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An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
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13 April 2026

Planning Application Reference Number: 324113

Subject: Submission on the Construction of an open-cycle gas turbine power plant, primarily fuelled by Natural Gas, Above Ground Installation and ancillary development

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

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I live in the townland of Carnaun with my husband and 2 young children with my home being 4km from the proposed application. My children attend a local primary school which is 3.4km from the proposed Peaker plant. My family and I chose to make our home in this area because of its clean air, safe environment, and strong sense of community. The development of a fossil-fuel peaker plant so close to our home threatens all of these qualities.

My concerns fall into several key areas:

1. Health and Air Quality Impacts

Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and even short-term spikes in emissions can have long-lasting effects on respiratory and cardiovascular health. A peaker plant, by its nature, operates during periods of high demand, often without warning. This means unpredictable bursts of emissions at times when families are going about their daily lives. Introducing a new source of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and other pollutants into a residential area is simply not compatible with safeguarding public health.

2. Noise Pollution and Quality of Life

The proposed plant will generate significant noise during operation, adding to the existing industrial burden already felt in the area. As a parent, I worry about the impact on sleep, stress levels, and general wellbeing for children and adults alike. Our community deserves an environment that supports healthy development, not one that exposes families to additional noise and disruption.

3. Climate and Environmental Concerns

At a time when Ireland is working to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and transition to cleaner energy sources, approving a new gas-fired peaker plant feels like a step backwards. This project risks locking the community into outdated infrastructure that contradicts national climate goals and undermines efforts to build a sustainable future for the next generation.

4. Proximity to Homes and Community Spaces

The location of the proposed plant is far too close to residential areas and places where children learn, play, and grow. Families should not have to worry about industrial hazards on their doorstep. The cumulative impact of existing infrastructure in the area has already stretched the limits of what is reasonable for a community to bear.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Planeala reject this application. Our community deserves development that supports health, safety, and long-term sustainability—not projects that compromise them.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Williams.