

A chara,

I would like to make a submission in respect of the proposed 220kV Substation and 220kV underground electricity cabling connecting to the existing Cashla 220kV substation in Athenry, County Galway (ABP Ref: 324162. Case ref: VA07.324162)

As a public representative in the area, I have received considerable feedback from constituents in relation to this proposed development which I intend to outline in this submission.

I fully understand and support the need for energy security within the State and would like to see this done in an appropriate and sustainable way.

**1. ROAD SUBSOIL & LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE**

Permanent 220kV cable and concrete joint bays will remain beneath local rural roads beside homes and farms long after construction ends. No landowner along L-7109, L-71093, L-7108, L-71082 or L-3103 has been consulted — no wayleave, compensation or access discussion initiated. Concerns have been expressed about the ability of locals to obtain planning permission to build homes in future once this infrastructure is in place.

**2. ROAD CLOSURES — NO DIVERSION PLAN**

L7108: 5 months full closure

L7109: 3.5 months full closure

No road-by-road diversion plan provided for any affected road. No assessment of emergency access, school buses or farm access

**3. CASTLELAMBERT BRIDGE**

Applicant's own engineers (AtkinsRéalis) formally certified the bridge as structurally unsafe under project loads. The cable route runs directly past the same bridge - no combined structural assessment provided for machine crossing the bridge or working around it.

**4. ROCK BREAKING**

22-tonne rock breaker confirmed for use in karst limestone — close to homes and farm buildings. No vibration assessment or pre-construction structural survey offered to any landowner.

**5. NOISE — NO BASELINE SURVEY**

No noise survey at any home along the 6km road corridor.

**6. SPLIT APPLICATION — NO CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT**

Two separate applications prevent a full combined environmental, traffic and ecological assessment of the overall project. Gannow Wind Farm (ACP 500493) proposes to use the same roads — 142 HGV movements per day with no combined impact assessment.

This is a major development which will have long-lasting implications for this rural community. I understand that a large number of submissions have been made by members of the community. I ask that An Comisiún carefully considers the content of all submissions and the potential impact on the local community during the assessment of this application.

Is mise le meas,

Louis O'Hara TD

Old Church Street, Athenry, Co Galway