

This is the observation of Séamus O'Hara and Anne Frances O'Hara of Doolough Geesala Ballina Co.Mayo F26T0X3. Email: dooloughhorsetraining@gmail.com

We are writing this observation to express our objection to the Muingmore windfarm development that has proposed 13 new wind turbines of 180meters in height and the sub/storage station. We have some major concerns for this development and we do not believe this site is suitable and also feel the company RWE has not done enough research into its proposed site and its surrounding area and the effects it will have. We also have major concerns with the disruption the construction will cause and the lack there of detail in there planning for joining the wind farm to the grid and lack of detail in impact study for what digging out these monstrous foundations will do when it is so close to our bay which falls under protected conservation area. We also feel it would have a massive impact on what is becoming a more and more thriving area for tourism. We also feel these wind farms cause massive devaluation of properties near them and a lot further than there 1km consultation distance. We believe that shadow flicker is a massive concern for us as the bench mark they use to measure this is outdated. Lastly before I break down our individual concerns to be better understood I wish state we are a family of four, myself, my wife and my two daughters who are 8 and 1. Although I Séamus was not born to this village like my 4 other siblings I spent every holiday of my life here until I moved here permanently 16 years ago as this to me is home. With in no time myself and my wife settled down here and as she fast learned that where we live is a community, this is a beautiful and fairly untouched part of Ireland where tradition and good family values still matter. To this day when someone in our village dies all the neighbours bring food, help to clean and we even dig the grave of the deceased to honour them. This is why my final point will be for injustice, we could not sit idly while we have neighbours over the road whose properties become valueless, who have to live in the shadow of these modern monsters that flicker over there houses or let off unsettling humming at any given hour. How could we try raise our children in the ways of tradition and good values if we let this happen to our neighbours, to our community.

RWE research into site and surrounding area:

- No environmental study into wildlife within site or the surrounding areas where wildlife use site for migration or just as habitat.
- No environmental study conducted into pollution that may be caused into the bay carried out by streams and Muings that leave the site area.
- No figures on how many business it will affect locally.

Disruption During construction:

- The Muingmore site is located where all roads leading to site are only just wide enough for normal traffic so construction traffic would have massive day to day impacts on local people.
- All of the roads leading to the site are mostly built over bog land which Mayo county council has spent significant amounts of money to bring to a high standard but it would not sustain the volume of construction materials it requires to build this farm without massive expense to the mayo county council.
- During all this construction there is increased risk to road closure due to different circumstances which would make getting emergency services to people in need on these remote roads a massive problem and surely fatal to someone in need.
- In there planning there is no plan mentions in it for joining the wind plant to the grid which if it is applied for at a later date would require massive disruption to digging up roads mayo county council have spent millions on or worse again possible consider above ground options that would decimate every bit of nature from Muingmore to Bellacorick.

Impact on tourism:

- Erris is famous for its wild beauty, dramatic coastlines, rolling blanket bogs and peaceful still surroundings. Obviously not what Muingmore would represent to our corner.
- People come here to escape the noise and the chaos. Construction alone would ruin tourism in our villages.
- Within close distance of this site there are businesses completely dependant on tourism, The Erris coast Hotel, The High Chaparral, Munnelys Grocery, The Geesala Community Centre and Café . The GTeic and even one of our businesses E3d solutions where one of our main line of products sells straight to the tourism market in Erris.
- One of the big tourism plugs in Erris is our dark sky's
- tours with our dark night sky brought to life, that will we ruined as observers bear witnees to the red lights in the skyline from the towers.

Devaluation:

- It no secret that the houses and land within distance of a turbine take a massive hit in devaluation.
- It not taken into consideration that this has an effect outside there consultation area of 1km even though it does impact anyone within kilometres not just a km. We are outside the area of consultation and even we will have to tilt are head back enough to look at the tip of 180m tall turbine.
- Devaluation of properties should be part of any proposed developments impact study to the area but RWE doesn't even acknowledge people reaching out to it with questions.

Shadow Flicker:

- Shadow flicker isa massive concern to us as if some studies are to be believed on certain days of the year it could even effect us outside there 1km range.
- More of a concern to us is our neighbours we have known all our lives being subjected to the torture of shadow flicker.
- More modern studies on shadow flicker need to be used rather than our outdated guidelines.

Injustice:

- Anyone who is subject to something that affects the value of there properties for something outside the control is subject to an injustice.
- Anyone who is subject to something that affects the quality of there life for something outside of there control is subject to an injustice.
- Anyone who is subject to something that effects the mental or physical health of there life for something out of there control is subject to an injustice.
- The next generation learns from us on what is right or wrong, on what is justice and not an injustice.

Our Conclusion:

We are not against renewable energy but we are also not against common sense. We understand that we need more capacity for renewable energy but the Muingmore site just does not make sense. The latest statistic show that 23% of electricity used in Ireland is going to data centres that are no where near us and that on a good wind day the current grid

infrastructure cannot extract electricity from Owenniney in Bellacorick so why add to the load. Erris has done its part and in all truth has not gained anything from it as we still have the highest electricity charge in the country despite being not only the largest renewable electricity provider in the county but the country. We would ask that for the sake of preserving our nature and landscape, for the sake of our heritage and values and for the sake of our family and our loved Community that you deny planning permission to the muingmore development. Regards Séamus O'Hara, Anne Frances O'Hara and our children who are our future