9 Slí na Scoile
Kealkill
Co. Cork
P75FW14

8 May 2025

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

Dear Sir / Madam,

We would like to strongly object to the above proposed wind turbine development for a number of reasons.

We are residents of Kealkill, County Cork, and based on the planning application as have seen, we believe we would be adversely affected by the development, considering how close it is to our home.

From our understanding, the site of the wind turbines and their size would breach the minimum separation distances for a residential amenity. We live in a quiet, rural community and the scale, movement, and sheer size of these gigantic turbines would make them an intrusive, overbearing and intolerable presence for our home. The visual intrusion, noise, and loss of tranquillity would dramatically affect our quality of life and the enjoyment of our home, to which as citizens we are legally entitled. Noise nuisance, infrasound, overbearing visual dominance, constant visible motion, obstruction of views, reduced sense of rural sanctuary and night time lighting may all affect the peaceful enjoyment of our home, which is protected by Irish and EU Law.

In this respect, we are particularly concerned with the noise and low frequency sound that would be generated by these turbines. Kealkill is a quiet and tranquil village, especially at night, and the noise level that will emanate from these turbines will undoubtedly cause disturbance. The low frequency noise that will come from these machines will travel further and will penetrate buildings more easily. The amplitude modulation (the rhythmic “swish thump” sound) is a well recognised source of complaint and is often underestimated in assessment. Having suffered from noise pollution before, the thought of this fills us with dread. What will be the effect at night and will our sleep be affected? There are multiple wind turbine developments being proposed in our area, what will be the cumulative effect of all these? We are not satisfied that this has been assessed and we have no assurance that our quality of life will not be degraded. Likewise, given the turbine height and blade diameter, we would also potentially be affected by shadow flicker, which we don’t believe has been adequately modelled or assessed, with actual conditions such as cloud cover, topography, and sun angle having the potential to result in an unforeseen negative impact. None of these topics have been addressed by the developer and how noise and light pollution will affect people’s homes, including our own.

The construction of these machines would involve prolonged periods of heavy and abnormal vehicle movements on narrow rural roads that are not designed for such traffic. This raises serious safety concerns and the risk of long term damage to infrastructure. The upland construction and peat excavation that would be involved can significantly alter natural drainage patterns, increasing the risk of downstream flooding during heavy rainfall, which is being increasingly more frequent. Peatlands are inherently unstable when disturbed. Excavation and drainage can trigger peat slides, resulting in major environmental damage and carbon loss. The developer in their planning documentation has admitted there will be permanent and unquantifiable carbon losses in this regard (Chapter 6 and 11). There would also be an impact on the local bird species, including birds or prey, due to the proposed ridgeline siting of the turbines. They may also disrupt the habitats and movement patterns of other wildlife, which the developer has admitted as such (Chapter 6).

The height of the proposed turbines, at 169m, would make them the largest structures ever introduced into this landscape. As they would sit on elevated ridgelines, they would be visible across a wide area, fundamentally altering the character of the countryside. Their presence for example would undermine the designation of the R585 as a scenic route, negatively affecting our local tourism economy. When considered alongside existing and proposed wind farms in the wider region, the cumulative impact would result in landscape saturation and irreversible visual harm. There is also the potential for destruction of local archaeological artifacts, while the visual setting of the present known monuments, such as our stone circles, would be severely degraded.

The existing 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines were drafted before turbines of this scale and size were introduced. As such, the guidelines can no longer adequately protect residential amenity, our quality of life, and the character and nature of the landscape and local environment. There are also significant contradictions in the planning documentation submitted by the developer. Although they claim there will be no impact on the area’s cultural heritage, they also state this

impact cannot be mitigated (Chapter 14). Disturbingly, they note there will be certain significant visual effects caused by the development, while at the same time claiming the cumulative visual impact will not significant (Chapter 13). They also fail to explain how the development will not significantly affect the character of the area around the site, which is defined as a vulnerable landscape (Chapter 13).

For all these reasons outlined above, we believe this development would cause unacceptable harm to the landscape, environment, residential amenity, and community of the area and should be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Dix and Elaine Mulryan