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Subject: SID Application with an EIAR for the proposed development at Coom Green Energy Park, Lackendarragh North, Co. Cork 5964
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[NEHS Submission Report SID- EIAR Coom Green Energy Park Lackendarragh North Co. Cork 5964 0624.pdf](#)
[HSE South Emergency Management EIAR Application EHS 5964 21.05.2026.pdf](#)

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A Chara,

Please find attached a submission report from the Health Service Executive National Environmental Health Service and the HSE South Emergency Management.

Is Mise Le Meas

Muireann Chambers

Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil | Environmental Health Officer

**FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte Comhshaoil | Teach na hAbhann Duibhe | Páirc Ghnó Mala | Mala | Co. Chorcaí.
HSE National Environmental Health Service | Blackwater House | Mallow Business Park | Mallow | Co. Cork.**

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National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

(as a Statutory Consultee under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) & Regulations made thereunder)

Dated: 18/06/2026

Type of consultation: SID EIAR

Application Reference Number: 26/1212

EHIS Reference number: 5964

Applicant: Coom Green Energy Park Limited

Proposed Development: Proposed Coom Green Energy Park Grid Connection

Location: Lackendarragh North, Co. Cork

General

The HSE is a statutory consultee under Article 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and has a remit to make observations on a planning application accompanied by an EIAR with regard to any likely significant effects on Public Health. The NEHS can make observations on any planning application as a statutory consultee.

The objective of any observations by the NEHS are to inform the Planning Authority on any likely significant effects on Public Health and give an opinion on any proposed mitigation to protect Public and Environmental Health. Any observations made are to inform and assist the decision making of the Planning Authority in the planning process.

This submission is the observations and comments of the NEHS based on the submitted planning application and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The NEHS does not carry out any independent environmental monitoring or validation of any measurements or data reproduced in an EIAR.

Background of Proposed Development

Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) is a permitted development (ACP Ref: 308885-20) consisting of a 22-turbine wind farm, 110 kV substation, 20 no. battery energy storage containers and all associated ancillary works. Two 110 kV substations were permitted as part of the CGEP, one in the townland of Mullenaboree and one in the townland of Lackendarragh North. However, only the substation located in Lackendarragh North will be

constructed. The permitted 110 kV substation at Mullenaboree shall not be constructed if the Proposed Development receives planning consent, as it will no longer be required.

Proposed Development

It is noted that the Proposed Development assessed in this EIAR comprises of the following elements:

- A 110 kV Underground Cable (UGC) Grid Connection Route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110 kV substation located near Rathcormac, Co. Cork (also referred to herein as the '*110 kV GCR – Grid Connection route*');
- A 33kV Underground Cable (UGC) Collector Network Route between the western and eastern arrays of the permitted Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) development (also referred to herein as the '*33 kV CNR - Collector Network Route*');
- A 110kV onsite substation at Lackendarragh, in line with the latest Eirgrid functional specifications (also referred to herein as '*110 kV Substation*').

Site Location and Site Visit by NEHS

A visit to the site of the proposed development was carried out by Environmental Health Officer Muireann Chambers on the 11th of June 2026

The purpose of the site visit was to identify any sensitive receptors where there could be a likely significant effect from the proposed development and to consider if there could be cumulative impacts from existing or proposed developments and to consider the characteristics of the surrounding environment. This was to enable informed observations on the EIA and the subsequent EIAR.

Assessment of Public Consultation and Non-Technical Summary

A non-technical summary was submitted as part of the EIAR. The summary provided a description of the proposed works. The likely significant environmental impacts of the proposed development were outlined together with mitigation measures which would be implemented to mitigate any adverse impacts on the environment.

The NEHS is satisfied that the non-technical summary and associated EIAR chapters provided a description of the development and included details of the construction and operational phases, likely significant environmental impacts and proposals to mitigate any adverse impacts.

Public consultation was conducted as part of the consented Coom Green Energy Park Project (CGEP). A detailed summary of the public and stakeholder consultation for the CGEP is detailed in Chapter 5 of the EIAR. It is noted that the concerns from the public have been outlined in this chapter.

Assessment of Considerations of Alternatives

The proposed substation, grid connection and Collector Network routes were planned in conjunction with the permitted Coom Green Energy Park Project (CGEP). Alternative substation locations and grid connection routes are discussed in Chapter 3 of the EIAR.

It is noted that the consultant Fehily Timoney and Company, consulted with Eirgrid during the examination of feasible options.

Assessment of Description of Physical Environment

The EIAR details the following:

The 110 kV Grid Connection Route (GCR) will consist entirely of underground cable and will connect the on-site substation to an existing 110kV substation at Barrymore, within the townland of Farran South near Rathcormac. The GCR will be ca. 13.9 km in length, with ca. 12.1 km to be constructed within the existing public road corridor and 1.8 km constructed within private lands with a land use comprising primarily of existing commercial forestry track.

The 33 kV Collector Network Route (CNR) is located in a predominantly agricultural area, with elevations within the site ranging from 190m to 390m above sea level. The landcover is classified as pastures, coniferous forest and transitional woodland scrub.

The Proposed Development is in a sparsely populated rural context with the onsite 110kV substation located 600m from the nearest residential property.

The Proposed Development is located within Hydrometric Area No. HA 18, Blackwater (Munster), of the Irish River Network System. It is situated in the Southwestern River Basin District (SWRBD).

The Proposed Development will utilise the same site accesses as the consented CGEP development and is accessible from both the east and west via the N72 and N20 national roads respectively and local road network. Access from the east is via the M8 motorway and N72 national road, turning south from the east of the village of Ballyhooly, with the route then travelling along the local road network for approximately 9 km. Access to the site from the west is via the N20 national road and along the local road network for approximately 3.5 km to an existing Coillte forestry entrance which will be upgraded and utilised for the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology) and Land and Soils

Chapter 10 - Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology and Chapter 11 - Hydrology and Water Quality of the EIAR outlines the impacts on water, land and soil.

The EIAR states that the main sources of groundwater contamination are; spills or leaks of fuels, oils, and lubricants from construction and maintenance machinery, increased erosion and silt infiltration due to tree felling, earthworks, and exposure of soils and removal of overburden deposits, reducing natural protection of aquifers.

No public or group water supply sources are located within the project boundary, but several are nearby. There are private groundwater wells and springs within 1 km of the proposed development, some of which are used for domestic and agricultural purposes. The main sources of surface water contamination are increased sediment and nutrient runoff from exposed soils during tree felling and earthworks and improper management of silt-laden runoff entering watercourses. The EIAR includes mitigation measures including careful fuel management, rapid excavation backfilling, silt control, and contingency planning for wells to prevent contamination of drinking water sources throughout all project phases.

The EIAR states the project will not cause deterioration in the status of any water body or compromise the achievement of 'good status' under the Water Framework Directive. With mitigation and monitoring, the project is not expected to have significant adverse effects on hydrology or water quality during any phase.

It is recommended that the mitigation measures outlined in the EIAR are implemented to ensure protection of public health during construction activities and operational activities, and that these mitigation measures are monitored throughout the project lifecycle.

Assessment of Air Quality and Climate

Chapter 7 of the EIAR outlines the impact of Air Quality and Climate with the main emissions to the air being dust from the construction of the proposed facility. The nearest sensitive receptor is a residential property approximately 600 meters from the proposed substation. This distance, combined with the rural setting, means the risk of significant air quality impacts at sensitive receptors is low, but best practice mitigation measures will still be applied during construction as outlined in the EIAR.

There will be no likely significant adverse effects on air quality or climate expected from the project during the operational phase of the development as there are no emissions to atmosphere.

NEHS recommend a formal road maintenance agreement between the applicant and Cork County Council which clarifies responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads for the proposed development.

Assessment of Noise and Vibration

Chapter 8 of the EIAR considers the impact of noise and vibration from the proposed development. The noise & vibration section of the EIAR outlines several noise mitigation strategies, to address potential temporary noise impacts on nearby noise-sensitive areas during the construction phase. By enforcing strict noise limits, operational hours, and adopting effective noise and vibration control measures, the intention is to minimise the impact of noise and vibration as much as feasibly possible. Baseline noise levels have been measured, in order to assess the potential for noise impacts on the proposed development. The area is rural and lightly populated, with existing noise from agriculture, forestry, and local road traffic. Closest Noise Sensitive locations (NSLs) are identified for each project component, with the nearest residential property over 600m from the substation.

The EIAR states that with technology advances, there will be reductions in the noise emissions from the equipment. NEHS recommends that these technology advances are availed of where possible during the operational phase.

From the EIAR the predicted construction phase noise will include tree felling, 33 kV CNR and 110 kV GCR, substation construction and motorway/crossing works. It is noted that noise limits may exceed during the tree felling and 33 kV CNR and 110 kV GCR, if works occur simultaneously. The exceedance is marginal and temporary, affecting only the property within 50m. At other locations, noise is below the limit. The applicant has outlined in the EIAR mitigation measure including engineering controls (barriers), operational controls (phasing, scheduling), equipment standards, and community engagement to minimize noise and vibration impacts.

It is recommended that consideration for public health during construction activities are implemented with the mitigation measures outlined in the EIAR, including a designated liaison person. The contact details of this community liaison officer or representative should be available to the local community. No construction activities should take place on Sundays or Bank holidays without prior approval from the Planning Authority.

Traffic

The NEHS has considered Chapter 12 and Figure 12.3 – temporary road closures and route diversion options of the EIAR. The EIAR states that a detailed Traffic Management Plan will be prepared and implemented prior to construction. This plan will address construction traffic, road safety signage, delivery phasing, and emergency access. NEHS recommends that the TMP will be agreed with the

local authority and incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), as stated in the EIAR.

Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

There was no CEMP for review, as the applicant stated this hasn't been prepared yet. NEHS recommends that a formal complaints procedure is implemented to resolve any possible issues or community concerns in relation to traffic, dust, noise, vibration or water complaints as a result of the construction phase of the project.

If you have any queries regarding any of this report, the initial contact is Bernadine Scanlan Principal Environmental Health Officer who will refer your query to the appropriate person.



Clare Flynn
Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Network Support Unit



Bernadine Scanlan
Principal Environmental Health Officer



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EHIS Reference No: 5964

Date: 21/05/2026

A Chara

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application.

Due to resource constraints, Emergency Management is not in a position to provide a bespoke response to individual applications.

Under Section 7(1) of the Health Act, 2004, the HSE is charged with using the resources available to it *'in the most beneficial, effective and efficient manner to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public'*. It is within this context, that the below emergency planning comments are provided.

At a strategic level, the following should be considered during the planning application process:

1. Impact upon access to health service facilities during construction and operation.
2. The availability of health services within the area for the population increase during construction, and, if applicable, operation of the development.
3. Impact upon health service delivery in the area during construction of the development, especially any traffic restrictions.
4. Location of Upper and Lower Tier COMAH sites within the area, including any "area in which people may be affected", as defined by the Central Competent Authority (i.e.; the Health and Safety Authority).
5. Any enhancement that the development offers to increase resilience of, or protection to, critical infrastructure.
6. Any existing, or potential designation of the development under European Union (Resilience of Critical Entities) Regulation 2024 – SI 559 of 2024

Before a new development becomes operational, a suitable emergency plan should be developed for the site, in line with relevant legislation. More information on 'Emergency Plans' for specific industries can be found on www.hsa.ie

If a developer / operator wishes to liaise directly with the Health Service Executive (HSE) regarding a specific risk impacting upon population health and/ or health service delivery, then please contact the appropriate HSE Emergency Management Office. [Click Here for contact details](#)

David O'Sullivan
Chief Emergency Management Officer – HSE SOUTH