



FW: ACP-324113-26 for development by Bord Gais Energy Ltd HSA:034000000184

From Communications <communications@pleanala.ie>

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 1 attachment (351 KB)

ACP-324113-26 for development by Bord Gais Energy Ltd HSA response 22.04.2026.pdf;

From: Geoff Hynes <Geoff_Hynes@hsa.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 22 April 2026 12:48

To: Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>

Subject: ACP-324113-26 for development by Bord Gais Energy Ltd HSA:034000000184

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To whom it may concern,

Please see attached in relation to the above.

Regards,

Geoff Hynes

Inspector | CCPS Unit | Health & Safety Authority

Mobile: 087-6002298

Email: geoff_hynes@hsa.ie

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Metropolitan Building,
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An Coimisiun Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01V902

Our Ref: CAS-96385-L1P6

22/04/2026

Re: Planning Application ACP-324113-26 for development by Bord Gais Energy Ltd at Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy (Townlands), Athenry, Co Galway, & your letter of 31st March 2026

To whom it may concern,

The approach of the Health and Safety Authority (the Authority) to Land-use Planning is set out in the document 'Guidance on technical land-use planning advice'. It is available from our website at: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Chemicals/Legislation_Enforcement/COMAH/Land_Use_Planning/

The document should be consulted to fully understand the advice given in this letter.

In that context and the Authority remit, in respect of this specific application the following points are relevant:


1. The application is covered by Regulation 24(2) (a) of S.I. 209 of 2015.
2. Your attention is directed to the need to consult with the local authority emergency services on any potential impact on local access/egress arrangements, in the context of public behaviour in the event of an emergency and access for emergency services, generally and in relation to fire prevention and response issues.
3. On the basis of the information supplied, the Authority has determined that the siting criteria for new establishments **have been met** (see page 10, section 1.4 of above referenced guidance document). Accordingly the Authority **DOES NOT ADVISE AGAINST** the granting of planning permission in the context of major accident hazards.
4. Although our LUP advice is risk-based, it is the policy of the Authority to advise planning bodies of the consequences of worst case major accidents, so that they may take account of this information in their decision making.

Furthermore, although the risks are considered sufficiently low, there is a possibility of a major accident to the environment. External Emergency Plans by the local competent authorities should take account of these scenarios.

5. The advice given is only applicable to the specific circumstances of this proposal at this period of time. The assessment submitted, which formed the basis of the Authority's advice, specifies the particular dangerous substances that will be stored at this location. Changes to those substances or their location could alter that advice. Therefore, part of our technical advice to you is to impose conditions in this regard should you decide to grant planning permission.
6. Future development around COMAH establishments has the potential to impact on the expansion of those establishments.

If you have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Hynes
Inspector,
COMAH, Chemical Production & Storage (CCPS)

Encl: Note on the Approach of the HSA to the Provision of Land-use Planning Advice

Note on the Approach of the HSA to the Provision of Land-use Planning advice.

The Authority, acting as the Central Competent Authority under the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 209 of 2015), gives technical advice in response to a notice sent by a planning authority under Part 11 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2015. Under Regulation 24(2) of S.I. 209 of 2015, the technical advice on the effects of a proposed development on the risk or consequences of a major accident relates to the following types of developments within the consultation distance for an establishment:

- (a) the siting and development of new establishments;
- (b) modifications to establishments of the type described in Regulation 12(1);
- (c) new developments including transport routes, locations of public use and residential areas in the vicinity of establishments, where the siting, modifications or developments may be the source of, or increase the risk or consequences of, a major accident.

The advice given is for the purposes of assessing new development only. A full explanation of the Authority's Land Use Planning advice system can be found at https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Your_Industry/Chemicals/Legislation_Enforcement/COMAH/Land_Use_Planning/

Your attention is drawn to Regulation 24(3) of S.I. 209 of 2015:

(3) The technical advice provided by the Central Competent Authority to a planning authority pursuant to paragraph (2) may be generic or case specific in nature and shall be so formulated that it will assist the planning authority to take into account the need, in the long term—

- (a) to maintain appropriate safety distances between establishments covered by these Regulations and residential areas, buildings and areas of public use, recreational areas, and, as far as possible, major transport routes;*
- (b) to protect areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest in the vicinity of establishments, where appropriate through appropriate safety distances or other relevant measures; and*
- (c) for the operator to take additional technical measures, in the case of existing establishments, in accordance with Regulation 7, so as not to increase the risks to human health and the environment.*

In giving its advice the Authority does not deal with routine emissions. Such emissions will be subject to EPA or Local Authority scrutiny and control.

The operator of an establishment covered by S.I. 209 of 2015 is also required to take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents occurring and to limit the consequences of any such major accidents for human health and the environment