

Observation on Proposed Slieveacurry Wind Farm Development

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Case Reference PAX03.324270

Applicant: Slieveacurry Limited

I wish to make the following observation in relation to the proposed development of nine wind turbines, the extension to the existing 110kV Slievecallan substation and associated infrastructure.

I am a resident of Illaun, Miltown Malbay, County Clare. While I recognise the importance of renewable energy and Ireland's transition towards lower carbon energy sources, I have significant concerns regarding the suitability of this particular development and its potential impacts on the local area.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The proposed turbines are of a scale that will have a substantial visual presence across a wide rural landscape. This part of West Clare is valued for its open countryside, scenic views and natural character. I am concerned that the development would permanently alter the character of the landscape and reduce its visual amenity for both residents and visitors.

The cumulative impact of this proposal, together with existing and potential future wind energy developments in the wider area, should be carefully assessed. I ask the Board to be satisfied that the cumulative landscape impacts have been fully considered.

Residential Amenity

Residents living within the wider area may experience impacts from turbine noise, shadow flicker and the continuous visual movement of turbine blades. Even where guideline limits are technically achieved, these effects can have a significant impact on people's enjoyment of their homes and rural environment.

I request that the Board carefully examine whether the Environmental Impact Assessment adequately reflects the lived experience of residents who will be affected throughout the operational life of the development.

Biodiversity and Environmental Protection

The proposed development involves extensive works including turbine foundations, access roads, cable routes and substation expansion. I ask the Board to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement fully assess

potential impacts on habitats, wildlife, birds, bats, watercourses and protected sites, both during construction and operation.

Particular attention should be given to the cumulative environmental effects of multiple infrastructure projects within the wider region.

Construction Impacts

The construction phase has the potential to generate significant traffic movements, noise, dust and disruption on rural roads. These impacts will affect local residents, farming activities and road users.

I request that careful consideration be given to the adequacy of the proposed traffic management arrangements and the condition of local roads before, during and after construction.

Community and Tourism

West Clare's natural landscape is one of its greatest assets, supporting tourism, recreation and quality of life for residents. The long-term visual impact of a large-scale wind energy development should be balanced against these existing social and economic benefits.

Conclusion

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála gives careful consideration to the potential impacts of this proposal on the landscape, residential amenity, biodiversity and the wider community.

Should the Board decide to grant permission, I ask that it only do so subject to robust conditions that minimise impacts on nearby residents and protect the environmental and scenic qualities of the area.

Thank you for considering my observation.

Yours faithfully,

Marie Killeen

Illelaun
Miltown Malbay
County Clare