

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Thomas Collins

Lisheenavalla

Athenry

Galway

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

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application referenced above regarding the installation of a high-powered cable along my road. I am an old age pensioner, and I have several concerns I would like to raise:

- 1)Traffic Congestion: The installation and maintenance of high-powered cables are likely to cause significant traffic congestion in our area. This could pose challenges for local residents, especially for those with mobility issues or emergencies.
- 2) Future Planning Restrictions: My family intends to build a house on our property in the future. The installation of these cables may impose restrictions on the planning and development of our land, limiting our ability to expand our home.
- 3) Disturbances to the Water Table: I am concerned that the installation of these cables could disturb the local water table, which is crucial for both the environment and the residents in our area. Any disruption could have adverse effects on local water quality.
- 4) Damage to Nature: Our locality is home to various species of flora and fauna. The installation process may disrupt their habitats, leading to long-term ecological damage.

Given these concerns, I respectfully urge you to reconsider this planning application. I believe that the potential negative impacts on our community and environment far outweigh any benefits that may be derived from this project.

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

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.

Industrialisation of the Surrounding Countryside

Although this application is being considered separately, the proposed substation and mast form part of a wider connected energy development and would contribute to the increasing industrialisation of the surrounding countryside through the concentration of substations, lighting, fencing and associated infrastructure within a quiet rural area.

Karst Geology and Constrained Road Network

The proposed cable route would involve major construction activity through established rural areas with ribbon development, homes, farms, schools and businesses located along the route. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged roadworks, rock-breaking, excavation activity and construction traffic has not been fully addressed within the application documentation, particularly given the sensitive karst limestone geology and constrained nature of the local road network.

Emergency Services and Limited Alternative Routes

I am concerned about the impact the proposed cable and construction works could have on emergency access and daily movement throughout the area. The affected rural roads are used daily by ambulances, emergency services, carers, school transport, farmers, local businesses and residents, and many of these roads have limited alternative access routes available.

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).

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.

Impact on Property Values and Investment Confidence

The proposed substation, underground cable infrastructure and associated development could negatively influence future residential development, land use potential and investment confidence within the area. As a resident/property owner in the area, I am concerned that the cumulative impact of this infrastructure could reduce the attractiveness of the locality for existing and future residents and adversely affect the long-term enjoyment, value and future use of nearby properties and landholdings.

Facilitating Fossil Fuel Infrastructure Against Climate Policy

The proposed substation, mast and underground cable infrastructure are intended to support the operation of new gas-fired electricity generation infrastructure. I am concerned that the proposed development would facilitate long-term fossil fuel energy infrastructure at a time when national and EU climate policy requires significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and greater transition towards sustainable and lower-carbon energy systems.

Residents and Landowners Not Individually Engaged

I am concerned that many residents, landowners and businesses affected by the proposed development were not individually engaged regarding the practical impact the project could have on homes, farms, local roads, property access and daily community life. No clear information appears to have been provided regarding issues such as noise, vibration, road closures, rock-breaking, groundwater impacts or future maintenance requirements.

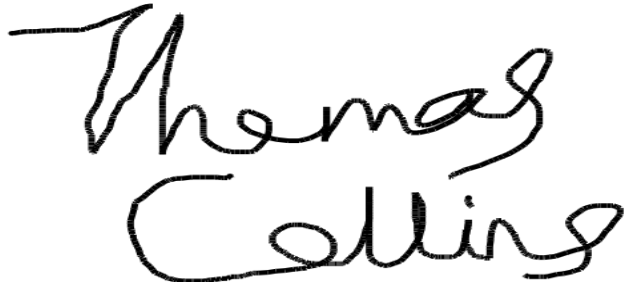
Likely Scale and Duration of Disruption Not Fully Reflected

I am concerned that the application does not fully reflect the likely scale, duration and intensity of disruption associated with prolonged construction works, trenching activity, traffic management systems, road restrictions, rock-breaking and associated infrastructure works across multiple rural communities. Given the nature of the local road network and surrounding residential areas, I believe the likely impact during the construction phase has been significantly underestimated.

Conclusion

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. The first name 'Thomas' is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning. The last name 'Collins' is written below it, also in cursive, with a large 'C' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Name: Thomas Collins

Date: 26 May 2026