

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1, D01 V902

27 March 2026

**Re: S.182A Planning Application on behalf of Bord Gáis Energy Limited for proposed 220kV Substation and Grid Connection.**

A Chara,

In accordance with section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Bord Gáis Energy Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application for approval for the proposed development of a 220kV Electrical Substation on lands at Rathmorrissy (Townland), Athenry, Co. Galway and the construction an underground grid connection route from the proposed Electrical Substation to the existing Cashla 220kV Substation. The grid connection route traverses approximately 8.1km along the L7109, L71093, L7108 and L3103 roads and across the townlands of Rathmorrissy, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark, Cashla, Athenry, Co. Galway. The site area is 12.11 hectares

The application has been prepared following consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála under Case Ref: ACP-323874-25. All documentation required under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is enclosed.

The proposed development will consist of:

- a) The construction of a 4-bay 220kV electrical substation comprising of: one single-storey 220kV Air-Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation Building (approximately 388sqm) with welfare facilities, transformer, all associated electrical plant and apparatus, one telecommunication mast (approximately 36m high), security fencing, entrance gate, lighting, lightning masts, internal tracks, drainage (foul and storm), carparking (4 no. spaces), watermains and all ancillary works.
- b) The installation of 220kV underground electricity cabling connecting the proposed 220kV electrical substation to the existing Cashla 220kV substation within a trench, consisting of underground cabling and ducting, 10 no. joint bays and associated communication chambers and link boxes, 2 no. crossings of the M6 motorway and 1 no. crossing of the M17 motorway by way of horizontal directional drilling, and all associated site development and reinstatement works.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

The proposed development will facilitate the export of electrical energy from a proposed natural gas fuelled electricity generation peaking plant, the 'Cashla Peaker Plant' on lands at Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway which is the subject of a separate Strategic Infrastructure Development application to An Coimisiún Pleanála (Ref. ACP-324113-26) under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Cashla Peaker Plant relates to development for the purposes of an activity requiring an Industrial Emissions Licence from the Environmental Protection

Agency under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, as amended and also relates to a COMAH establishment and falls under the requirements of the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2015. It is noted that the “project”, subject of the EIAR and NIS, includes the Cashla Peaker Plant and Above-Ground Installation subject of the section 37E application (Ref. ACP-324113-26) and also includes the connection to the existing mains gas network (Mayo–Galway pipeline (BGE/85)) which will be undertaken via a new transmission pipeline (named GNI146) located within the townland of Rathmorrissy, Athenry, Co. Galway. A separate application to obtain approval for the GNI146 gas pipeline will be submitted under section 39A of the Gas Act 1976, as amended.

The prescribed fee of €100,000 was paid by EFT by Bord Gáis Energy Limited on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 with the EFT reference: REF-ACP-323874-2. This planning application is accompanied by two hard copies and eight electronic copies of the following plans and particulars:

1. This Cover Letter prepared by McCutcheon Halley Planning Consultants
2. Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application Form
  - a. Drawing Schedules
  - b. Schedule of Pre-Application Consultation
3. Press Notice - The Irish Independent
4. Press Notice – The Connacht Tribune
5. Site Notice (*on yellow background in accordance with Article 19(4) of the Planning and Development regulations, 2001 (as amended)*)
6. Prescribed Body Letters
  - a. Schedule of Consultees
  - b. Copy of Letters issued
7. Landowners Letters of Consent
8. Statutory Undertaker Letter of Consent
9. Planning Statement prepared by McCutcheon Halley
  1. Appendix 1: Opinion issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála under Case Ref: ACP-323874-25
  2. Appendix 2: Mason Hayes & Curran Letter
10. EIA Portal Notification
11. Stakeholder Engagement Report prepared by AtkinsRéalis
12. Natura Impact Statement prepared by AtkinsRéalis
13. Planning Application Drawings as detailed in the Drawing Schedules
14. EIAR prepared by AtkinsRéalis
  - a. Vol I – Non-Technical Summary
  - b. Vol II – Main Document
  - c. Vol III – Appendices

A GIS shapefile of the application boundary is included in the electronic copy of the application.

A standalone website containing all of the application documentation has been provided at: [www.cashlapeakerplantgrid.ie](http://www.cashlapeakerplantgrid.ie)

It is respectfully submitted that the Proposed Development is consistent with European, national and regional energy policy, accords with the Galway County Development Plan 2022–2028 and is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

We trust that the enclosed documentation provides sufficient information to enable a full assessment of the Proposed Development. Should any further clarification be required, we would be pleased to respond.

Yours faithfully,



Paula Galvin

**McCutcheon Halley Chartered Planning Consultants**