
Fw: SID Application with an EIAR for the proposed development between the existing Dublin to Galway pipeline and the Edenderry Power Plant EH: 6031

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To whom it may concern,

Please see attached submission from National Environmental Health Service.

Kind Regards

Lorraine Browne

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Environmental Health Services
National Environmental Health Service
Health Service Executive
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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)

Date: 15th July 2026

Type of consultation: EIAR

Application Reference Number: LW/24067

EHIS Reference number: 6031

Applicant: JSA Planning on behalf of Gas Networks Ireland

Report to: info@jsaplanning.ie

Proposed Development: Proposed underground high-pressure gas transmission pipeline connection between the existing Dublin to Galway gas pipeline and Edenderry Power Plant.

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below the HSE submission report in relation to the above proposal.

The following HSE departments were made aware of the consultation request for the proposed development on 9th June 2026.

- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor
- National Capital Estates Office – Regional AND
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O' Moore
- REO Dublin & Midlands - Kate Killeen White

1. Introduction

The National Environmental Health Service submission is based on a review of the EIAR, Non-Technical Summary, CEMP and supporting documents for this proposed development.

All mitigation measures and commitments set out in the application documents have been taken as read and accurate. No independent sampling was undertaken by the HSE.

This submission focuses on environmental health matters, particularly how potential risks and emissions from the development will be controlled, monitored and managed to protect public health and nearby receptors.

The NEHS has made observations in the following areas:

- Public Consultation and Community Engagement
- Population and human health
- Construction management and community liaison.
- Noise and vibration
- Air
- Water
- Climate change
- Waste management

2. Description of the Project and Physical Environment

The proposed development is for a new underground gas pipeline connecting the existing Dublin to Galway gas pipeline to the Edenderry Power Plant area. The pipeline will be about 23.65 km long and will pass through rural areas in County Meath and County Offaly.

The works will include the underground pipeline, a new connection point at Kilwarden, a new above-ground installation at Ballykilleen, temporary construction compounds, pipe storage areas, access routes, fibre ducting, landscaping and other related works.

Most of the route is through agricultural land. It will also cross roads, field drains, streams, the Yellow River and the Grand Canal. The area along the route is mainly rural, with farms, scattered houses, local roads, watercourses, bogland and open fields.

From an environmental health point of view, the main issues are likely to arise during construction. These include temporary noise, dust, construction traffic, waste, access disruption and the need to protect drains, streams, rivers and nearby homes during the works.

3. Public Consultation and Community Engagement

The submitted documentation shows that the normal statutory consultation process has been followed for this Strategic Infrastructure Development application. The EIAR and planning documents are available for public inspection, and submissions can be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

The documentation also states that early consultation was carried out with key environmental bodies, including organisations responsible for fisheries, waterways and nature conservation. Public information meetings and one-to-one meetings with landowners along the proposed pipeline route were also carried out.

From an environmental health point of view, the main point requiring confirmation is that this communication continues during construction, as the works will move along a long route and may affect different people at different times.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before construction starts, it is clarified how affected residents, landowners, farmers and businesses will be kept informed as works move along the pipeline route. This should include advance notice of works in their area, road closures, traffic diversions, particularly noisy works and works close to watercourses.

4. Population and Human Health

The EIAR includes a chapter on Population and Human Health. For this development, the main effects on people are likely to be temporary and linked to the construction phase.

The main environmental health matters are construction noise, dust, vibration, construction traffic, temporary access restrictions, waste management and protection of drains and watercourses. These matters are addressed in the EIAR, Construction Methodology, Construction Traffic Management Plan and Outline CEMP.

The main point requiring clarification is how the final controls will be applied as the works move along the route and pass near homes, farms, local roads and watercourses.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before works start and secured by condition where appropriate, the final CEMP clearly sets out:

1. how access to homes, farms, lands and businesses will be maintained
2. who will be responsible on site for dealing with environmental health matters such as dust, noise, vibration, traffic disruption, waste and water protection;
3. how complaints will be recorded, investigated and responded to.

Subject to these recommendations and the implementation of the mitigation measures in the EIAR and CEMP, no significant environmental health concern is identified in relation to Population and Human Health.

5. Construction Management and Community Liaison

The submitted documentation includes an Outline CEMP, Construction Methodology and Construction Traffic Management Plan. These documents set out how construction works will be managed, including temporary compounds, access routes, traffic management, environmental controls, emergency response and reinstatement. The Outline CEMP also states that a construction-stage CEMP will be prepared by the appointed contractor.

From an environmental health point of view, the main concern is to make sure that the final construction arrangements are clear before works begin. This is important because the works will take place along a long route and will include road crossings, watercourse crossings, trenching, dewatering and works close to some homes and farms.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before construction starts and secured by condition where appropriate, the final CEMP confirms:

1. a named contact person for the works;
2. how complaints will be logged, investigated and responded to;
3. that the complaints log will be made available to the planning authority if requested;
4. how higher-risk works, including road crossings, watercourse crossings, dewatering, concrete works and works close to homes or farms, will be managed and supervised.

This would help ensure that temporary construction impacts are managed properly and that local concerns are dealt with quickly.

6. Noise and Vibration

Chapter 10 of the EIAR assesses noise and vibration for the proposed pipeline, Kilwarden Offtake Installation and Ballykilleen AGI. The assessment uses recognised guidance, including BS 5228 for construction noise and vibration. The Outline CEMP also includes construction noise and vibration threshold levels.

The documentation identifies that the main noise issue is during construction, especially where pipeline works take place close to houses along the route. It states that works within 50 metres of residential noise-sensitive locations may require solid screening around noisy equipment, and that vibration monitoring may be needed where works could approach vibration limits.

From an environmental health point of view, the assessment is generally acceptable. The main point requiring confirmation is how the noise and vibration controls will be applied at the closest houses and farms.

Recommendation

1. where noise screening will be used for works close to houses, particularly within 50 metres;
2. where vibration monitoring will be carried out for higher-risk works such as road breaking, trenching or works close to buildings;
3. who will be responsible for checking noise and vibration controls on site;
4. what action will be taken if agreed noise or vibration limits/controls are exceeded or not implemented;
5. that any change to higher-noise construction methods will be reviewed against the noise and vibration assessment.

Subject to these recommendations and the implementation of the EIAR and CEMP mitigation measures, no significant environmental health concern is identified in relation to noise and vibration.

7. Air Quality

Chapter 8 of the EIAR assesses air quality. The assessment uses recognised guidance, including IAQM guidance for construction dust and TII guidance for traffic-related air quality impacts. The EIAR identifies construction dust as the main air quality issue for this development. Construction traffic and operational traffic emissions are assessed as not significant. The small boilers at the Ballykilleen AGI are also not expected to cause significant air quality effects.

The Outline CEMP includes dust control measures, including a stakeholder communication plan, recording dust complaints, avoiding dust-generating activities close to receptors where possible, covering stockpiles, no idling of vehicles, speed limits on haul roads, dust suppression and controls for track-out.

From an environmental health point of view, the main point requiring confirmation is how dust controls will be applied and checked during the highest-risk works, particularly during earthworks, trenching, haul road use and works close to houses, farms or local roads.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before works start and secured by condition where appropriate, the final CEMP confirms:

1. where dust controls and monitoring will be used during higher-risk works;
2. what action will be taken if visible dust leaves the site, dust complaints are received or dust controls are not working effectively;
3. who will be responsible for recording, investigating and responding to dust complaints;
4. that dust-related complaints and actions taken will be recorded and made available to the planning authority if requested.

Subject to these recommendations and full implementation of the dust mitigation measures in the EIAR and CEMP, no significant environmental health concern is identified in relation to air quality.

8. Water, Hydrology and Hydrogeology

The submitted documentation includes assessments of hydrology, hydrogeology, Water Framework Directive matters and flood risk. The pipeline route crosses a number of drains, streams, rivers and the Grand Canal. The Construction Methodology confirms that the works include both open-cut and trenchless crossings, with trenchless methods proposed for key crossings including the Kilwarden River, Yellow River, M4 motorway and Grand Canal.

The EIAR identifies the main construction risks to water as muddy run-off, sediment, concrete or cement wash water, fuels, oils, construction chemicals and wastewater from temporary welfare facilities. These risks are typical for works involving trenching, dewatering, temporary crossings and works near watercourses.

The WFD Assessment concludes that the proposed development is not expected to cause deterioration in the relevant surface water or groundwater bodies, or prevent the achievement of WFD objectives, provided the proposed controls are implemented. The Flood Risk Assessment has also been prepared in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.

From an environmental health point of view, the main point requiring confirmation is how water protection measures will be supervised during higher-risk works, particularly open-cut watercourse crossings, dewatering, concrete works, temporary crossings and works during wet weather.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before relevant works start and secured by condition where appropriate, the final CEMP confirms:

1. who will be responsible on site for checking water protection measures during higher-risk works;
2. how dewatering water, muddy water and run-off will be controlled before discharge or disposal;
3. that any required approval is in place before discharge to land, a drain, a watercourse or any other drainage route;
4. how concrete wash water, fuels, oils and chemicals will be stored and managed to prevent pollution;
5. what emergency response measures will be used if a spill, sediment release or other water pollution incident occurs.

Subject to these recommendations and the implementation of the water protection measures in the EIAR, CEMP, WFD Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment, no significant environmental health concern is identified in relation to water, hydrology or hydrogeology.

9. Climate Change

Chapter 9 of the EIAR assesses climate change. The assessment considers greenhouse gas emissions during construction and operation, and also looks at how the development may be affected by future climate risks such as heavier rainfall, flooding, extreme temperatures and other weather events.

The documentation states that the proposed pipeline itself has a limited operational climate footprint. It also states that the purpose of the development is to allow the existing Cushaling Peaker Plant to move from liquid fuel to dual-fuel operation, with natural gas as the main fuel and liquid fuel retained as backup. The EIAR assesses the climate effects as not significant, once the proposed measures are implemented.

From an environmental health point of view, the main concern requiring confirmation is making sure that construction works are planned to deal with changing weather conditions. This is relevant because the works include trenching, dewatering, temporary compounds, watercourse crossings, road crossings and reinstatement across a long rural route.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before construction starts and secured by condition where appropriate, the final CEMP confirms:

1. how works will be managed during heavy rainfall or poor ground conditions, particularly trenching, dewatering and watercourse crossings;
2. how temporary drainage, sediment control and stockpile management will be maintained during wet weather;
3. how plant, vehicles and generators will be managed to reduce unnecessary fuel use and emissions, including no unnecessary idling;

10. Waste management

Chapter 14 of the EIAR assesses waste management. A site-specific Resource and Waste Management Plan has also been prepared for the development in accordance with EPA best practice guidance for construction and demolition projects. The documentation covers waste prevention, segregation, reuse, recycling, recovery, disposal, waste records and the use of authorised waste facilities.

For this development, the main waste issue is the construction phase. The pipeline works will involve excavation, trenching, temporary compounds, laydown areas, pipe storage, packaging, general construction waste and some potentially hazardous wastes such as fuel, oil, contaminated soil or invasive plant material if encountered.

The documentation states that most excavated soil is expected to be suitable for reuse on site as backfill, with the remaining material to be removed by suitably licensed contractors. It also states that waste should be brought to appropriately registered, permitted or licensed waste facilities.

From an environmental health point of view, the main point requiring confirmation is how waste controls will be applied, particularly at temporary compounds, road crossings, watercourse crossings and areas close to homes or farms.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, before construction starts and secured by condition where appropriate, the final CEMP or final Resource and Waste Management Plan confirms:

1. how construction waste will be segregated, stored and removed from temporary compounds and working areas;
2. that only authorised waste collectors and appropriately permitted or licensed waste facilities will be used;
3. how waste movements will be recorded and made available for inspection if requested;
4. how unexpected or potentially contaminated soil, invasive plant material, fuel/oil waste or other hazardous waste will be identified, stored and managed;
5. how litter, mud, dust or nuisance from waste storage areas will be prevented along the route.

Subject to these confirmations and full implementation of the EIAR, CEMP and Resource and Waste Management Plan, no significant environmental health concern is identified in relation to waste management.

Conclusion:

The National Environmental Health Service has reviewed the EIAR and supporting documents for the proposed underground gas pipeline between the existing Dublin to Galway pipeline and the Edenderry Power Plant area.

Overall, the documentation is considered acceptable from an environmental health point of view. The main issues for this development are temporary and relate to the construction phase, as the works will move along a long rural route through agricultural lands, local roads, watercourses and areas close to scattered houses and farms.

Subject to the points raised in this submission being addressed, and the mitigation measures in the EIAR, CEMP, Construction Methodology, Construction Traffic Management Plan and supporting reports being fully implemented and secured by condition where appropriate, the potential environmental health impacts can be appropriately managed.

If you have any queries regarding this submission, the initial contact is, Lorraine Browne, Principal Environmental Health Officer, who will refer your query to the appropriate person.



Marisol Gonzalez Troya
Network Support Unit Member

Lorraine Browne
Principal Environmental Health Officer

All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report including acknowledgement of this report should be forwarded to :

Ms. Lorraine Browne – A/Principal Environmental Health Officer, Health Centre, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. R35 HP73

Email: peho.laoisoffaly@hse.ie