

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Michael Connell

Barretts Park

Athenry

Galway

H65NP94

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, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskau, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Athenry on the proposed cable route. My house is roughly 1km from the Cashla Substation.

I strongly object to this proposed construction. It is a major upheaval to the local community, it will have significant affects on local families and farmers.

I believe that Board Gais are trying to make it difficult for people to object to the proposals by splitting the application. It causes confusion, creates extra work for the concern group and of course adds extra costs onto all residents affected by this.

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

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.

Groundwater and Drainage in Karst Limestone Geology

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the possible impact trenching and excavation works could have on groundwater movement, field drainage systems and soil conditions along the route. The proposed works pass through an area of sensitive karst limestone geology where groundwater flows, drainage pathways and subsurface conditions can be complex and unpredictable. Given the nature of karst geology, I believe a precautionary approach should be applied regarding excavation activity, groundwater protection and potential impacts on surrounding lands, wells and drainage systems under the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

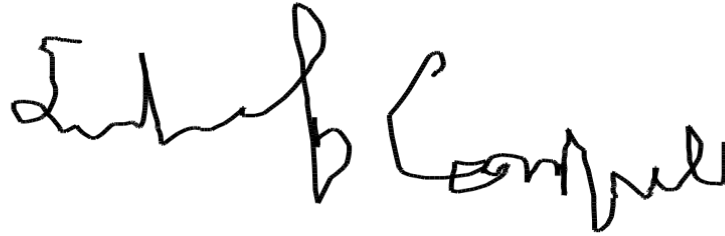
Inadequate Consultation Across Connected Applications

I do not believe adequate consultation or engagement has taken place with residents and communities affected by the wider Cashla Peaker Project. Although the peaker plant, substation and cable route are being progressed through separate applications, they form part of one overall development with significant impacts on the surrounding area.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Connell". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Michael" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Connell".

Name: Michael Connell

Date: 22 May 2026