

Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning  
An Coimisiún Pleanála  
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George O'Mahony  
Maughanaclea,  
Kealkill, Bantry,  
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Case reference: PAX04.324165

Description: 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 by Maughanaclea Ltd

Location: Ardrah, Maughanaclea, Ballynamought, Gortloughra, Cousane, Coomclogh, Derragh, Glanycarney, Keenrath, Derrynacaheragh, Shiplough, Coolsnaghtig and other townlands Co. Cork.

Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd, Enerco

To whom it may concern,

I am living in Maughanaclea and I wish to object to the proposed wind farm. I am very worried about how this development will affect everyday life in this area if it goes ahead.

The first thing that stands out to me is how much this project will change the feel of the area. It is a quiet and peaceful place at the moment. People choose to live here because it is calm, dark at night, and not built up. This will all change if large turbines are put in place. They are very tall and will stand out in the landscape. They will not blend in or go unnoticed.

The turbines will also bring constant movement into the area. The blades will be turning all the time, which can be very hard to ignore once you are near them. At night, there will also be flashing red lights. This will take away from the dark skies that people living here are used to. It will change the feeling of the place, even inside homes.

Another issue is shadow flicker. This is when the sun shines through the moving blades and creates a flashing effect. This can happen at certain times of the day and year. It is not just something that happens outside, as it can come into the house through windows. It can also affect gardens and yards where people spend time. This is something that can cause real discomfort, yet it is not clearly explained how often or how strong it will be.

Noise is also a serious concern. Even if the turbines meet general limits, noise can still travel in different ways in areas with hills and valleys. This area is not flat, so sound may carry further than expected. There will also be noise during the building stage, which will go on for a long time. Heavy machinery, trucks, and construction work will disturb the peace of the area for months, if not longer.

There are also businesses and places nearby that depend on quiet surroundings. These include small guest accommodation and places where people come to rest and relax. If the area becomes noisy and busy, this could affect them badly.

The development will also have an impact on the character and history of the area. There are old sites and features that are part of what makes this place special. These are not just important on their own, but also because of the setting they are in. If the surroundings are changed too much, the meaning and value of these places can be lost.

When all of these things are looked at together, it is clear that this is not a small change. It is a major project that will affect how people live, how the area looks, and how it feels. These are long-term impacts that cannot easily be reversed once the turbines are built.

I do not believe the information provided shows clearly that these problems can be avoided or reduced enough. There is too much uncertainty, and too many questions that have not been properly answered.

For these reasons, I ask that permission is refused

Yours sincerely,



George O'Mahony