

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Paul & Niamh 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, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed peaker plant development near Athenry.

My wife, Niamh, and I are a newly married couple living in the area, where we are building our future together and hope to raise a family within this community. I have also lived in Athenry all my life, and my roots, family, and future are firmly grounded here. This is not just a planning application to us. It is a direct threat to our long-term health, our future children, and the environmental integrity of Athenry.

This is my second submission relating to this overall project. I am disappointed that the development has not been presented as a single application, as this has required me to devote significant additional time, effort, and expense to ensuring that my concerns are properly heard and considered. I believe that all elements of the project should have been assessed together so that its full impacts could be properly understood.

My key concerns with this proposed aspect of the project are outlined below;

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. I am 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.

Unsuitable Rural Location

I believe the proposed substation and mast are not suitable for this rural location. The development would introduce permanent industrial-scale infrastructure, including a 220kV substation, security fencing, lighting and telecommunications equipment, into an area characterised by homes, farms and open countryside.

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, Castletambert, 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.

Delays to Emergency Response and Defibrillator Access

The proposed works could cause significant delays and disruption for emergency vehicles, home-support services, school transport, agricultural traffic and daily commuters. I am also concerned about possible delays in accessing community defibrillators and emergency response assistance in rural areas where rapid access can be critical for medical emergencies.

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. I am 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.

Negative Effect on Residential Character and Quality of Life

The affected area forms part of a growing rural residential community within the wider Athenry area, where many families choose to live because of its rural character, agricultural setting and proximity to local towns, schools and employment centres. The area has experienced significant residential and commuter-related growth in recent years. I am concerned that the introduction of major energy infrastructure into this established rural environment would negatively affect the residential character, visual amenity and overall

attractiveness of the area as a place to live and raise families, while also impacting the enjoyment and quality of life of existing residents and property owners.

Incompatibility with Ireland's Climate Obligations

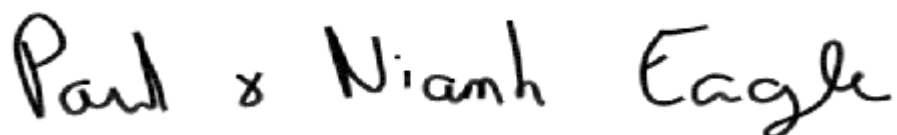
In my view, insufficient consideration has been given to the long-term climate implications associated with infrastructure designed to support fossil fuel-based electricity generation. I believe the compatibility of the proposed development with Ireland's climate obligations, emissions reduction targets and broader sustainability objectives has not been adequately demonstrated within the application documentation.

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.

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 that reads "Paul & Niamh Eagle". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand being a simple cross.

[Signed electronically]

Name: Paul & Niamh Eagle

Date: 26 May 2026