

62 Gort na Ri,  
Raheen,  
Athenry,  
Co. Galway  
14/4/2026

REF: PA07.324113

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly object to the Cashla Peaker Plant at Pollinagroagh and Rathmorrissety for the following reasons:

1. The quality of our air determines our health. The air we breathe in Athenry and Galway city is unfortunately already polluted. We have gridlock many days due to traffic congestion. I live at the entrance to a housing estate, and every year I have to power wash the garden walls because they are covered in dirty black pollution which comes from burning fossil fuels as cars leave the estate. Much pollution is generated before a catalytic converter heats up. The same black debris that covers the walls is already inside our lungs, it is already causing respiratory issues. Invisibly. We do not need any more fossil fuels being burned. Nobody deserves to have breathing problems, asthma, bronchitis, cardiovascular issues, nerve damage, metabolism issues or premature death. No unborn child deserves to be put at risk. Our young children are at particular risk as their young bodies have not yet developed and are not strong enough to prevent them from such toxicity. The rate of respiratory illnesses are already rising among children in Ireland. We have 2 large primary schools and 3 Secondary Schools in Athenry town alone. There are many more schools in the surrounding areas. All of these children will be affected. As a mother of two young children, I am very concerned for their health. As old age approaches for all of us, I am also very concerned for my own health and that of my family. As we age, the wear and tear causes our bodies to deteriorate, which makes us all much more susceptible to illness.  
Please study with detail the effects of hazardous wastes especially those produced from burning gas, before voting on this proposal.

2. Our hospital waiting list currently has over 8,000 patients waiting for treatment. We already have a 2 to 3 week waiting period to visit a GP at the moment in Athenry. Personally, I know 2 people who were misdiagnosed lately by their GP. Both ended up in hospital, one needed an ambulance. Thankfully both survived. Our GP's, doctors, nurses and medical staff already have a huge workload. They deserve our respect. Speak to some GPs in your area and ask them about their workload before voting on this proposal.
3. Our local emergency services are quite simply not adequately equipped to fight a fire of the magnitude that could occur here. Please speak to them to get their first hand knowledge before voting on this proposal.
4. The water and soil pollution that will occur from the fumes of burning gas that finally settle will cause untold damage to our food supply and ultimately to ourselves. It may also affect crop yield. So much of our food is already contaminated with pesticides and chemicals that people have to buy "Organic" food simply to protect their health from the side effects of eating contaminated food. Please speak to a naturopath or medical specialist about the effects that eating polluted food has on our bodies.
5. I have heard that this plant is only 35% efficient. I am extremely concerned about where the other 65% of energy could be wasted? If it will be wasted as heat energy, this will cause further global warming. Many homes have already suffered enough lately with serious storms and flooding in Galway. We had part of our roof, at the side of our house, blown completely off last year. The insurance company didn't even visit us, they had that many claims. They just asked us to send a photo. We do not need any more storms.  
If it is being wasted as noise energy, then this will cause high levels of stress for the many residents living in the area. Stress causes major health issues and indeed is a silent killer.
6. I am also concerned about the large HGVs that would be needed to service this plant along L3103. As a member of the residents association here, I have been part of a group that have already contacted our county council representatives about putting speed bumps near the entrance to our road, L3105, which is parallel to L3103. Cars are getting bigger and speed is already an issue in Athenry. We didn't get speed bumps, but only last month, a speed monitor was installed. I can already

see that cars have slowed down significantly. I would be very concerned for the safety of the pedestrians and cars along L3103.

7. Our Department of Education have recently added a new subject for Leaving Certificate students called Climate Action. It is that important! Our peat production plants are closed in Ireland. New houses do not have chimneys in them. For good reason. Allowing a massive peaker plant burning fossil fuels flies in the face of what we are teaching our young people. In Ireland we only have approximately 50% of our electricity being produced from recyclable methods. There needs to be a much greater investment in renewable energy before the devastating and reckless notion of building a new gas plant is even considered. Our young people deserve to be led by a good example. They deserve to be able to have trust in their government. Please lead by example.
8. Finally, the plant itself will be an eye sore on our lovely "Fields of Athenry". We have a beautiful country. Let us protect it.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Daly.