

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

John & Emer Eagle

Cloran

Athenry

Galway

H65W982

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 26 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, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, John & Emer Eagle, reside at Cloran, Athenry, which is 1.9 km from the proposed site of the peaker plant.

Our daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren (both under 4 years old) live at Pollnagroagh, approximately 800m from the site, given this proximity they would be directly exposed to any emissions or environmental impacts arising from the development. Their children will also attend the local schools, all within 2km of the site. We find this extremely worrying regarding the potential impact to their health and wellbeing.

Our daughter and her husband are actively engaged in farming, as are many relatives and neighbours in the surrounding area. We are concerned about the potential long-term environmental impacts this development may have on agriculture and rural livelihoods in the area.

We are also concerned about the impact that the proposed development would have on the local road network, both during construction and throughout the operational life of the facility. The increase in construction traffic and heavy goods vehicles has the potential to adversely affect road safety on rural roads that were not designed to accommodate significant volumes of industrial traffic. We are particularly concerned about any road closures, diversions, or traffic

management measures that may be required during the construction and operation of the project. It is unclear how such disruptions could affect access for emergency services, including ambulances, fire services, and Gardai, particularly in situations where rapid response times are critical. Many local residents, farms, and businesses rely on these roads for daily access, and any restrictions or delays could have serious consequences in the event of a medical emergency, fire, or other incident.

We believe that the potential impacts on local accessibility, road safety, and emergency response arrangements should be fully assessed and clearly addressed before any decision is made on this application.

This is our second submission concerning this overall development. In our view, the project should have been submitted as a single application to allow for a comprehensive assessment of all associated infrastructure and impacts. The separation of the project into multiple applications has placed an unnecessary burden on members of the public, requiring additional expense and effort to participate effectively in the planning process and present concerns regarding the full extent of the proposed development.

Outlined above are our key concerns but we would also like to highlight the following issues with the proposed substation, cable routing and mast;

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. We are 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.

Pressure for Further Expansion Near Homes and Communities

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

Prolonged Trenching, Road Closures and HGV Traffic

We 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.

Cumulative Impact on Community Access Routes

The roads affected by the proposed cable route are important community access routes serving homes, farms, schools and businesses across the wider Athenry area. In our view, the

cumulative impact of prolonged construction activity, HGV traffic, road closures and disruption on daily community movement has not been adequately addressed within the application documentation.

Disruption to Livestock Farming and Farm Access

The proposed cable route passes through an active farming area supporting livestock farming, milk collection, machinery movement and daily farm access. We are concerned about the disruption that prolonged trenching works, road occupation and construction activity would cause to the normal operation of farms throughout the area, particularly along narrow rural roads heavily relied upon by the agricultural community.

Long-Term Landscape Reinstatement and Visual Amenity

We are also concerned that insufficient information has been provided regarding long-term landscape reinstatement and ongoing maintenance responsibilities following completion of the proposed works. In our 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.

Safety Risks Near Lisheenkyle National School

The proposed cable route passes in close proximity to Lisheenkyle National School along narrow rural roads with limited visibility and no proper hard shoulders. We are concerned that trenching works, construction activity, increased traffic volumes and temporary traffic management measures would create additional safety risks and disruption for children, parents and school staff, particularly during school drop-off and collection times.

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 residents/property owners in the area, We are 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.

Insufficient Information on Cumulative Impact

In our 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

We are 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, we believe the likely impact during the construction phase has been significantly underestimated.

We believe the proposed development is not suitable for this rural location and would contribute to the long-term industrialisation of the surrounding countryside. The likely impacts on homes, farms, schools, local roads, biodiversity and community life have not been fully addressed or adequately mitigated within the application documentation. For these reasons, we do not believe the proposal is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development, and We respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

John Eagle

Emer Eagle

[Signed electronically]

Name: John & Emer Eagle

Date: 26 May 2026