

Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Ltd.

Registration # R5565

Secretary. Palmerstown, Derrydonnell, Oranmore. GALWAY H91 P4AP

✉seclishgws@gmail.com 📞087-2436-803

Submission to An Bord Pleanála - April 8th, 2026

SID application for the substation and underground cable route for the electricity grid connection

(Electricity network infrastructure – Ref: 324162, deadline: 26 May 2026)

The Board of Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme Co-operative Society Limited wishes to lodge a submission on Bord Gais Energy, Planning application number: **324162**

The Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme is a community owned Group Water Scheme (GWS) that provides potable water to over 130 houses and farms, as well as a School and Golf Course. The pipework from the scheme is close to the proposed development substation.

The board would like to reiterate that this infrastructure provides vital services to the local community in the area and it is crucial that the sources, infrastructure and services provided by the scheme are not negatively impacted as a result of the proposed development during construction and long term.

The Board of Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited would like to highlight the following in relation to the above proposed development by Bord Gais Energy.

We understand that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the above, as well as SID application for the Cashla Peaker Plant and Above Ground Installation (AGI) (Energy generation infrastructure – Ref: PA07.**324113**).

However, it is critical to note that both applications (324113 and 324162) are intrinsically linked and form part of a single overall project. As such, the environmental effects must be assessed cumulatively and in combination, rather than in isolation. Any deficiencies in assessment, including in relation to groundwater, ecology, or infrastructure impacts, must be considered across the entirety of the proposed development.

The Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme has concerns regarding the risk posed to groundwater, which is a critical resource for local households, farms, and ecosystems

The local area depends heavily on groundwater for:

- Domestic drinking water
- Livestock watering
- Agricultural use

There is no comprehensive survey of private wells and springs, nor baseline monitoring or trigger thresholds for contamination events.

Potential impacts include:

- Contamination of private wells
- Risks to livestock and farming operations
- Long-term impacts on human health and rural livelihoods

In the absence of baseline data, the full extent of risk cannot be properly assessed.

Unsuitability of Location Due to Environmental Sensitivity

The site is located on a regionally important karstified aquifer, making it inherently unsuitable for a development involving fuel storage and industrial processes.

The EIAR:

- Acknowledges karst conditions but fails to carry out tracer testing to establish groundwater flowpaths
- Uses a 2 km study area, which is not appropriate in karst systems where flows can extend far beyond this
- Confirms that no project-level assessment under the Water Framework Directive has been completed

There is also insufficient assessment of potential impacts on European sites within the Natura 2000 network.

Furthermore, the proposed development may place additional strain on local water infrastructure, in an area already experiencing frequent burst pipes and repair works. This raises concerns about the reliability and resilience of water supply in Athenry and surrounding areas.

2. Interference: No interference with our pipework without prior consultation and approval of the Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme.

3. Restoration of services: Where excavations interfere with water supplies, these services will be restored as a matter of urgency by the contractor.

4. Costs of a qualified engineer: Bord Gais Energy will pay for the costs of a qualified engineer, on behalf of the Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme to verify that any pipework that was altered or damaged during the cable laying construction was repaired and/or replaced to the satisfaction of the Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme.

5. Insurance indemnification: Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme want Bord Gais Energy to indemnify them for the duration of the construction, from all possible claims, arising from possible contamination of schemes water supplies, from alterations of pipework or breakage to the pipes.

6. Ducted Pipe Crossings: Where requested by homeowners, any water crossings that are encountered during the cable laying process will be ducted into a 6-inch duct, to allow for easier leak detection as the electrical cable will present an additional hazard for repair post construction.

7. Additional Blind Crossings: Additional blind crossings (indeterminate number at this stage) will be requested by the scheme to allow for safer connection to the scheme in the future,

Locations of these crossings will be located in cooperation with the Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme Board.

8. **Schematics:** Lisheenkyle Group water Scheme will require a detailed Engineers map of the placement of electrical cables in relation to water pipe work, to allow for safe maintenance of the scheme, should the need arise.

9. **New/Replacement Connections/Equipment :** Bord Gais Energy to bear the costs for any new or replacement specialised connections or equipment to the Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme if required as a result of this development into the future.

10. **Contact Details:** The scheme can be contacted by email at seclishgws@gmail.com

On the basis of the information provided, it cannot be concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the development will not:

- Cause deterioration of groundwater
- Impact drinking water supplies
- Adversely affect protected environments

Accordingly, the Lisheenkyle Group Water Scheme Co-Op Society Ltd respectfully requests that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission for this development.

Gearoid Lacey

GWS Secretary