

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Grainne mchugh and Martin Long

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raheen

galway

Galway

H65KW93

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, Castlambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this statement to formally object to the application for planning for the Athenry Peaker Plant application reference number 324162. As a young couple with a three year old daughter that live within such proximity to the proposed plant it concerns us greatly and we are seriously concerned for the health and well being of our child and future children as well as the people of Athenry. This proposed plant will have a direct impact on my family and my community.

My child lives, plays and will be going to school in the local area that the proposed development will be. She will be breathing the air affected by the emissions from this plant every day as she grows up. The house we live in at the minute is only 2.99km from the proposed site.

The long term impact this proposed plant will have on its surrounding community will be devastating. We are in the process of building a house which will be only 2.7km from the proposed plant. The impact this proposed plant will have on the local landscape will be catastrophic, we will be able to see it from the house

we will build. The devastating impact on the local environment and biodiversity are also highly concerning.

The short term negative impact this proposed plant will have including the construction work needed to put in parts of the infrastructure for it will cause significant disruptions to our family, the locality, our work life balance. Road closures for up to 6 months, heavy traffic on the roads with large trucks - these are all the contrary to the reasons why we had chosen Athenry as the place to build our lives.

I urge an Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for this development.

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

Emissions Impact on Residents and Vulnerable Groups

Although this application relates to the proposed substation and mast, both form part of infrastructure required for the wider Cashla Peaker Project and the operation of the proposed gas-fired peaker plant. I am concerned about the potential impact of emissions associated with the overall development on local air quality and public health, particularly for nearby residents, children, older people and individuals with respiratory conditions.

Unsuitable Rural Location

I believe the proposed substation and mast are not suitable for this rural location. The development would introduce permanent industrial-scale infrastructure, including a 220kV substation, security fencing, lighting and telecommunications equipment, into an area characterised by homes, farms and open countryside.

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.

Emergency Services and Limited Alternative Routes

I am concerned about the impact the proposed cable and construction works could have on emergency access and daily movement throughout the area. The affected rural roads are used daily by ambulances, emergency services, carers, school transport, farmers, local businesses and residents, and many of these roads have limited alternative access routes available.

Additional Safety Risks for Young People and Vulnerable Road Users

Children and teenagers regularly use these roads to travel to school, sports training and other local activities. I am concerned that prolonged construction works, trenching activity, temporary road restrictions and increased heavy goods vehicle traffic associated with the proposed cable route would create additional safety risks for young people, cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users throughout the area.

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.

Conclusion

In my view, the cumulative impact of the proposed substation, mast and underground cable route has not been adequately assessed within the planning documentation. Significant concerns remain regarding the likely effects on residents, agriculture, groundwater protection, biodiversity, traffic safety and rural amenity. I do not believe sufficient information or mitigation has been provided to address these concerns, and I respectfully request that this application be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Grainne Mchugh' and the signature on the right is 'Martin Long'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Name: Grainne mchugh and Martin Long

Date: 22 May 2026