

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

enda morrissey

castlelambert

athenry

co galway

Galway

H65 A365

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 22 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

The route of the proposed pipeline is very intrusive to the local population with restriction to private property, agricultural land and schools. Additionally there is a significant health risk to the local population with restricted access to essential and emergency health services.

Given the location of the substation and the proposed location of the Peaker plant, there has to be a more efficient route and with significant less impact to the local community.

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have outlined my concerns regarding the proposed development

Disruption to Rural and Residential Communities Along Route

The proposed 8.1km underground cable route would pass through a number of established rural and residential communities, including Rathmorrissey, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East and Cashla. These are active farming and residential areas with homes, schools, farms and local businesses located along narrow rural roads. I am concerned about the level of disruption the proposed works would cause to residents, farms, local roads and daily community life.

Prolonged Trenching, Road Closures and HGV Traffic

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the impact prolonged trenching works, excavation, road occupation, traffic management systems and heavy construction traffic would have on narrow rural roads and the communities that rely on them daily. The application documentation confirms significant road closures, stop/go traffic systems and substantial HGV movements during construction, which could result in serious disruption and ongoing inconvenience for local residents and road users.

Inadequate Assessment of Disruption to Communities

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the effect prolonged trenching works, stop/go traffic systems, temporary road closures and traffic diversions would have on the normal functioning of local communities. I do not believe adequate assessment has been provided regarding the likely impact of prolonged disruption on residents, emergency access, school transport, farms and daily community movement, particularly given the scale of the proposed construction activity and associated HGV traffic on local roads including the L3103.

EMF Exposure and Long-Term Impact on Animal Health

I am also concerned that insufficient information has been provided regarding the possible long-term impact of major underground infrastructure and electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure on livestock and animal health in an active farming area. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged construction works, groundwater disturbance and underground infrastructure on farms and rural properties has not been fully addressed within the application.

Protection and Reinstatement of Mature Trees and Hedgerows

I do not believe sufficient information has been provided regarding how mature trees, hedgerows and root systems would be protected during construction works or how damaged vegetation would be reinstated afterwards. In my view, the long-term maintenance, stability and safety implications for roadside trees and boundary vegetation have not been adequately addressed.

Impact on Property Values and Investment Confidence

The proposed substation, underground cable infrastructure and associated development could negatively influence future residential development, land use potential and investment confidence within the area. As a resident/property owner in the area, I am concerned that the cumulative impact of this infrastructure could reduce the attractiveness of the locality for existing and future residents and adversely affect the long-term enjoyment, value and future use of nearby properties and landholdings.

Priority for Renewable and Lower-Carbon Alternatives

I believe greater priority should be given to renewable energy, energy storage and lower-carbon infrastructure

solutions rather than substantial long-term investment in infrastructure associated with fossil fuel generation. In my view, the proposed development raises concerns regarding consistency with future climate policy, sustainable development principles and Ireland's transition towards a lower-carbon energy system.

Insufficient Information on Cumulative Impact

In my view, local residents have not been provided with sufficient information regarding the cumulative impact of the wider project, including traffic disruption, prolonged construction activity, environmental impacts, road closures and long-term industrial infrastructure within established rural communities.

Residents and Landowners Not Individually Engaged

I am concerned that many residents, landowners and businesses affected by the proposed development were not individually engaged regarding the practical impact the project could have on homes, farms, local roads, property access and daily community life. No clear information appears to have been provided regarding issues such as noise, vibration, road closures, rock-breaking, groundwater impacts or future maintenance requirements.

Cannot Be Assessed in Isolation from the Wider Development

Although this application relates to grid connection infrastructure, I believe the proposed substation, mast and cable route cannot be properly assessed in isolation from the wider connected energy development to which it relates. The planning documentation does not adequately assess the combined and cumulative impact of the proposed infrastructure on the surrounding rural area, road network, residential amenity, agricultural activity and local environment in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I believe the proposed development would have significant adverse impacts on the local community, rural environment, farms, roads, groundwater conditions and surrounding residential areas. In my view, the application has not adequately demonstrated that the proposed development can proceed without unacceptable impacts on rural amenity, traffic safety, environmental protection and community wellbeing. I do not believe the proposal represents proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

Enda
Morrissey

Name: enda morrissey

Date: 22 May 2026