

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: VA07.324162

Eoin Kelly

Villette

Lisheenkyle

Athenry

Galway

H65 EF96

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 25 May 2026

Re: Observation to Planning Permission for a 220kV Substation and 220kV underground electricity cabling connection to the existing Cashla 220kV substation, Athenry.

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

My residence lies along the proposed route of the 220kV underground electricity cable on the L7108 in Lisheenkyle East. We are 1.86km from the proposed site of the new 220kV substation.

I grew up in Lisheenkyle and live here with my wife, son and elderly parents. My 8 year old son attends the local National School. Athenry is our local town and we go there almost on a daily basis for shopping, to attend our parish Church (I am a daily Mass goer), local sports clubs and the Primary Care Centre which both my Mum and son access. Now a high voltage electricity cable with significant associated concrete bunker constructions is proposed to be placed in our narrow local rural road. This proposed development will close our local road for months and probably much longer, denying our normal access to the town, forcing us to take a much longer route. Excavations work and the likely use of rock-breakers will pose a risk of damage to our home and boundary hedge. The proposed development will permanently leave a dangerous high voltage electricity cable passing by our home, affecting all further local development, and exposing us to on-going levels of background electro-magnetic radiation with associated health risks.

Long-term impacts

I am concerned about the long-term impact of placing a permanent high-voltage infrastructure beside our home and within the local rural road. There has been no direct engagement with us by the developers regarding compensation for any damage that may be caused to our property, or clear explanation of future maintenance of the infrastructure, and any other long-term impacts of this infrastructure.

Road closure

I use the L7108 road daily by car to access the local town of Athenry, to go to work and bring my son to school as do my parents. The applicants have stated in their EIAR (Table 2-4) that the proposed development will close the L7108 Lisheenkyle East for 5 months adding a significant diversion to access our local town. The actual disruption could be significantly longer depending on the ground conditions they encounter and the fact that the proposed route will require gas mains safety work to be carried out at Knocknacreeva and that the cable must cross the M6 motorway at separate locations. No diversion plan, no pedestrian or cycling alternative and no emergency access assessment has been provided for the application.

Rock breaking

The applicant's Construction Methodology Reports state that a 22 tonne percussive rock breaker will be used along the cable route. I am concerned that the rock-breaking works in close proximity to our home, boundary walls and hedges will cause structural damage. No pre-construction structural survey has been offered to me or my parents, and no vibration impact assessment has been provided for our property.

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

No EMF assessment has been provided for our property. I request that modelled EMF levels be provided for all residential and agricultural receptors, with compliance with EU Recommendation 1999/519/EC confirmed as a condition of any permission.

Noise – No Baseline Survey along the Residential Corridor

No noise assessment has been carried out at our home (H91EF96). The application involves heavy rock-breaking plant operating in close proximity to occupied homes. A comparable application on the same roads (Gannow Wind Farm ACP ref no. 500493) provided a full baseline noise survey – this application has not.

Community not Consulted – engagement has failed

I was not individually contacted about the cable route through my local area Lisheenkyle East L7108. I received no information about construction impacts, noise, vibration, EMF, road closure or my property rights. No compensation or wayleave discussion has been initiated with my parents.

Split Applications – No Cumulative Assessment

This application (VA07.324162) covers the grid connection infrastructure without which the proposed Peaker Plant (Ref.324113) cannot operate. They are one project, yet Bord Gais Energy has separated them into two planning applications which means that the combined impact on our roads, environment and community has not been assessed together.

In addition, Gannow Wind Farm (ACP 500493) proposes to use the same roads with an estimated 142 HGV movements a day...again with no combined impact assessment.

On these grounds I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission.

Cóin Kelly

