

Submission of Kathleen O Hara of Brackary More, Manorhamilton, Leitrim.

Re: Lissinagroagh Wind farm – case Reference PAX12.324290

Applicant: FuturEnergy

Development: Proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm

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

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a local resident of this area. I live in Brackary More, Manorhamilton, Leitrim. I have lived here for forty years. We moved here from the town of Manorhamilton to the O Hara home house and farm back in 1987. My late husband, Seamus who died in 2025 was born and reared in this beautiful and tranquil place. He farmed the land here all his life and continued to do so up until his passing last year. Our six children grew up here, enjoying the peaceful surroundings. My daughter, Caitriona and her two young children (my grandchildren) reside here with me at present.

My house is situated on the hill directly opposite the three existing wind turbines of Faughary wind farm, Manorhamilton, Leitrim. Since the establishment of these three turbines our peaceful existence in Brackary More has been shattered. Its 2pm as I write this submission. I am sitting in my kitchen, listening to their booming noise on the opposite hillside. We were unaware of the plan to erect the turbines of Faughary wind farm back in 2013. Its my opinion the development was kept quiet. None of my neighbours appear to have been aware of the construction at the time. Over the years they have caused great disturbance to our sleep quality. The noise penetrates our home. Its constant whooshing carries on the wind directly over to my home, day and night. Sometimes it is so loud there is no way to shut the noise out. As the crow flies my home is well within two kilometres of Faughary wind farm. I have received literature from Futureenergy since 2021 delivered to my home, so I know that puts me within a two-kilometre distance of the proposed Lissinagroagh wind farm development.

When we reconstructed our family home back in 2005, we were denied planning permission for dormer windows upstairs, so we had to install Velux windows. Imagine being denied to incorporate dormer windows in our home at that time but now it may be acceptable to construct 14 wind turbines of up to 185 metres in height in the same locale.

In my lifetime, I would hope that some of my children or my grandchildren could build their homes here in Brackary More but if planning permission is granted for these turbines, these

monstrosities, will anyone be able to live here? Will anyone want to live here with the constant noise? Noise so loud and so constant it can't but be damaging to one's physical and mental health.

With regards to the shadow flicker that comes of those three turbines currently in place as my kitchen faces towards the turbines, they do reflect in through the front windows in the evening when the sun glints of them. I have found myself suffering from regular headaches which I truly believe is caused by that flicker effect.

With the noise from them I struggle to sleep. This is ongoing for years. I have to attend my doctor and rely on sleep aids to help me sleep.

This area has only ever known the noise coming from sheep, cattle, birds and the sound of children playing. Alas, this is all drowned out by the constant whooshing and whirring of those turbines. It is unnatural. The noise of those turbines is often all that can be heard above all else. I am deeply concerned that Lissinagroagh wind farm development may receive planning permission. I am worried how it will affect my quality of life, particularly due to the noise and flicker. Not just my quality of life but that of my family, my neighbours and indeed the community at large.

I know that Faughary wind farm is here to stay. I am well aware that it has been in operation for the last thirteen years and that the life span of a turbine can be up to thirty-five years. Realistically, I know Faughary wind farm will be there long after I am gone. I am terrified that if Lissinagroagh wind farm is granted planning permission it will not only prevent people from making this area their home but will actually drive people from their homes. People like me, who have lived here for most of our lives, raised our families here, made our living through farming here and who love where we are from.

Leitrim will be destroyed. Its beautiful scenery will be no more. Instead, we will all be living in an industrial wasteland. Who's to say, that if Lissinagroagh Wind Farm gets the go ahead, what's to stop other energy companies from applying for permission for similar developments all around our area? Back in 2022, Seamus and I received a visit from men who were from another energy company who were interested in building a wind farm on the mountain along Brackary More and neighbouring Brackary Beg. They were calling to the homes of local landowners to gauge if they would be agreeable to such a development down the line. I was appalled and when I brought to their attention that another wind farm was being planned across from us, they feigned that they had no knowledge of this development. I believe that by granting planning permission for Lissinagroagh windfarm development it will indeed leave the door open for other similar developments in the future.

Already Leitrim is host to a large number of wind turbines. There are two wind farms on the outskirts of Manorhamilton alone, not to mention Dromahair, Drumkeerin and several other locations. Why is it that rural counties like Leitrim, Donegal and Fermanagh host so many turbines while counties further down the country and towards the East of the country have little to none. Is it because these counties have larger populations and that there might be more opposition to such developments?

Tourism is so important for an area like North Leitrim. The tourism economy should be encouraged and nurtured here, not destroyed by unsightly turbines. Tourism brings money into Manorhamilton, Rossinver, Kiltycloger and Glenfarne. What money or employment does a wind farm bring in? I do not know of anyone that was employed in the construction of Faughary wind farm. I do not know one local person who has been employed in its ongoing maintenance. Maintenance?? Now that is a joke. No one goes near that wind farm. The warning lights haven't worked on two of those turbines in a very long time. That company in charge of Faughary wind farm can't even be bothered to maintain those turbines.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuse planning permission for the proposed Lissinagroagh wind farm development. I believe that the development would have significant adverse impacts on the surrounding area and on the quality of life of local residents and I ask that my concerns be given full and careful consideration in An Bord Pleanála's decision.

Regards,

Kathleen O Hara.