



Maidir le: Iarratas Pleanála Uimh. 324113 – Moladh don Stáisiún Cumhachta Buaicuala (Peaker Plant) i gCashla, Baile Átha an Rí

A chara,

Is mian le Bord Bainistíochta Gaelscoil Riada aighneacht fhoirmiúil a dhéanamh maidir leis an bhforbairt atá molta don **Stáisiún Cumhachta Buaicuala** i gceantar Bhaile Átha an Rí.

Mar údarás scoile, tá dualgas reachtúil ar an mBord cúram a dhéanamh, a mhéid is indéanta go réasúnta, de shábháilteacht, de shláinte agus de leas gach dalta agus ball foirne.

1. Cosaint Sláinte Leanaí

Baineann an fhorbairt atá molta le Stáisiún Cumhachta Buaicuala a d'fheadfadh truailleáin aeir a scaoileadh amach, ina measc ocsaídí nítrigine (NOx), ábhar cáithníníeach, agus astaíochtaí eile a bhaineann le dó breosla. Tá baint ag na truailleáin seo le drochthionchar ar an gcóras riospráide agus ar an gcóras cardashoithíoch.

Aithnítear go forleathan go bhfuil leanaí i measc na ngrúpaí is leochaillí de dheasca a scamhóga atá fós ag forbairt, rátaí anáilithe níos airde, agus a leochaileacht i leith nochtá comhshaoil. Tá imní ar an mBord go bhféadfadh fiú astaíochtaí eatramhacha tionchar diúltach a imirt ar cháilíocht an aeir sa cheantar níos leithne.

2. Timpeallacht na Scoile agus Gníomhaíocht Lasmuigh

Cuireann ár scoil béim ar fhoghlaim lasmuigh, ar ghníomhaíocht choirp agus ar fholláine mar phríomhghnéithe den oideachas. D'fheadfadh aon mheath ar cháilíocht an aeir tionchar a imirt ar:

- súgradh lasmuigh agus spórt
- folláine ghinearálta na ndaltaí
- freastal agus torthaí sláinte

Cruthaíonn tabhairt isteach saoráid fuinnimh thionsclaíoch i ngar do thimpeallacht scoile ábhar mór imní maidir le hoiriúnacht an tsuímh.

3. Prionsabal an Réamhchúir

Cé go bhféadfaí a mhaíomh go gcomhlíonfaidh astaíochtaí teorainneacha rialála, tugann an Bord faoi deara nach gcuireann na teorainneacha sin deireadh leis an mbaol go hiomlán, go háirithe i gcás leanaí nó maidir le nochtadh carntha fadtéarmach.

De réir phrionsabal an réamhchúir, ba cheart forbairtí a bhféadfadh tionchar a bheith acu ar shláinte leanaí a mheas le cúram agus le haird ar leith.

4. Comhoiriúnacht le Suíomhanna Oideachais

Measann an Bord nach bhfuil suíomh stáisiún peaker bunaithe ar bhreosla iontaise i ngar do cheantair chónaithe agus oideachais comhoiriúnach le soláthar timpeallachta foghlama atá sábháilte agus sláintiúil.



Ba cheart crios cosanta a bheith ann timpeall ar scoileanna i leith forbairtí a d'fhéadfadh rioscaí sláinte comhshaoil a thabhairt isteach.

5. Dualgas Cúraim agus Oibleagáidí Cosanta Leanáí

Tá an Bord ar an eolas faoina oibleagáidí faoi reachtaíocht sláinte agus sábháilteachta agus faoi phrionsabail chosaint leanáí. Bheadh sé contrártha leis na dualgais sin tacú le forbairt, nó fanacht ina thost ina leith, a bhféadfadh impleachtaí sláinte comhshaoil a bheith aici.

Conclúid

I bhfianaise na n-imní atá leagtha amach thuas, iarrann Bord Bainistíochta na scoile go measúil go ndiúltófaí cead pleanála don fhorbairt atá beartaithe.

Fanann an Bord tiomanta do shláinte, d'fholláine agus do thimpeallacht oideachais gach dalta atá faoina chúram a chosaint.

Re: Planning Application Ref. 324113 – Proposed Cashla Peaker Plant, Athenry

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Board of Management of Gaelscoil Riada wishes to make a formal submission regarding the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant development in the Athenry area.

As a school authority, the Board has a statutory duty of care to ensure, insofar as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health, and wellbeing of all pupils and staff.

1. Protection of Children's Health

The proposed development involves a peaker plant which would emit air pollutants including nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter, and other combustion-related emissions. These pollutants are associated with adverse respiratory and cardiovascular effects.

Children are recognised as a particularly vulnerable group due to developing lungs, higher breathing rates, and increased susceptibility to environmental exposures. The Board is concerned that even intermittent emissions may negatively affect air quality in the wider area.

2. School Environment and Outdoor Activity

Our school promotes outdoor learning, physical activity, and wellbeing as core elements of education. Any degradation in air quality has the potential to impact:

- outdoor play and sports
- general student wellbeing
- attendance and health outcomes

The introduction of an industrial energy facility in proximity to a school environment raises serious concerns regarding the suitability of the location.



3. Precautionary Principle

While it may be asserted that emissions will comply with regulatory limits, the Board notes that such limits do not necessarily eliminate risk, particularly for children or in relation to cumulative and long-term exposure.

In line with the precautionary principle, developments with potential to impact child health should be approached with a high degree of caution.

4. Compatibility with Educational Settings

The Board considers that the siting of a fossil-fuel-based peaker plant near residential and educational settings is not compatible with the provision of a safe and healthy learning environment.

Schools should be afforded a protective buffer from developments that may introduce environmental health risks.

5. Duty of Care and Safeguarding Obligations

The Board is mindful of its obligations under health and safety legislation and child safeguarding principles. Supporting or remaining silent on a development with potential environmental health implications would be inconsistent with these responsibilities.

Conclusion

In light of the concerns outlined above, the Board of Management respectfully requests that planning permission for the proposed development be refused.

The Board remains committed to protecting the health, wellbeing, and educational environment of all pupils in its care.

Is mise le meas,

Brain Ó Maoilchiaráin

Cathaoirleach
Bord Bainistíochta
Gaelscoil Riada
Baile Átha an Rí