The development will permanently alter the residential character of this area and is incompatible with the settled family community that has grown up around Athenry;
- A 334 MW fossil fuel installation operating until 2050 is contrary to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and Ireland's binding climate obligations, as confirmed by recent Supreme Court jurisprudence.

I reserve the right to make further submissions and to be represented at any oral hearing convened by An Coimisiún Pleanála in connection with this application.

Yours sincerely,

 Hanna Kavaleva assessment for s
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Hanna Kavaleva

Long-Term Resident, Athenry, Co. Galway

16 April 2026
