

Emma Dragt and Alfred Buis
Tooreen, Dunmanway
P47TX46
086 8731817/ 086 8072022
emmadragt@gmail.com
alfredbuis58@icloud.com

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SID Planning
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Planning Application Reference Number: ACP-324165-26

Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd / Enerco

Description of Development: 10 year planning permission for Maughanaclea Wind Farm consisting of 14 no. wind turbines, a 110kV substation and 110kV underground cabling connection and associated works

Location: Maughanaclea, County Cork

A Chara, To Whom It May Concern, Dear Sir / Madam

A Chara,

I refer to the above planning application; Reference Number: ACP-324165-26 , herewith I submit the following objection and concerns in relation to the proposed development, based on the concerns outlined below.

- > The proposed windmill farm of 14 turbines up to 169 m and the proposed Substation are planned in a unique mountainscape, which will be forever changed and disturbed. Visible from the R585, a scenic route S29, protected by the County Development Plan. This tourist route connects Cork airport and seaport to the Wild Atlantic way, Beara, Sheepshead, Gougane Barra to name but a few.
- > A big concern is over-saturation with windfarms in the area, resulting in an industrious appearance, spoiling an unique area with almost all surrounding hilltops covered in turbines.
- > In the Maughanaclea hill range still are several unchartered archeological features.
- > Despite what Maughanaclea Ltd /Enerco, claim that all care will be taken into account to reduce disturbance to the area, we find that this simply cannot be true....The watershed will be irreversible disturbed during construction time and silt deposits will ruin the water quality. Rock breaking disrupts water table levels, in an area where many people also depend on shallow wells for drinking. Planned drainage infrastructure and digging on-site borrow pit, will inevitable divert watercourses resulting in possible silting and pollution.

Note: Clean Water is a commodity that has become very precious in this day and age, more so than electricity..

> On top of that, the overall impact as greenhouse gasses which will be set free by disturbing the bog in this watershed by pouring down the concrete stands for the turbines. Also taking into account the usage of precious minerals in the turbines, does not weigh up to the overall benefits. The total Carbon Footprint will be far greater by constructing these windmills than what they ever can deliver... one wonder how renewable is that for only 20+ years, what they say the lifespan for these wind turbines is... It makes no sense. Anybody can see that..

> There are many more arguments to write about, to object to these proposed wind turbines, because of the growing opposition and concern during the recent increase of these windmill parks in this area; Shehy More, Carrigerierk and Cleanrath. Curraglass, Dereenacrinnig... All part of the mountain reeks here in the South West, which is of rare outstanding beauty and should be kept as it is and no further pollution should be allowed, but instead cherished and protected for future generations.

> The most important reason to ask you **not** to allow for these 14 windmills to be build, is because it is not acceptable to have these wind turbines parks in populated areas for the effects they have on residents and nature nearby; noise during construction, shadow flicker, vibration and infra sound, EMF, disturbing red lights during the night in what now is a unique undisturbed nightscape, (to be able to see the stars at night) Several European rapports are available of negative impacts on people as well as animal health!

> The disaster for wildlife and especially birds; ravens, choughs, skylarks, bats, swallows, dippers to name but a few are using uplands for living. No room for them left then, resulting in more loss of habitat again. Ireland has, as any European country to reach targets set out by the recent Biodiversity top held in Rome.

> To emphasize that the impact on peoples health, who live close to these turbines, is at stake here, I will hold Maughanaclea Ltd, Enerco, County Cork and ABP, in the event of allowing this to happen, responsible for loss of quality of life and to changes to the water quality and quantity of the waters of the stream. For in the event of illness or set back in quality of life, due to these proposed wind farms, I will submit a claim for a substantial financial compensation.. We also would like to know what the minimum safe distance is between a homestead and a turbine, cabling and substation. (apparently there are no regulations for battery energy storage systems in Ireland in place)

> Devaluation of the house prices in this area will be an eminent result

> If these multiple windfarms are going to be realised, a lot of people in the area will stand up against it.

> We are not against wind turbines, if they would be of a smaller size directly serving the community instead of power being exported and feeding Mega data centres (AI). These commodities are not worth the sacrifice of health, quality of living and spoiling these iconic hills, which makes the South West of Ireland so unique; loss of habitat and loss of heritage rich archaeological areas, one is putting short term financial gain again before everything else. There is no turning back the clock when it is too late.

>The wind turbines and substations belong in an industrial area full stop.
For sure there must be less sensitive areas to be found, to put these wind turbines; such as along miles of motorways, in agricultural lands or commercial forest plantations to name but a few.

Finally.....as with the Gearagh, The drowning of the last riverine forrests and peoples homesteads, in the fifties of the last century, Kevin Corcoran wrote in his book - Saving Eden,

“The juggernaut of economic progress brought electricity to rural Ireland. Regrettably, then as much as today, when financial interests primarily dominate a venture it bulldozes all common sense before it.

Cautious development and wise management are dismissed by the barons of commerce who see these projects not as some benevolent crusade to improve the quality of people’s lives but purely as capital investments....”

On the basis of the above, we trust our concerns will be taken into consideration prior to a decision being reached on this planning application.

Mise le Meas,

Alfred Buis and Emma Dragt

We live here since September 1994