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21st June 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Wind Farm consisting of 16 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower & Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident of the area within proximity to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project, submitted by Constant Energy Limited, to formally lodge my objection to this Strategic Infrastructure Development application. This development poses significant and irreversible risks to the local environment, biodiversity and local residents. In particular the proposal threatens critical habitats for protected species such as the Hen Harrier, involves substantial habitat removal including over 4 km of hedgerow, and raises serious concerns regarding visual impact, traffic disruption, and inadequate community consultation. These issues, coupled with shortcomings in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, justify a refusal of permission for this project.

Having reviewed the public information provided and engaged with the community consultation materials, I wish to raise the following concerns:

Objection to Proposed Wind Farm Development

1. Planning Refusals – Impact on Residential Development

The proposed wind farm has the potential to significantly affect existing and future residential development within the area. Wind farms are subject to separation distances and operational constraints relating to noise, shadow flicker, and visual impact. As a result, the development of a large-scale wind farm in close proximity to residential lands may restrict the ability of landowners to obtain planning permission for future housing on their properties.

In addition, the visual presence of multiple turbines would have a substantial impact on the character and amenity of the surrounding area. The introduction of large-scale industrial structures into a predominantly rural landscape would alter established views and reduce the residential attractiveness of the locality.

The proposal may also create concerns regarding potential ecological impacts and the cumulative effect of wind energy development in the area. These factors should be carefully assessed before any permission is granted.

For these reasons, I submit that the proposed wind farm could adversely affect the planning potential, residential amenity, and rural character of the area, and these impacts should be given significant weight in the planning authority's assessment of the application.

2. Objection to Tirawley Wind Farm – Protection of Private Spring Water Supply

I wish to object to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development on the grounds that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Natura Impact Statement (NIS), and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) do not adequately assess or protect my private spring well, which is my household's sole source of water for drinking, cooking, washing, and all domestic purposes.

1. Reliance on a Private Spring Well

My home depends entirely on a private spring-fed water supply. Unlike households connected to a public water scheme, any deterioration in water quality or quantity would have an immediate and significant impact on my family's health, welfare, and ability to remain in our home.

The project documentation acknowledges that groundwater in the area emerges through springs and contributes directly to local streams and watercourses. This indicates that spring-fed supplies are an important part of the local hydrogeological environment and may be vulnerable to disturbance.

2. Risk of Groundwater Contamination

The CEMP identifies a number of potential pollution sources during construction, including:

- Fuel and oil spills from construction machinery.
- Accidental releases of hydrocarbons and hazardous substances.
- Sediment runoff from excavation works.
- Cementitious materials associated with construction activities.
- Wastewater generated during construction and operation.

While mitigation measures are proposed, these measures cannot eliminate the risk of accidental pollution events. Even a single incident could contaminate a private spring supply that serves as a household's sole source of water.

The developer concludes that impacts on groundwater supplies are negligible because local groundwater flow paths are short and aquifers are generally of low productivity. However, this conclusion appears to be based on regional assessments rather than detailed investigations of individual spring-fed supplies.

3. Lack of Site-Specific Assessment

The planning documentation does not appear to include:

- A detailed hydrogeological assessment of my specific spring well.
- Tracer testing to determine groundwater flow connections.
- A vulnerability assessment for private spring supplies.
- Long-term monitoring proposals for affected wells.

Without this information, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that my water supply will not be affected by construction, operation, maintenance, or eventual decommissioning of the wind farm.

4. Absence of Monitoring and Contingency Measures

Although the documents describe general environmental protection measures, there is no clear commitment to:

- Baseline water quality testing of private wells and springs before construction.
- Continuous monitoring throughout construction and operation.
- Immediate investigation of complaints regarding water quality or supply.
- Provision of an alternative water supply should contamination occur.
- Compensation arrangements for affected homeowners.

Given that private well users have no alternative source of water, these omissions are significant.

5. Application of the Precautionary Principle

The precautionary principle should apply where there is uncertainty regarding potential impacts on drinking water supplies. Safe and reliable access to drinking water is a fundamental requirement for rural households.

The burden should be on the developer to demonstrate, through detailed site-specific investigation and monitoring commitments, that there will be no adverse effect on private spring-fed water supplies. In my view, this has not been adequately demonstrated.

I respectfully submit that the planning application underestimates the potential risk to private spring water supplies and does not provide sufficient evidence to support its conclusion that impacts will be negligible.

I request that the planning authority:

Require a detailed hydrogeological assessment of all private wells and springs within the potential zone of influence of the development.

Require independent baseline testing and ongoing monitoring of private water supplies.

Require a legally binding contingency plan for the provision of alternative water supplies should any impact occur.

Reassess the groundwater and drinking water impacts before any planning decision is made.

Until these matters are fully addressed, I believe the proposed development presents an unacceptable risk to my household's sole source of drinking water and should not be approved.

6. Residential Amenity and Property Impact

I object to the proposed wind farm on the grounds that it will have a significant adverse impact on the residential amenity of nearby residents. Although the application refers to a setback distance of approximately 540 metres from dwellings, this does not adequately address concerns regarding visual dominance, noise generation, and shadow flicker effects.

The proposed turbines are of a scale that will be highly prominent in the surrounding landscape and will be a constant presence for nearby residents. The cumulative effect of turbine noise, moving blades, aviation lighting, and shadow flicker has the potential to negatively affect the quality of life and enjoyment of homes in the area.

Furthermore, there is a genuine concern that the proximity of large-scale industrial wind turbines will adversely affect property values and make homes in the area less attractive to prospective purchasers. This potential economic impact on local homeowners should be given due consideration by the planning authority.

Reference: Appendix 1.6 Community Engagement Report, Pages 7–13.

7. Site Suitability and Landscape Impact

The proposed site is not considered suitable for a development of this scale. The turbine layout appears dispersed across a sensitive rural and coastal landscape, resulting in a substantial visual intrusion that is out of character with the existing environment.

The development will be visible from significant sections of the Wild Atlantic Way and other designated scenic routes, diminishing the visual quality and natural character of the area. The landscape of this part of Mayo is recognised for its scenic, coastal, and rural qualities, which contribute significantly to local tourism, recreation, and community identity.

The introduction of large industrial structures into this landscape would result in an unacceptable alteration of established views and would conflict with the objectives of the Mayo County Development Plan relating to landscape protection, scenic routes, and the preservation of visual amenities.

Reference: Mayo County Council Submission; EIAR Chapter 17 – Traffic and Transport, Pages 9–10; Planning Statement, Pages 69–71.

8. Environmental and Ecological Concerns

The proposed development is located within an environmentally sensitive area containing blanket bog habitats and other ecological features of importance under the Habitats Directive. These habitats are valuable ecosystems that support biodiversity, store carbon, and contribute to natural water regulation.

The project will require the excavation and removal of substantial volumes of peat, resulting in habitat disturbance and the potential release of stored carbon. Such works may have long-term consequences for biodiversity, hydrology, and ongoing peatland conservation and restoration efforts.

Given the ecological sensitivity of the site, there is concern that the environmental impacts of the development have not been fully addressed and that irreversible damage may occur to habitats of significant conservation value.

Reference: Appendix 1.6 Community Engagement Report, Pages 13–14; Planning Statement, Pages 69–71.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed wind farm. The development would have unacceptable impacts on residential amenity, landscape character, environmental integrity, and the long-term sustainability of the local area. These impacts outweigh any perceived benefits of the proposal and are inconsistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In conclusion, I respectfully submit that the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm project is not appropriate for this location due to the significant negative impacts on residential amenity, local landscape, ecology, infrastructure, and the community. I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for this development in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,
Brendan McLoughlin