

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

John Stevens
Lisheenkyle East
Oranmore
Galway
H91 A6X3

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 20 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, Caherbriskun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am submitting this objection to highlight my objection to the proposed Cashla Grid Connection and Substation as I believe this will have a seriously negative impact on the land and the people of the Athenry area.

As a parent, a community member for 20 years, and a local community sports coach of young people, I feel a responsibility towards the future and wellbeing of these people. This proposed infrastructure is a part of the Athenry gas and diesel peaker power plant, and should not be proposed separately. There is no point having one, unless the other is built as well, so this by rights should be part of an overall submission and not in 2 separate cases, so the overall impact can be assessed.

I am also very concerned that the premise by which this is being proposed is based on old data that is now inaccurate. This will not just be turned on for an hour here, and hour there as described. As Ireland's energy imports are increasing significantly year on year, this domestic source will be asked to be operational more and more.

Cumulative Emissions and Precautionary Approach

In my view, insufficient certainty has been provided regarding the long-term cumulative impact of emissions associated with the wider development. Given the proximity of homes and rural communities to the proposed infrastructure, I believe a precautionary approach should be applied in relation to air quality and the protection of public health, including compliance with Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality.

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.

Students Travelling Daily Along Affected Roads

Many students and school staff from surrounding rural areas travel daily along these local roads to schools in Athenry by bus, car, bicycle and on foot. The road network already experiences significant traffic volumes during school drop-off, collection and commuter periods, particularly within this expanding rural residential area characterised by substantial ribbon development.

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

Given the scale of the proposed development and the uncertainty regarding construction impacts, groundwater disturbance, traffic disruption, vibration impacts and long-term infrastructure effects, I do not believe this proposal represents proper planning and sustainable development. In light of the unresolved concerns regarding cumulative impacts, groundwater protection, traffic safety, environmental effects and the adequacy of the supporting assessments, I believe a precautionary approach should be applied in the assessment of this application. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Stevens'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping 'J' and 'S'.

Name: John Stevens

Date: 20 May 2026