



RATHMORRISSEY  
LODGE

## OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324113

Shauna Murray  
Rathmossissey  
Athenry  
Galway

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

Date: 09 April 2026

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

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

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

My residence is 550m from the proposed site of the Cashla Peaker Plant (Athenry).

I moved to my home in Rathmorrissety in 2009 and have lived here with our family since then. We have developed a thriving Horse breeding business over this period. This is a critical part of my livelihood to support my family. We have sold horses all over the world with one of our selling points being horses bred in the "Fields of Athenry". My children and I have worked extremely hard to build this business and we are extremely concerned with this proposed development. Our lodge is just 550 metres from the site and the volume of diesel and gas that will be burnt when the Peaker Plant is running give us grave concern and anxiety of what will be coming from the chimney stack. I learned from the planning application that there will be 3.5 Million litres of Diesel stored onsite, this apparently will cover 72 hours of running as a back up. How is it good for the environment to burn 48,000 litres of diesel per hour?

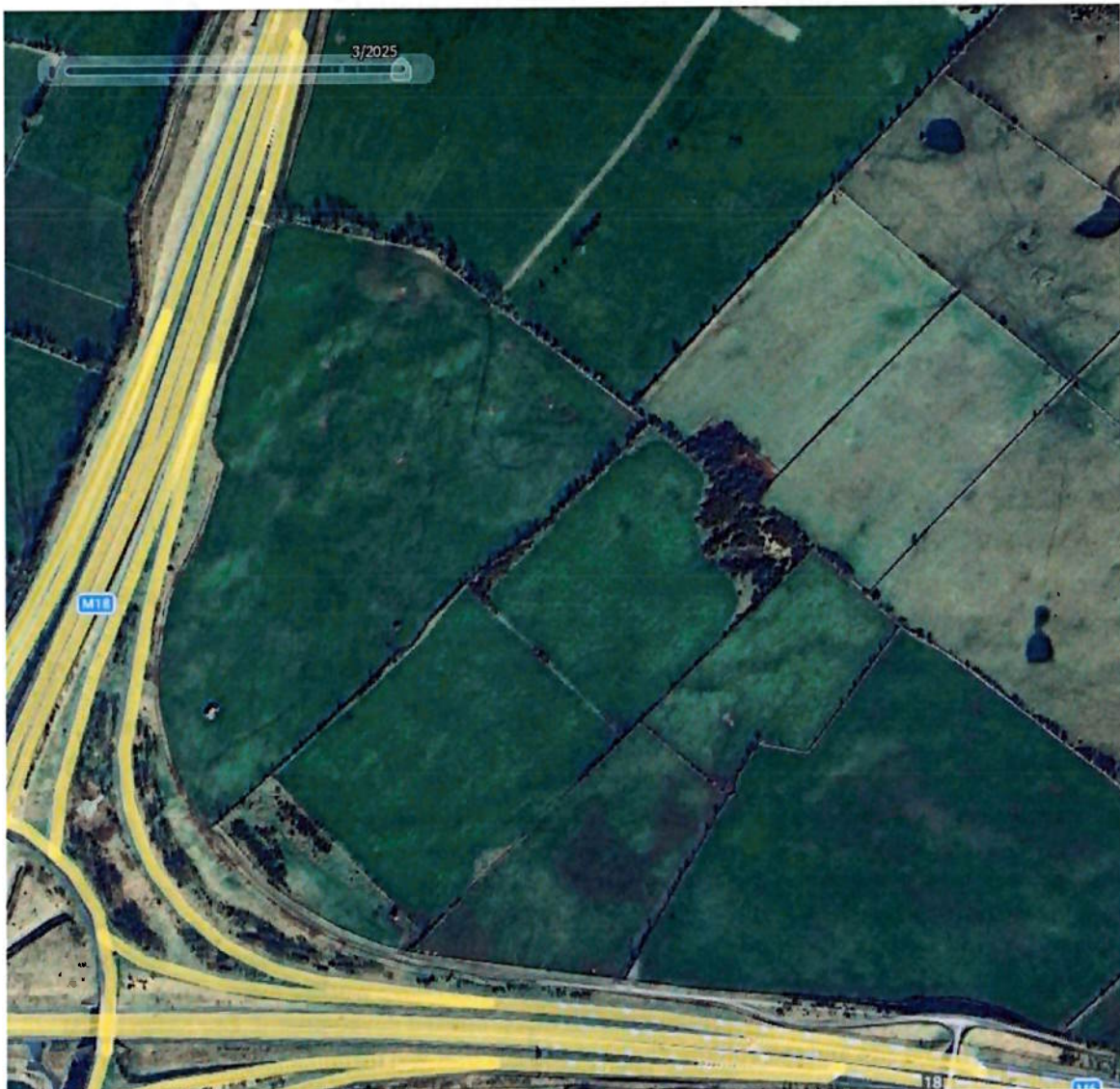
We have 20 acres of land support our business and we have worked very hard over the last 5 years to reduce emissions from Fertilizer while also adhering to Slurry Ban that is in place for the last 15

years or so. All this hard work to support the Environment will be in vain considering what will be emitted from this chimney stack.

Furthermore, we have an Autistic child that his surrounds in Nature and our horses are of grave importance to his life and his regulation. In the last year, we have also offered equine therapy to other children who also have Autism. As a mother, this has given me enormous satisfaction and has outweighed any financial gain we have got from our equine breeding business.

I fear if this development goes ahead, it will not just affect our business due to pollution, but also affect our family life we have built in a rural countryside. Since moving to the area, I am aware of the site where the plant is proposed and in the last 3 years the land has been reclaimed from a field with closed in bushes and furs that was rich with wildlife. We have observed Foxes, Badgers and various birds in this field and now it is a green pasture field. Any wildlife survey conducted since this reclamation, should be considered null and void as all burrows have been closed in.

See Below imagine from March 2025.



See below Imagine from 5 years earlier, March 2020.



## **🚰 Human Health & Air Pollution**

### **Public Health Protection**

Air pollution from a peaker plant can affect human health, particularly during peak operation periods when emissions are highest. The inclusion of diesel use introduces additional pollutants that are widely recognised as harmful and capable of long-range transport and accumulation in the environment. Given the uncertainty around operational frequency, emission levels, and long-term exposure patterns (until at least 2050), a precautionary approach should be applied to protect public health. In the absence of clear and robust evidence demonstrating that no significant harm will occur, the potential risks to human health should be given significant weight in planning decisions.

## **🚜 Farming & Agricultural Impact**

### **ACRES Compliance**

Farmers are required to meet strict environmental standards under schemes such as ACRES and nitrates derogation rules. If emissions, atmospheric deposition, or runoff from this peaker plant, including diesel-related pollutants, increase nitrate levels or environmental pressure, farmers could be pushed out of compliance through no fault of their own. As an ACRES farmer, any increase in

pollution linked to this development could directly affect compliance with scheme requirements, leading to penalties, financial loss, or exclusion from environmental programmes. This creates an unfair situation where farmers are held responsible for environmental impacts arising from activities beyond their control.

## **Children & Health**

### **Cumulative Impact on Child's Development**

Fine particulate matter can travel significant distances and accumulate over time, meaning children may be exposed not only during peak events but also through repeated low-level exposure. The cumulative effect of these exposures is particularly concerning during key stages of physical development, where long-term impacts on lung function and overall health may arise.

## **Visual Impact & Landscape**

### **Landscape Character and Policy Conflict**

The proposed development represents a significant industrial intrusion into a rural landscape characterised by agricultural land use and dispersed residential development. The scale, height, and industrial nature of the plant, including associated infrastructure such as buildings, stacks, lighting, and fuel storage, will fundamentally alter the character of the area. This type of development does not appear consistent with the existing landscape or its capacity to absorb such change. This raises concerns under Policies LCM1, LCM2 and LCM3 of the Galway County Development Plan, which require the protection of landscape character, sensitivity, and capacity, and seek to ensure that development is appropriate to its setting.

## **Climate Impact**

### **Underestimation of Operational Emissions**

The Environmental Impact Assessment may underestimate emissions associated with the development by relying on assumed operational patterns. As a demand-led facility, the plant may operate more frequently or for longer periods than predicted, particularly during periods of energy system stress. This creates uncertainty regarding total greenhouse gas emissions over time and raises concerns that the climate impact of the development has not been fully assessed.

## **Community Engagement**

### **Lack of Transparency, Inclusiveness, and Early Engagement**

I do not believe that consultation has been clear, inclusive, or effective. For a development of this scale and potential impact, there should have been proactive, transparent, and early engagement with the local community. This includes clear communication, accessible materials, and sufficient time for people to understand and respond to the proposal. The lack of meaningful engagement raises concerns regarding fairness, transparency, and the overall integrity of the planning process. Communities should not be placed at a disadvantage due to inaccessible information or limited consultation.

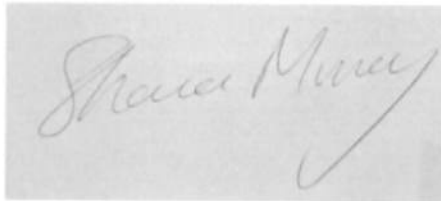
### **Option 4 – Diesel Use Not Fully Assessed or Limited**

Diesel use is not limited to emergency scenarios and may include routine testing and operational requirements. This introduces additional emissions, odours, and environmental risks that have not been fully assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment. The frequency and impact of diesel use remain unclear, creating uncertainty regarding the overall environmental impact of the development.

**Precautionary Refusal Based on Uncertainty and Risk**

The proposal raises significant concerns in relation to environmental protection, public health, farming, road safety, and community wellbeing. The level of uncertainty regarding operational frequency, diesel use, and cumulative impacts means that the development cannot be considered acceptable. In the absence of a complete and precautionary assessment, it cannot be concluded that significant environmental effects will not arise. I respectfully request that permission for this development be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shauna Murray".

Name: Shauna Murray

Date: 09 April 2026