



Planning application for wind turbines ACP-324165-26 to be sited at Maughanaclea submitted by Enerco

To: An Coimisiun Pleanala

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We own a property and 6 acres of good pasture and have been resident in the Mealagh Valley for 23 years.

We wish to make a formal objection to a planning application to build wind turbines at Maughanaclea for the following reasons.

1) It is the bed-rock of a planning application that the Company submitting the planning application should communicate with persons affected and answer relevant questions. Enerco have failed to do this. Site notices are inaccurate, I have written to their representative four times. I have received two replies both of which contained untruths concerning the wind turbines. They have again (last week) circulated a map showing the proposed locations of the turbines, it is without any scale and is out of date. In addition it is so small it is unreadable. To highlight the replies with untruths, it took Mr Quille from December 12th to February 7th to reply. He said that he knew the rotational speed of the turbine and its production of 50MW but that a competitive tender was still to be organised. Quote "we will update the community when sufficient information is available. MKO and the various sub-consultant's assessments include a robust hydrological assessment, which will cover group water schemes and water quality, and a cultural heritage assessment" I heard nothing. Quote "the proposed development will be subject to a robust environmental assessment to ensure it is appropriate at this location" no advice from Mr. Quille. Quote "Community consultation will continue for the full duration of the project" no it hasn't!!

2) Enerco Energy are applying for planning to build 14 industrial size wind turbines in an area of immense natural beauty. A centre for tourism, local businesses, private homes and farms.

3) The valley is a beautiful location with considerable archeological features of note such as , standing stones, stone circles, wedge tombs and burial sites, also ancient hill forts. The construction of wind turbines will destroy features that have lasted for millenia. The local history is immensely important for both residents and visitors. Even if the turbines are decommissioned at end of 35 years permission, their massive hard standings will be left, forever destroying the relationship between the archeological features.

5) The Planning and development Act 2000 provides a legal framework for objections and permissions that could threaten the character or privacy of their home. The proposed wind turbines threaten both the privacy and character of **MY** home.

6) Our water supply (established since 1980) is from a spring just metres from a proposed turbine foundation. This water is completely clean, no contamination or debris, runs without electricity, and to quote an engineer from "Water Technology" in Cork "the clearest and cleanest water I have ever seen". Enerco Energy are likely to both disrupt its supply and contaminate the water. We have no alternative supply in the valley, it is worth noting that this spring services two households.

7) Cork County Council has a clause in its planning advice that "no planning will be granted if the proposal broke the skyline". This was in recognition of the outstanding beauty of the valley. Is this why Enerco have submitted to An Coimisiun Pleanala thereby bypassing Cork County Council planning restrictions. Or have they exaggerated the output and promised bigger pylons to obtain SID?

8) Now is the wrong time to grant permission for a development that is being overtaken by new technology and thinking. Reducing our carbon footprint is essential but are fibreglass windmills that have a life expectancy of 17 +/- years and will only run when the wind blows, the right solution? Enerco are requesting 35 years of operation. There is no evidence to support this length of time. In addition it appears that they intend to abandon, footings, substations and building compounds.

Scandinavia is way ahead in developing alternatives such as tidal electricity.

9) The transport of the turbine bodies on narrow rural roads will destroy our road network. Followed by excavators to dig foundation holes, followed by cement lorries to lay foundations. Commuting to Cork and surrounding towns will become a nightmare. Then generators and batteries installed to start the turbines when they have stopped. - **No jobs** will be created beyond the construction phase.  
- **No electricity** will be available for residents in the local area.

10) Now Enerco have chosen to put the cables under the roads. It does avoid poles and lines criss crossing the valley. However it further spoils our minor road network, will leave considerable waste on the road sides, requires more heavy traffic, and will not be finished to a standard suitable for local traffic. Assuming Enerco's figures the roads will be with roadworks (assuming no delays or disruptions) for well over a year. The size of vehicles for digging, removing spoil, delivering concrete etc will further exacerbate the safety of roads. Commuting to Cork and surrounding towns will become a nightmare  
Far better to not install the turbines.

11) Apparently Enerco are planning to go out to tender for the supply of the turbines. Unless this was another untruth.

12) The proposed development has a number of health issues to address. Flicker and noise are just two of them. How do Enerco propose to avoid these? Both have unavoidable health issues attached to them.

13) Should the development go ahead the value of my property will be detrimentally affected. With no recompense from the people causing it. The appendix submitted by Enerco, 5.2 is erroneous and does not answer the protection of family home.

14) We currently enjoy a lot of wild birds, hedge and house sparrows, gold finches, tits, swifts, cuckoos, barn owls, pheasants, kites, hawks, eagles, wrens, wagtails, chaffinch, skylarks. These are joined by deer, foxes, badgers, and pine martens along with rabbits and hares. Some of these are protected along with Kerry slugs. Pine Martens are legally protected but face threats from habitat loss and accidental poisoning. Eagles are regularly seen over the proposed turbine locations. I cannot imagine the effect that the building and operation of the turbines will have on this resident population.

15) We currently enjoy dark skies at night. This is very special and allows me to study astronomy with no distraction. The lights atop the pylons will destroy this and with rotating blades will create a night time flicker.

16) My understanding from a number of national reports is that the infrastructure as it stands at the moment is unable to accommodate further electricity and so CoCoCo will need to pay for the turbines to be turned off on occasion and not deliver electricity. Our grid can't handle the volume and has insufficient storage capacity. This is perverse.

17) Why has Enerco failed to deliver photo montage illustrations to every property that will be affected?

18) Enerco has claimed that their turbines will be screened by hedges and trees, this is just nonsense. Similarly the surveys that they quote are years behind (2014-2019) and not reflective of our community for what they are proposing. This is clearly intended to mislead. NO approval should be given to any organisation that starts by lying.

19) Enerco admit in their submission that hydrology has not been fully mapped. We have a long term 'spring' water supply that their investigations have failed to identify. There is no alternative supply.

20) Will CoCoCo have the courage to turn down destructive industrialisation of their County landscape and retain their unique assets.

21) **No jobs** will be created beyond the construction phase.

- **No electricity** will be available for residents in the local area. So no benefit to valley residents.

22) To conclude, these objections, this application for planning approval will mar the valley forever, there will be no removal of concrete footings, hard standing, access roads, waste water holding tanks, substations foundations, construction compounds, borrow pits and much more. A disaster for the most beautiful location.