

Miss Ann Keary
Cloran,
Athenry,
Co. Galway.
H65Y640

26th May 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Observation/Objection to Planning Application
Cashla Peaker Plant Cable Route — Case Reference: ACP 324162

A Chara,

I wish to formally record my strong objection to the above-referenced planning application for the Cashla Peaker Plant Cable Route, being considered by An Coimisiún Pleanála. I am a resident of the local area directly affected by this proposed development and I ask that my observations be given full consideration.

1. Artificial Splitting of a Single Project into Two Planning Applications

I am deeply concerned and strongly opposed to the manner in which this overall development has been divided into two separate planning applications — one for the Cashla Peaker Plant itself and one for this cable route. This is clearly one single, integrated project and should have been assessed holistically as such.

An Coimisiún Pleanála should never have permitted this fragmentation of what is, in substance, a single strategic infrastructure development. This artificial split imposes significant additional costs on ordinary members of the public and community groups who wish to participate in the planning process, including increased professional and legal fees for the Athenry Peaker Plant Concern Group and individual objectors. It is fundamentally unfair and undermines the integrity of the planning system. I call on An Coimisiún Pleanála to take full account of the cumulative impacts of both applications when making any determination.

2. Unacceptable Road Closures and Community Disruption

The proposed closure of the Castlelambert–Lisheenkyle road for a period of up to six months is completely unacceptable and would cause severe disruption to the daily lives of residents in the area, including myself. Such a prolonged road closure would make ordinary journeys significantly longer and more difficult, placing unnecessary hardship on local families, elderly residents, farmers and commuters.

I occasionally work at Lisheenkyle National School, and I am deeply concerned about the impact that blocked roads and lengthy diversions will have on pupils, parents and staff. Access to a primary school must be protected, and any

development that puts children's safe and timely attendance at school at risk cannot be considered acceptable. The welfare of school-going children must be given the highest priority in any assessment of this application.

3. Public Health, Environmental and Climate Concerns

This cable route is an integral part of the broader Cashla Peaker Plant project, which I oppose in its entirety. The construction of a gas and diesel-fired power plant in the heart of our community will have a serious and lasting negative impact on the health of local residents. Air quality, noise pollution and emissions from such a facility are matters of grave concern, particularly for children, the elderly and those with existing respiratory conditions.

Furthermore, this development would lock our community and our country into a dependence on fossil fuels for decades to come, directly contrary to Ireland's climate commitments and the urgent need to transition to clean, renewable energy. Approving this application would be a step backwards at precisely the moment we need to be moving forward.

4. Visual Impact and Heritage of Athenry

Athenry is internationally renowned — its fields are among the most famous in Ireland, immortalised in song and cherished by our community and by Irish people across the world. The construction of a large industrial power plant with a 30-metre chimney stack on the outskirts of this historic town would be a visual monstrosity, visible to all who enter Athenry and entirely out of keeping with the character and heritage of the area.

The associated cable route infrastructure will compound this visual impact across a wide rural and heritage landscape. The cumulative visual and environmental effect of this project must be fully considered and I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission accordingly.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, I respectfully but firmly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for this application. This development, as part of the wider Cashla Peaker Plant project, is contrary to the interests of the local community, contrary to Ireland's climate obligations, and contrary to proper planning and sustainable development.

I trust that my observations will be given serious consideration.

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Miss Ann Keary
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