

Observation on the Proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm

Applicant: FuturEnergy Ireland

Case Reference: PAX12.324290

Location: Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagrough, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullyskeherny, Co.Leutrim

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To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

I am a resident of Brackarymore, Manorhamilton, County Leutrim and I wish to make an observation on the proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm.

Firstly, I wish to state that my objection is not to renewable energy itself. I recognise the importance of renewable energy in addressing climate change. However, I strongly believe that Dough Mountain is an entirely unsuitable location for an industrial-scale wind farm of this magnitude because of its environmental sensitivity, outstanding landscape, existing residential impacts and importance to the local community.

I have lived in Brackarymore for most of my life, growing up here with my parents and five siblings. Last year I moved back to my family home with my two young children aged 2 and 7 to care for my elderly mother following the death of my father from cancer in 2025. My own partner also passed away in 2024 so the peace, tranquillity and natural beauty of this area have been invaluable to me and my family during an extremely difficult period of our lives.

Our home is located just over one kilometre from the proposed wind farm and directly overlooks the existing Faughary Wind Farm. The current three turbines are approximately 125 metres in height and have been operating since 2013. Living so close means I experience their impacts every day.

The turbine noise is a constant feature of our home. Depending on wind direction and weather conditions, the continuous whooshing sound can be heard throughout the day and is particularly noticeable at night when background noise is reduced. This has affected the peaceful environment that has always defined our home.

In addition, shadow flicker regularly affects our house, particularly our kitchen where my family spends most of our time together. There are occasions when we have to close curtains during daylight hours because the flickering becomes so intrusive. These are not theoretical concerns; they are part of our everyday lives. The proposed development would involve fourteen turbines reaching approximately 185 metres in height, substantially larger than the existing turbines. I am deeply concerned that the impacts of noise, shadow flicker and visual dominance would increase significantly.

The visual impact would also be overwhelming. The existing turbines already dominate the landscape from our home. Fourteen turbines almost 185 metres high would permanently transform this beautiful rural landscape into an industrial energy complex. Friends and relatives who visit frequently comment on how intrusive the existing turbines already appear. The proposed development would fundamentally alter the character of the countryside that generations of local families have called home.

I also own land in this area and had always intended to spend the rest of my life living in Brackarymore. I am concerned that a development of this scale will negatively affect the enjoyment of my property and may also have implications for future planning opportunities on my land. More importantly, I worry about what this landscape will become for my children if permission is granted. Will we even want to remain in our homes if our surroundings are destroyed.

My seven-year-old daughter regularly asks why the existing turbines have to be so close to our home, it's not fair and often comments on how they are so noisy and look awful. It saddens me that the landscape she is growing up with may become even more industrialised.

Before returning to Brackarymore, I lived in Kiltyclogher for many years with my late partner. Kiltyclogher village, the mountains and countryside throughout this area are known for their natural beauty and tranquillity. I believe this proposal would diminish not only Dough Mountain but the wider landscape that makes this area such a special place to live and visit.

I regularly walk on and around Dough Mountain with my two young children, through beautiful forests full of blue bells. We enjoy exploring the forests, observing wildlife and appreciating the peaceful surroundings. During these walks we have personally observed hen harriers on two occasions and frequently see buzzards flying over the mountain. We have also seen bats, hares, frogs and many other species. The area supports important wildlife and habitats that deserve the highest level of protection. I am concerned that the construction and operation of this development will have lasting impacts on these species despite the mitigation measures proposed.

I am equally concerned about the effects on peatland and hydrology. Dough Mountain contains extensive peatland and bog which would require excavation and drainage during construction. Disturbing peat on this scale creates concerns regarding erosion, slope stability and sediment entering local watercourses.

The Owenmore River rises in this area and eventually drains towards Lough Gill, an important source of drinking water for thousands of people. Other streams from Dough Mountain flow towards Lough Melvin. I fear that excavation, drainage works and silt-laden runoff could affect downstream water quality and aquatic habitats. Given the importance of these watercourses to local communities and the environment, I believe a precautionary approach is essential.

I am also concerned about the impact of construction traffic. Rural roads around Brackarymore, Dough Mountain and the surrounding townlands are narrow and were not designed for prolonged heavy construction traffic or abnormal loads associated with transporting turbine components. This has the potential to affect road safety for local residents, farmers, school transport and emergency services.

Finally, I believe this proposal would significantly damage the tourism and recreational value of this part of County Leitrim. Visitors come here because of the unspoilt scenery, peaceful environment, walking opportunities and wildlife. These qualities contribute greatly to local businesses and community life. Replacing this landscape with one

dominated by industrial-scale turbines would fundamentally alter the area's identity and sense of place.

Having already experienced the daily effects of living beside an operational wind farm, I know first-hand that the impacts extend far beyond what is shown in photomontages or technical reports supplied by FuturEnergy. My concerns are based on lived experience rather than speculation. I believe this proposal would have an unacceptable cumulative impact on my family, my home, local wildlife, water resources and the wider landscape around Dough Mountain.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for the proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Caitríona O'Hara
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