

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Sarah Curran
Mirah
Turloughmore
Galway
H65 YW13

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: Rathmorrissy, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caher briskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Sarah Curran and I am writing to formally object to the proposed Peaker plant development planned for our local area in Athenry.

This objection is not something I make lightly. My own family has facilitated access connected to this development, and because of that I have struggled deeply with making this submission. However, after considering the long-term impact this project could have on myself, local residents, children, and the surrounding community, I feel I have a responsibility to raise my concerns.

One of the immediate issues for local residents will be the scale of disruption caused during construction. The proposed road closures and heavy construction traffic over an estimated six-month period will place enormous pressure on already limited local access routes. Residents will face daily disruption, delays, noise, and safety concerns. For families with young children attending local Lisheenkyle national school, elderly relatives, school transport to Athenry secondary schools, and emergency access needs, this is not a minor inconvenience but a significant deterioration in daily quality of life. The proposed construction phase will result in significant disruption to the local road network for an extended period.

The volume of heavy goods vehicles associated with the construction phase raises serious road safety concerns on what are predominantly narrow rural roads not designed for sustained industrial traffic. Increased HGV movements will create additional danger for pedestrians, cyclists, local residents, and children using the area. In my view, the disruption proposed is excessive and incompatible with the existing residential and rural character of the locality.

Beyond the construction phase, I have serious concerns about the long-term implications of living beside a peaker plant. This is especially personal for me because my children are minded in the closest house proximity to the proposed development. The thought of them growing up beside industrial infrastructure of this nature causes genuine concern regarding noise, emissions, air quality, visual impact, and the overall suitability of placing such a facility close to homes and childcare settings.

While I understand the wider need for energy infrastructure and national development, I do not believe that this particular location is appropriate given the direct impact on local families and the rural character of the area. Developments of this scale should not proceed where the burden on nearby residents is so substantial and long lasting.

I ask the planning authority to carefully consider the cumulative effects of:

- Prolonged road closures and construction disruption;
- Increased heavy vehicle traffic and associated safety risks;
- Noise and environmental concerns during both construction and operation;
- The impact on nearby homes, children, and childcare arrangements;
- The long-term industrialisation of a residential and rural area.

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

Cumulative Construction Impact on Health and Wellbeing

I believe insufficient information has been provided regarding the cumulative impact of construction activity, heavy traffic movements, excavation works, noise and prolonged disruption on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents living close to the proposed infrastructure works.

Pressure for Further Expansion Near Homes and Communities

I am also concerned that approval of this development could create pressure for further expansion and additional energy infrastructure within the area over time. In my opinion, this type of industrial infrastructure is not appropriate so close to homes, farms, schools and established rural communities.

Inadequate Assessment of Disruption to Communities

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the effect prolonged trenching works, stop/go traffic systems, temporary road closures and traffic diversions would have on the normal functioning of local communities. I do not believe adequate assessment has been provided regarding the likely impact of prolonged disruption on residents, emergency access, school transport, farms and daily community movement, particularly given the scale of the proposed construction activity and associated HGV traffic on local roads including the L3103.

Damage to Hedgerows, Root Systems and Roadside Vegetation

The proposed cable route passes through established rural hedgerows, mature roadside vegetation and tree-lined sections which form part of the local biodiversity network and rural landscape character. I am concerned that trenching works and excavation activity could result in long-term damage to hedgerows, root systems and roadside vegetation throughout the area.

Narrow Roads, HGV Traffic and Increased Congestion

The roads surrounding Lisheenkyle National School are already heavily used by local traffic, school transport and agricultural vehicles. These roads are narrow, have restricted visibility and lack proper public hard shoulders. The only widened sections are private parking bays located outside newer houses, which remain the responsibility of homeowners and are not intended for pedestrian use or roadside safety. The introduction of heavy construction traffic, HGVs and stop/go traffic systems would significantly increase congestion and road safety risks for schoolchildren, residents and all road users.

Conclusion

I believe the proposed development is not suitable for this rural location and would contribute to the long-term industrialisation of the surrounding countryside. The likely impacts on homes, farms, schools, local roads, biodiversity and community life have not been fully addressed or adequately mitigated within the application documentation. For these reasons, I do not believe the proposal is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.

I respectfully request that permission for this development be refused, or at minimum that a far more detailed and transparent assessment of the local impacts be undertaken before any decision is made.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. Curran', written on a light-colored background.

[Signed electronically]

Name: Sarah Curran

Date: 26 May 2026