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Date: 26 August 2026

To:

The Planning Section,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

SUBMISSION / OBSERVATION REGARDING PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- **Case Reference: VA16.324429** – Proposed 110kV electrical substation, loop-in grid connection, and associated works in the townland of Cloonbaul, County Mayo.
- **Associated Appeal:** Refusal of the 7-turbine Cunlaghfadda Wind Farm.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to formally lodge my strong objection and observation regarding the proposed 110kV electrical substation at Cloonbaul, County Mayo (Case Reference: VA16.324429). As a local resident who utilizes this specific area daily, I have profound concerns regarding the severe health, environmental, and residential implications of this development.

1. Interdependence and "Project Splitting"

The proposed Cloonbaul substation cannot be assessed as a standalone development. It is inherently a single industrial asset intended to serve the 7-turbine Cunlaghfadda Wind Farm. Mayo County Council appropriately recognized the severe threats this energy infrastructure poses to our community and formally **refused planning permission** for the wind farm.

To evaluate a heavy-industrial substation while its parenting wind farm stands rejected constitutes unlawful "project splitting" under environmental law. This infrastructure is simply another limb of a refused project, and it should not be allowed to encroach piece-by-piece onto our rural landscape.

2. Severe Health Impacts on Chronic Migraine Pathology

I am a chronic migraine sufferer, a debilitating and neurological condition that makes my system uniquely vulnerable to external environmental stimulus. The introduction of large-scale electrical infrastructure and turbines brings documented neurological triggers into my immediate environment:

- **Acoustic Triggers:** Substations produce a continuous low-frequency hum (magnetostriction). Rhythmic aerodynamic "whooshing" from wind turbine blades creates constant low-frequency noise. For a chronic migraineur, continuous exposure to low-frequency noise leads to sensory overload, chronic sleep disruption, and elevated cortisol—directly lowering my neurological threshold and inducing severe migraine attacks.

- **Visual Hypersensitivity:** The flashing aviation warning lights required on wind infrastructure, combined with "shadow flicker" (the rhythmic strobing effect created when blades intercept the sunlight), are highly documented medical triggers for sudden-onset, severe migraines.

3. Destruction of a Vital Health and Community Amenity

The Cloonbaul countryside is not merely a geographic location; it is a vital health sanctuary. I use this peaceful, natural landscape daily to walk and enjoy the quiet environment. This daily activity has an immense, measurable positive impact on my mental wellbeing and baseline physical health, serving as a preventative coping strategy for managing my migraine condition.

Replacing this tranquil rural landscape with an industrial energy complex—complete with flashing safety lights and continuous low-frequency acoustic triggers—will effectively strip away this crucial amenity. I will be physically unable to use this area without triggering debilitating illness, directly degrading my health and quality of life.

Conclusion

The cumulative impact of the Cloonbaul substation, the appealed wind farm, and the newly proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) represents an unmitigated industrialization of a sensitive, rural community.

Given that Mayo County Council has already rejected the core wind farm component, and considering the severe, direct risks to residential health and wellbeing, I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to uphold the protection of our community and **refuse planning permission** for the Cloonbaul substation.

I have enclosed the statutory observation fee of €50. Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and keep me informed of any updates or final determinations regarding this case.

Yours faithfully,

Amanda Ferris