

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Jamie Preston Collins

Pollnagroagh

Athenry

Galway

H65PN56

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,

I, Jamie Preston Collins, live in Pollnagroagh Athenry with my Father and sister. I work every day in Galway city and need to leave my home early to get to work. The proposed road works will greatly affect my commuting time to work. As our home is directly adjoining the proposed access road, there will be major disruptions on the road I use daily. I also help my father on our organic farm and we have a huge concern over the risk of contamination of our water during construction on this Karst ground. I object to the overall Cashla Peaker Project because I believe the proposed peaker plant is unsuitable for this location. The development would increase industrialisation in a rural area and would lead to disruption, environmental concerns and negative impacts on local residents and businesses. My reasons for objecting to the proposal are detailed below.

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

Absence of Standalone Noise Assessment

I am also concerned that no standalone noise assessment appears to have been carried out regarding the proposed grid connection infrastructure, including the substation and associated works. I do not believe sufficient assessment has been provided regarding potential construction noise, operational noise or the impact on nearby residents located along the proposed cable route and surrounding rural roads.

Pressure for Further Expansion Near Homes and Communities

I am also concerned that approval of this development could create pressure for further expansion and additional energy infrastructure within the area over time. In my opinion, this type of industrial infrastructure is not appropriate so close to homes, farms, schools and established rural communities.

Long-Term Road Reinstatement Concerns

I am also concerned regarding the long-term standard of road reinstatement following completion of the proposed works. Similar utility infrastructure works in nearby areas have resulted in uneven road surfaces, raised utility covers and poor reinstatement quality. Given the scale and duration of the proposed trenching works, I believe binding commitments should be provided regarding full road restoration, ongoing maintenance responsibility and reinstatement to an appropriate long-term standard for local communities.

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.

Private Wells, Livestock Water and Agricultural Land

Many farms and rural homes in the area rely on private wells, groundwater supplies and established drainage networks. I am concerned that excavation, rock-breaking and underground cable installation works could interfere with wells, livestock drinking water supplies, drainage systems and agricultural land conditions during and after construction.

Long-Term Landscape Reinstatement and Visual Amenity

I am also concerned that insufficient information has been provided regarding long-term landscape reinstatement and ongoing maintenance responsibilities following completion of the proposed works. In my view, the cumulative impact of vegetation loss, hedgerow disturbance and infrastructure works could have a lasting effect on the visual amenity and landscape character of the surrounding rural area.

Negative Effect on Residential Character and Quality of Life

The affected area forms part of a growing rural residential community within the wider Athenry area, where many families choose to live because of its rural character, agricultural setting and proximity to local towns, schools and employment centres. The area has experienced significant residential and commuter-related growth in recent years. I am concerned that the introduction of major energy infrastructure into this established rural environment would negatively affect the residential character, visual amenity and overall

attractiveness of the area as a place to live and raise families, while also impacting the enjoyment and quality of life of existing residents and property owners.

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.

Likely Scale and Duration of Disruption Not Fully Reflected

I am concerned that the application does not fully reflect the likely scale, duration and intensity of disruption associated with prolonged construction works, trenching activity, traffic management systems, road restrictions, rock-breaking and associated infrastructure works across multiple rural communities. Given the nature of the local road network and surrounding residential areas, I believe the likely impact during the construction phase has been significantly underestimated.

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,

Jamie Collins

Name: Jamie Preston Collins

Date: 22 May 2026