

An Coimisiún Pleanála

via online submittal

RE: Proposed Cahermurphy Grid Connection ACP

Application: 324156-26

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to object to the proposed Cahermurphy grid connection for the following reasons.

Having reviewed the application documents, EIAR, Natura Impact Statement and associated appendices, I do not believe the project has been properly or fully assessed. A recurring issue throughout the documentation is that major parts of the project are still described as “indicative”, “subject to agreement”, or liable to change depending on site conditions. In simple terms, the public and An Coimisiún Pleanála are being asked to assess and approve a project where important details are still undecided.

This is particularly concerning given the scale of the development, the length of the route, the number of watercourse crossings, the impacts on private lands, and the proximity to homes, heritage sites and environmentally sensitive areas.

One of the most serious concerns is that the exact route and location of infrastructure along the grid line is not fixed. The drawings and EIAR state that joint bays, HDD drilling locations and other infrastructure may change on site depending on conditions. This means it is not actually possible for nearby residents or landowners to know exactly where works will take place, how close they may be to homes or farmland, or what the long-term impacts may be.

There are also inconsistencies across the application documents. Different chapters describe different amounts of private land being affected and provide differing descriptions of the route and construction arrangements. This undermines confidence in the accuracy and reliability of the overall assessment.

Another major concern is the amount of information being deferred until after permission is granted. Important mitigation measures, traffic management arrangements, drainage details and ecological measures are all described as being subject to further agreement or future refinement. In my view, these matters should be clearly resolved before any decision is made, not afterwards.

The Natura Impact Statement also raises concern. The conclusion that there will be no adverse impact on European protected sites appears to rely heavily on future surveys, future mitigation and management plans that are not yet finalised. I do not believe this provides the level of certainty required for a project of this scale.

The impacts on landowners and nearby residents have also not been properly assessed. The application does not clearly identify easement widths, future restrictions on land use, or how the development may affect future house extensions, drainage, farming activity or access. Many

people along the route still do not know what restrictions may apply to their own property if this development proceeds.

Construction impacts also appear to be underestimated. The documents refer to significant road closures, diversions and a construction rate of approximately 100 metres per day, but there is no clear route-specific phasing plan showing how disruption to communities will actually be managed over the construction period.

I am also concerned about the interaction between the proposed cable route and flood-prone areas and watercourses. The application acknowledges that parts of the route pass through flood zones and cross rivers and streams, including the Creegh River and Doonbeg River. However, the assessment largely dismisses flood risk on the basis that the cable is underground. I do not believe this is sufficient, particularly given the scale of trenching and construction required.

There are also significant heritage concerns. The application identifies multiple archaeological and cultural heritage sites close to the route, including Recorded Monuments and protected heritage structures. Despite this, the approach relies heavily on monitoring and recording rather than avoiding impacts where possible.

Finally, I do not believe the application has provided sufficient transparency for the public. Certain appendices and information appear to be unavailable or marked private, despite forming part of the overall assessment documentation. This makes it difficult for affected residents and communities to fully understand the likely impacts of the development.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that permission for the proposed development be refused. At a minimum, I believe substantial further information is required before the project could be properly assessed.

Respectfully,

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