

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION Case Reference: 324113

John & Helen Harty,
Castlelambert
Athenry
Co Galway
H65PW83

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Dare April 20 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) and generator with ancillary equipment.

Location: Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

To whom it may concern,

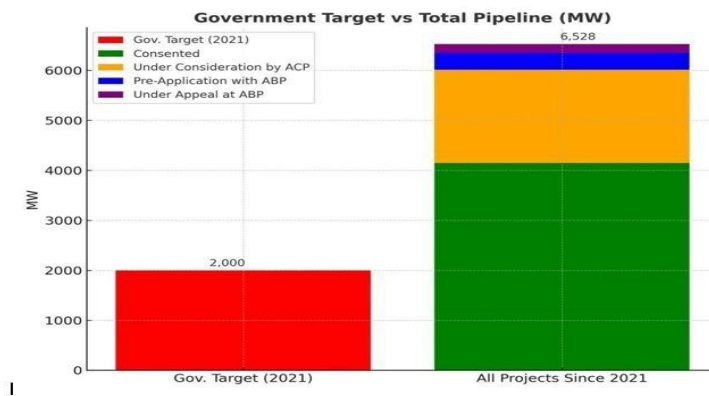
We live close to the proposed plant, which is planned for the middle of the countryside. Over the years, our home has been adjacent to major infrastructure projects in the area, including the gas pipeline, the East–West Motorway, and the North–South Motorway. We never objected to these projects, as they were government-supported, needed for the good of the country, and intended to enhance and improve national infrastructure.

However, we do not believe this proposed peaker plant is required, as Ireland has already met—and surpassed—the targets for peaker plants.

The National Development Plan 2021–2030 sets out a plan to increase gas-fired electricity generation by 2 GW.

Since that plan was published, approximately 4 GW of plants have been approved, with a further 2.5 GW in planning or appeal. The stated target has therefore been well surpassed.

At the time, it was expected that 4–7 plants would be built to meet this target. In total, 17 individual plants have been granted permission. See Figure below:



We understand that the location of this plant is being driven largely by land availability—specifically, the nearest landowner to the power station and gas line, who is willing to sell. We believe this approach is grossly unfair to the residents who live nearby and rely on the local road network on a daily basis.

The proposed peaker plant would be the largest of its kind in Ireland and would be situated beside the fastest-growing town in the west of Ireland.

Both of us have had health problems throughout our lives, and we now fear for not only ourselves but also our grandchildren if this plant is built.

Air pollutants associated with gas- and diesel-fired generation are linked to:

- Asthma attacks and worsening lung conditions
- Reduced lung growth in children
- Higher risk of heart disease and stroke
- Increased hospital admissions
- Most at risk: children, elderly, anyone with asthma, heart or lung conditions.

Research on similar plants in the U.S. has found higher rates of childhood asthma and increased emergency hospital visits—even where plants operate infrequently. Proximity to the plant is a key risk factor.

The proposed site sits on vulnerable karst limestone geology. A spill from the on-site diesel storage (6.2 million litres) could contaminate private wells and local water sources and would be extremely difficult to remediate.

There are six schools within close proximity of the proposed site. Children—especially those with asthma—are among the most vulnerable to air pollution. In addition, HGV traffic on the L3103 would create serious road safety risks for children. Annual diesel testing would also release harmful fumes near schools, while noise and pollution may affect children’s health and learning.

For the reasons above, we ask the planning authority to refuse permission for this development, or at minimum to require a full and transparent assessment of health impacts, traffic and road safety impacts, noise impacts, and risks to groundwater and private wells.

Yours faithfully,

John & Helen Harty