

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324113

Richie Brady- Butchers
Church Street
Athenry
Galway
H65 YH74

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 24 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,

My residence is 3.38km from the proposed site of the Cashla Peaker Plant (Athenry). Brady's Butchers has been in business since 1926, we have proudly served the people of Athenry and neighbouring townlands for 100 years. A lot has changed since we first opened our doors however the one constant that remains is our commitment to selling 100% Irish meat (locally sourced where possible). We are members of the Associated Craft Butchers of Ireland (ACBI) and all of our butchers are trained to the highest level and Brady's Butchers is one of only three affiliated members of the Certified Craft Butchers of Ireland Association in Co. Galway.

In addition to our family butcher, we are also one of the few butchers with an operating Abattoir to support our butcher. The Abattoir at Brady's Butchers is a tradition that dates back to the roots of the Brady family. The facility is EU approved which means we operate to the highest food processing standards and are regularly inspected and audited by the HSE and Department of Agriculture. The Abattoir is located onsite to the rear of our shop on Church Street. All meat processed by our skilled team of butchers is locally sourced – in fact, all beef and lamb processed and sold in our shop comes from a 10 mile radius. All our beef is grass-fed and is matured for a minimum of 28 days which ensures maximum tenderness and flavour, offering our customers a truly traceable experience from farm to fork. When learning about the Cashla

Peaker Plant proposed a few KMs from our business, we are extremely alarmed about this development, particularly as we are located East of the Proposed site, which means the prevailing winds blow towards our facilities. As mentioned above, we procure our meat for the Abattoir from local farm families within a 10KM radius of the shop, with the majority of our farmers animals potentially being effected by Air Pollution Deposition on the livestock that graze the on the local fields being exposed to, Nitrogen oxides (NOx) Particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10) Carbon monoxide (CO) Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) Heavy metals (trace amounts from combustion) Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) - known carcinogens, these pollutants will enter the animal body. Our meat products could be contaminated and there may not be any warning until contamination detected, this would have a huge impact on our livelihood. The additional risk of consumer concerns about food safety, the perception of "Meat from an area near fossil fuel power plant"

In addition to our concerns for the quality of our product, we also have major concern for our 16 fulltime employees that support our business, with the potential health risks these emissions may cause to their health also. Employees

Human Health & Air Pollution

Cumulative Health Impacts Over Time

I have serious concerns about how this proposed peaker plant would operate over time. Although it would run intermittently, it would do so at extremely high intensity, and the potential use of diesel adds to these concerns, as it could result in repeated short-term spikes in air pollution. While individual emission events may be brief, the fact that they could occur repeatedly over many years—potentially up to 2050—raises concerns about ongoing exposure and cumulative health impacts.

Pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter are known to worsen asthma, trigger respiratory symptoms, and contribute to long-term conditions including chronic respiratory and cardiovascular disease. This is particularly concerning for nearby residents, especially vulnerable groups such as children, older people, and those with existing health conditions. There is still uncertainty regarding whether the lasting and cumulative effects of these emissions have been fully studied, which leads to real concerns that continued exposure during the development's lifetime could affect public health and wellbeing in the future.

Farming & Agricultural Impact

Organic Farming

As a local organic farmer, I am very concerned about the potential impact this proposed peaker plant could have on my farm and others in the area. Organic farming is governed by strict European standards and requires high environmental quality, including keeping soil, crops, and water free from contamination. Airborne pollutants from the plant, particularly those linked to diesel such as nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter, could settle onto land and crops, posing a risk to organic certification even at low levels.

There are also concerns about contamination through water and soil pathways, including runoff or accidental spills from fuel storage. Organic farming relies on healthy soil, clean water, and a balanced ecosystem, and any disruption to these could undermine the integrity of production. The consequences of losing organic certification would be severe, including loss of premium markets, significant financial impacts, and a re-conversion period of up to two years. Overall, there is serious concern that this development poses a disproportionate and inadequately assessed risk to organic farming and sustainable livelihoods in the area.

Fire Safety & Major Accident Hazards

Major Accident Hazard and Regulatory Concerns

I am concerned about the potential for major accidents associated with this proposed development. A gas-fired peaker plant, combined with on-site fuel storage, introduces real risks, including fire, explosion, and the release of fuel. According to the requirements of the Seveso III Directive, any development involving hazardous substances must present clear evidence that relevant risks have been appropriately identified, assessed, and minimized. In this instance, it appears that full compliance may not have been achieved. Locally, there is concern regarding whether the probability and impact of serious incidents have been comprehensively evaluated or clearly demonstrated, which raises ongoing questions about the adequacy of risk management and the safety of nearby residents.

Community Engagement

Lack of Clear, Accessible, and Effective Communication

There are concerns that community engagement in relation to this project has been insufficient and ineffective. Many residents did not receive any direct communication or notification about the proposed development, and while some individuals report receiving a flyer or attending an information event, the material provided was highly technical and difficult to understand

without specialist knowledge. This limits meaningful public participation, as effective consultation requires information to be accessible, clearly explained, and actively communicated to all affected members of the community. In this case, the complexity and level of technical detail in the documentation creates a barrier to understanding, meaning that many people cannot fully assess the potential impacts of the development.

Diesel Use Not Fully Assessed or Limited

Diesel is used beyond emergencies, including routine tests and operations. This leads to extra emissions, odours, and environmental risks not fully covered by the Environmental Impact Assessment. The frequency and impact of diesel use are unclear, making the total environmental effect uncertain.

Conclusion – Protection of Community, Health, and Environment

This proposal presents important concerns regarding people, public health, agriculture, and the surrounding environment. Because the documentation is complex and community engagement has been limited, many individuals have found it challenging to take part in the decision-making process. Communities should not face uncertain or potentially substantial environmental risks. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that planning permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

Name: Richie Brady- Butchers

Date: 24 April 2026