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Subject: Submission/Observation on Planning Application
Case Reference No.: PAX12.324290
ACP Case Number: 324290
Proposed Development: Renewable Energy Development/Wind Farm
FuturEnergy
Location: Lissinagroagh near Manorhamilton.

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission in relation to the proposed development at Lissinagroagh Wind Farm which has been proposed by FuturEnergy which is a joint venture company between Coillte and the ESB.

I myself am a resident of the town of Manorhamilton which the wind farm will overshadow every morning if granted and a land owner in the townland of Brackarymore on the R282 between Rossinver and Manorhamilton where I grew up and have farmed the land since I was young with my father and grandfather and now by myself.

I strongly object to the granting of permission for the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm and will try to highlight the issues I have with the development and its planning process.

I would like to state at this point that I am in no way against renewable energy or how our country proposes to harvest this energy, but it cannot be harmful to communities, biodiversity or ecology at any cost.

Proposed Site:

Just because Coillte own the significant proportion of a mountain it does not mean that they have the right to utilise it whatever they want. If I wanted to build a dwelling on my own farm in Brackarymore which is under two kilometres from the proposed wind farm on a 1ha site and applied to Leitrim County Council in the past twenty odd years the planning permission would more and likely be denied on the grounds that I may take the skyline, I may fail and ecology report or test hole for a proposed septic tank or I maybe my site needed an entrance of a regional or public road. The area which the Coillte and third party landowners own for the proposed windfarm is 389ha and the development will cover 170.5ha of the total area.

The area of the windfarm will be massive and so will the proposed turbines themselves. They will tower between 180m and 185m into the sky in front of Thur and Dough Mountain respectively.

Dough/Thur Mountains National Heritage Area is a protected area and the proposed location of the 14 turbines and dotted across their boundaries. Dough/Thur Mountains NHA is an area of upland blanket bog, heath and grassland. Just because the proposal is on the borders of the NHA site it does not mean it will not directly affect the characteristics of the area. Leitrim is a very rural area and what we have to offer to the world is natural beauty that comes from our rivers, lakes and mountain walks. If the proposed turbines are erected then attractions will be gone from Dough/Thur Mountain NHA. Instead of views of the Glens of North Leitrim you will be standing in front of one of Ireland's largest industrial size wind farms. Conveniently the FuturEnergy Project Brochure March 2026 states that there are no NATURA 2000 sites, i.e. Special Areas of Conservations (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs), within the study area on page 8. They failed to inform the public that the proposed wind farm will directly interfere with the Dough/Thur Mountains National Heritage Area.

I would like to know if FuturEnergy without doubt met all requirements needed to build or directly beside or interfere with a NHA, obstruct the view of or from a NHA or affect the biodiversity or wildlife of the NHA.

Noise Monitoring and Public Consultation:

FuturEnergy appointed two Community Liaison Officers Eamonn Keavney and Tom Costello which I have met personally at the Lissinagroagh site. During the early stages of the consultation in April 2021 I raised the issue of noise pollution coming from the existing three turbines situated in Faughery. I asked them if it would be possible to erect a noise monitor at my parents home in the townland of Brackarymore. I had also arranged with three residents of the existing farm who are all within the boundaries of the study area for the proposed wind farm with the consent of the liaison officers. The period of time between April and July 2021 numerous emails were exchanged with eircodes of proposed monitors and Emmet McLaughlin was CC'd who I believed to be a Project Team Leader for Tobin. In May 2021 I was told that they would soon be putting letters through doors for permission to erect noise monitors and by the end of June 2021 I was told that Tobin Consultants dictate where monitors were erected. I asked for an explanation about their refusal to erect the extra three monitors and they did not reply.

Please note that if you require proof of this engagement then I have all emails available and will gladly forward them.

Tobin Consulting Engineers did however erect a noise monitor at my parents house in Brackarymore in November 2021. I had stressed that the timing of the monitors erection would be key to ensuring that an accurate assessment would be done. The monitors did not stay long, the weather conditions were poor and results were not disclosed at any stage of consultation. The three turbines that are there already when the weather is calm and the winds are blowing from an easterly direction sounds like a plane taking off.

No communications were had with the liaison officers after that until I rang them in March 2026 to try to organise an appointment for the public consultation they were holding in Rossinver. I was told that I was too late and all allocated slots were filled. I asked if I could have an updated brochure as my house is located outside the 2km delivery radius for them to have delivered. They agreed and I collected the brochure at the door of the Rossinver Community Hall.

Wildlife and Biodiversity:

On the 19th April 2021 I sent an email to the liaison officers with an attached video of a common smooth newt recorded by my partner the previous year. A common smooth newt is protected under the 1976 Wildlife Act in which the newt was entered in 1980. The video was filmed at a location directly in the middle of the study area between the locations of the proposed Turbine 9 and 10. The liaison officers asked me to take them to the location and I obliged. I asked to be kept up to date on the ecology report but was not. I myself cannot find any reference or mention of a smooth common newt or what actions were taken to find their status in the study area. I have been informed that a one day survey was undertaken and nothing was found.

The Greater Dublin Drainage Project 2023 and Tyrone-Cavan Interconnector 2013 are two projects that went above and beyond to follow the proper protocols to find, study and evaluate any risk to the habitat or the newt itself.

If you can overlook one vulnerable species what is to say the reports done followed all necessary guidelines when it came to White Tailed Eagles, Bats, Frogs, Badgers, Marsh Fritillary, otters and hen harriers.

Wind turbines in Donegal have killed three white-tailed eagles in less than a year, according to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The birds of prey were fatally injured by wind turbines in Killybegs and Inver between October 2024 and May 2025.

Two tagged male eagles were killed by the same turbine in the Anarget Windfarm on Meenacloghspar, Inver. The third eagle, a female, was killed by a turbine at Cornacahan near Killybegs in November 2024.

I have recorded the white tailed eagle in the area around the proposed development and have two videos of it from 2024 and 2026.

The hen harrier has been registered and recorded for years in the area surrounding the study area. Local farmers have been going to great lengths to ensure they do their part in protecting the protected species.

Water Quality, SPAs and SACs:

There are 13 European sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project, namely; •

- Arroo Mountain SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SAC;
- Ballysadare Bay SPA;
- Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade SAC;
- Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC;
- Cummeen Strand SPA;
- Donegal Bay SPA;
- Drumcliff Bay SPA;
- Glenade Lough SAC;
- Lough Gill SAC;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- Lough Melvin SAC (NI); and,
- Unshin River SAC.

Whilst that is a long list these are the areas that will be affected by the proposed wind farm. I would also like to add The Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark and the Erne Waterways.

Some of the areas mentioned are more directly affected than others but all the same affected. Alterations will have to be made to the delivery route, corners widened etc. which leads to habitat loss and pollution.

The proposed route for the grid connection will basically cut a line directly across Manorhamilton and make its way to Sligo drilling under rivers and river banks directly agitating riverbeds causing displacement. If they go with the proposed route for the connection it will pass my front door raising the question of interference with drinking water and sewerage connections.

The proposed wind farm will directly and indirectly affect the water quality in an area which size could be unknown. The massive amounts of peats and soil that have to be displaced to dig the foundations and burrow pits will lead to pollution. Now add on the the amount of drainage works and raw aggregate is needed to build 7.95km and upgrade 8.35km of road. Effects of the removal of forestry on the site are already visible in the town of Manorhamilton at Park Road on a river directly coming from the mountain and entering the Bonnet River when heavy rains fall, the rivers turns murky grey colour.

The following are drinking water treatments plants (WTPs) in the area:

Lough Gill	Moneyduff WTP
Lough Melvin	Bundoran Urban
Glenade	Kinlough Tullaghan

The following are waste water treatment plants (WWTPs) in the area:

Manorhamilton WWTP

Dromahair WWTP

Blacklion WWTP

Each WTP and WWTP have extensive water testing done on a monthly basis to ensure quality is correct by Uisce Eireann (UE) .WWTPs are tested for for Influent and Effluent and also includes upstream and downstream samples to ensure no excess Ammonia or OrthoP. The rivers Dissolved Oxygen (DOmgI%) is also tested to ensure plants do not affect the river.

So when the run off of the excavated soils and peats, the added raw aggregate for roadways during construction and the clearing of drains and ditches will mean that there will be direct pollution to the rivers. DOmgI% will drop with added sediments and particles, entering fast flowing streams and rivers will bring the sediments and particles to slower flat parts of the river and eventually the lakes and deposit them on the river/lake beds causing significant reduction in amphibian life, water quality, the potential of algae growths, introduction of invasive species both flora and fauna.

Changes in DOmgI%, Phosphorus and Nitrogen levels have the potential to eradicate species over years and decades slowly or excessive amounts in just days or weeks. If you kill the wildlife and fish life by removing their nesting areas or food sources, you kill the waterways as well.

Turbines 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 have the potential to pollute river sources for the Lough Melvin SAC and Lough Melvin SAC (NI) drinking water sources.

Turbines 8,9,10,11,12 have the potential to pollute Lough Gill SAC and Glenade Lough SAC drinking water sources.

Turbines 13 and 14 have the potential to pollute the Glenfarne river which flows into Upper Lough MacNea, which joins Lower Lough MacNea which then flows through the Arney river in the Erne. This is part of The Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark. The Erne is an extensive waterway which provides drinking water sources for towns across Donegal, Cavan and Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. Multiple extra tests to ensure that the waterways stay clear of pesticides and sediments span from the Annabel River source on the Monaghan border to Newtownforbes in Longford on the banks of the Shannon. The beautiful thing about the waterways of the Erne is the vast area it connects to through the Erne/Shannon Waterway system. A complex Lock System ensures free travel of boats from one river to the other meaning if there was a landslide of peat during the lifespan of the windfarm or excessive uncontrolled sediments enter the water it's not just inside FuturEnergy/TOBIN study area. The effects could potentially destroy eco-systems, amphibian life, salmon and trout breeding areas, across a vast proportion of the island of Ireland. You may think this can not happen but invasive species travel both upstream and downstream.

Testing and monitoring is being done throughout the year to ensure that pollution of our waterways does not happen so why potentially ruin it with granting permission for this wind

farm. An EPA report in June 2026 says faster actions are needed to prevent high nutrient levels and little has changed so why potentially destroy multiple waterways. Siltation will degrade water quality and disrupt ecosystems.

Shadow Flicker:

Shadow is already present on the three turbines at Faughery wind farm. FuturEnergy says that this will not be an issue with the new development as they have planned stoppages and such to prevent it during certain times of the day. I recently talked to locals at Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm in Co. Roscommon. They said some of the windmills never run due to extensive shadow flicker. FuturEnergy is basing Lissinagroagh Windfarm on this one. The windfarm is located directly between Manorhamilton and the area where the sun rises to the North East every morning meaning shadow flicker will occur every day for hours.

Conclusion:

In FuturEnergy's application it is stated that during construction, during the lifespan of the wind farm and during the decommission of the wind farm it cannot be guaranteed that pollution will not enter the above discussed waterways. Can you knowingly pollute waterways of Ireland and across the border in Northern Ireland. Just because it is convenient to two big state owned national companies to team up because one of them owns 7% of the land mass of Ireland (over 1million acres) and decide one area in North Leitrim needs the biggest turbines in Ireland doesn't make it right. Permission was denied on the same mountains in 2010 and what has changed? The world is in an energy crisis and why should one area bare the brunt of it. If granted there will fifty nine turbines within an area across Leitrim, Roscommon, Donegal, Fermanagh and Sligo. It is a bit much in fairness. I hope that you can really consider the facts, the location and the people who will have to live with this development. In Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm in Co. Roscommon the residents cannot hear the wind turbines. They say they could and got used to them. The wind farm is on the highest mountain in Roscommon with no other surrounding mountain to bounce back the sound. Lissinagroagh Wind farm is on the lowest of the five mountains in the North Leitrim. The noise will never get a chance to leave but the people might have too.