

Application Details

Applicant:

FuturEnergy Ireland

Development Proposed: Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX12.324290

Location:

Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullyskeherny, Co. Leitrim

Hazel Branagan

Cornaneane

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To whom it may concern,

I have a property that I spend much of the year at in the area and I wish to make an observation on the proposed Lissinagroagh, Dough Mountain wind farm development. Having received literature from the company and reviewed the application documents, I have concerns regarding the proposal for the following reasons:

I am concerned that turbines of up to 185 metres in height would fundamentally alter the landscape of the area. They are disproportionately high and would industrialise the natural world we should be trying to protect; destroying the beauty of the natural environment. The area is recognised as an area of High Visual Amenity.

In addition the applicant's own surveys identify important bird and wildlife activity within and around the site, including hen harrier activity over a number of years. The planning documents acknowledge significant impacts on breeding hen harrier and propose extensive habitat

compensation measures. In my view, the need for compensation on this scale demonstrates the ecological sensitivity of the area and raises concerns about whether impacts can genuinely be avoided. Birdwatch Ireland state that this bird could be extinct within 25 years if it is not protected. Wind farm development is stated as a direct impact on their significant decline. There are only between 85 and 106 breeding birds left in this country and the breeding birds are confined to heather moorland. This development would be detrimental to the hen harrier and no compensation measures can protect them if the development goes ahead.

Further, the extent of the disturbance of a development of this size is known to have grave impacts on the water in the area; rivers, streams, ground water. With the changes in the weather patterns and frequent flooding, the risks are too high. The peatlands and bogs need to be protected and not excavated. In addition to this, the application includes a Peat Stability Risk Assessment and identifies the need for ongoing management and mitigation measures. In my view, this demonstrates the sensitivity of the site and raises concerns regarding peat stability, water quality and long-term environmental impacts including the huge release of carbon emissions as a result.

I am concerned for the community of people living in the area, the noise, the shadow flicker and the aviation lighting that they would have to live with; industrializing the place of beauty that they have chosen to live in.

My primary concern is not renewable energy itself but whether Dough Mountain is an appropriate location for a development of this scale. The planning documents identify peatland, sensitive habitats, groundwater vulnerability, karst features, hydrological connectivity, landscape sensitivity and the need for extensive mitigation and compensation measures. I think these factors indicate that the site is environmentally sensitive and unsuitable for large-scale industrial development.

Kind regards

Hazel Branagan