# OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

## Case Reference: 324113

Karina Finn

Bushfield

Oranmore

Galway

H91 P2XD

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 23 April 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

Dear Sir/Madam,

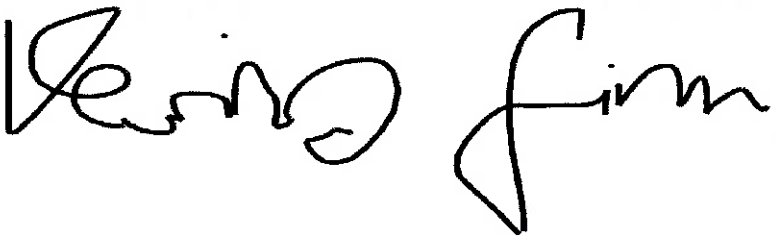
I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of the Cashla peaker plant on land in close neighbourhood to my fields.

A primary concern relates to the levelling and alteration of the site's natural topography. Significant groundworks can disrupt established hydrological pathways, including overland flow routes, infiltration rates, and subsurface drainage patterns. The compaction of soils and the introduction of impermeable or semi-impermeable surfaces may increase surface runoff coefficients and reduce natural attenuation. These changes can alter the local catchment's hydrological response, potentially redirecting flow toward adjacent lower-lying land. As my field lies within this receiving landscape, there is a credible risk of increased waterlogging and flood incidence, particularly during high rainfall events.

In addition, the proximity of a diesel-fuelled plant to grazing land presents a scientifically grounded concern regarding pollutant transfer through the food chain. Diesel combustion is known to emit nitrogen oxides (NO"), sulphur dioxide (SO2), particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), and tra aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals. These substances can undergo atmospheric deposition onto surrounding soils and vegetation. Once deposited, certain compounds may persist or bioaccumulate, becoming incorporated into pasture biomass. Grazing livestock may ingest these contaminants, leading to

potential bioaccumulation within animal tissues and subsequent transfer into dairy and meat products. This pathway raises legitimate concerns regarding both animal health and downstream food safety.
The land in question also supports notable biodiversity features, functioning as a semi-natural habitat within the local ecological network. While a biodiversity management plan has been proposed, there are well-documented challenges associated with implementing effective mitigation and enhancement measures in active construction and operational environments. Habitat disturbance, soil stripping, and machinery movement can lead to fragmentation, loss of microhabitats, and disruption of ecological connectivity. Furthermore, artificial lighting during construction and operation can introduce light pollution, which is known to affect circadian rhythms, foraging behaviour, and reproductive cycles in nocturnal and crepuscular species. These impacts may significantly reduce the ecological integrity of the site despite planned mitigation efforts. For these reasons, I strongly urge that the hydrological risks, pollutant pathways affecting agricultural systems, and the ecological limitations of biodiversity mitigation be rigorously assessed before any decision is made.
Yours sincerely,
Karina Finn

Yours Sincerely,



Name: Karina Finn
Date: 23 April 2026