

5 Bothar Synge
Geesala,
Ballina,
Co. Mayo

F26 R9P4

31-07-26

The Inspector
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm Development
Planning Reference: PAX16.324387 (An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref. 324387)

Re: Formal Submission/Observation on the Proposed Muingmore Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX16.324387

Applicant: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited

Development: Proposed construction of 13 wind turbines, a 110kV substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure in the townlands of Muingmore, Doolough, Tristia, Moneynierin and Bangor, County Mayo.

My name is Martin Harrington, I'm 62 years old and I was born and raised in the area. I've lived and worked in different counties at different times since 1986 and I moved into my house in Geesala in December 2019, just over 6½ years ago. This is the longest time I've lived in the one place and up to 3 years ago I was perfectly happy. Then RWE appeared.....

I object to this proposed windfarm development for a variety of reasons.

20 years ago I witnessed first-hand what can happen to a small rural community when a multinational energy company with a lot of money decides to build a large industrial facility in the middle of a bog. Families, friends and neighbours were split down the middle, some of them still aren't on civil terms with each other and a "Community

Benefit Fund" is a pointless and frankly insulting box-ticking exercise when the community that it's supposed to benefit has been irrevocably damaged.

There are people in Geesala, Mountjibilee, Muingmore, Doolough and the rest of Erris who I've known for more than 50 years. I went to school with them, worked with them, drank with them and the feeling of being part of a community cannot be quantified by "€2 Euros per Megawatt/hour generated" or by desktop studies which describe men, women and children as "Residential Receptors".

Another reason why I oppose this proposed development is because the entire application is deceptive. The point of this application is to build a 110kV substation and BESS using the 13 turbines as justification. Having the substation, BESS and Grid Connection subject to separate planning procedures only after the windfarm is granted permission indicates that once RWE get their foot in the door in Muingmore they're going to keep putting up as many turbines as they can get away with.

They state plainly in the EIAR/NTS Part 1.8 their objective is to "grow organically by developing businesses from greenfield sites" and "as part of its growth ambitions, the applicant is actively seeking new opportunities to further expand its portfolio in Ireland."

In Part 2, Description of the Proposed Project, BESS 2.101, it states that "it is proposed to construct one onsite BESS compound with a capacity to reflect the generation capacity of the proposed development" and also "The BESS will have the future ability to store excess power being generated locally on the grid..." "Generated locally" implies more wind turbines in the area because RWE's stated capacity of 74.1 to 91MW appears to be (according to their own figures) considerably over-estimated.

Section 2.15 states "rated power generation at wind speeds of approximately 12 to 14 m/s". Section 2.19 states a 2-year wind monitoring period with a "significant wind resource" averaging 9.1 metres/second. This windspeed is sufficient for approximately 70% of rated power generation. Take into account their stated capacity factor of 35%, 2.79 and also Part 8, Section 8.172. This figure is also overly optimistic. The Government website climatejargonbuster.ie states that Ireland's onshore windfarms have a capacity factor of 28% to 30%. 70% of 7MW is 4.9MW and a 35% capacity factor brings it to approximately 1.7MW per turbine, so the rated output of 91MW would appear to be an actual output of approximately 22MW. This requires clarification. Did RWE give these output figures to deliberately bypass Mayo County Council and take their chances with ACP by appearing to be a SID greater than 50MW? Or did they do it so that during curtailment periods because of grid constraints they'd be able to claim payments for producing power that they never had the capacity to produce in the first place? (See

Bloomberg.com article on Feb. 1st 2024 "Scottish windfarms overestimating their output".) Maybe they did both. Deceptive

I realise that I'm going to appear cynical but it's difficult not to get the impression from this application that as long as "The Clean Green Money Machine" keeps printing billions of euros there are going to be opportunistic developers lining up at the ATM to get as much as they can out of it.

There have no concept of how the physical landscape of an area is an inherent part of the people who are born, raised and live there and when huge turbines, which are visible for miles in all directions, are inflicted on a quiet rural area for possibly 35 years then the people of that area (people, not "residential receptors") are destroyed in ways that cannot be quantified or compensated for financially.

This proposed windfarm is inherently destructive and I politely and formally request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse this application by RWE for their Muingmore Windfarm Project in its entirety.

Thank you.

Martin Harrington