

SUBMISSION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Re: Case Ref. 324429 — Proposed 110kV Substation, Cloonbaul, Co. Mayo

Applicant: Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Ltd.

From: Helen McNamara

Address: Curraghderry, Milltown, Tuam, Co Galway. H54PR84

Date: 25th August

I wish to object to this application and respectfully request that permission be refused.

This substation is not a standalone development. It is part of a single project — the applicant's own "Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Project" — which also includes a 7-turbine wind farm (refused by Mayo County Council on 13 July 2026) and a battery energy storage system.

I am concerned about the following:

1. The wind farm it serves has been refused. Mayo County Council refused the wind farm on three grounds: harm to the landscape, harm to the setting of Mayo Abbey (one of Ireland's most important early Christian ecclesiastical sites), and the impact of shadow flicker on some 40 homes. Granting the substation would put in place the enabling infrastructure for a development the planning authority has already found unacceptable.
2. The environmental assessment is not adequate. I understand that the substation's own environmental documents are largely copies of the wind farm's assessment, carrying the same report numbers. The Board's own inspector advised the applicant at pre-application stage not to simply replicate the wind-farm EIAR. That advice appears not to have been followed.
3. The substation appears over-sized for seven turbines. The compound is approximately 12,000 m², which raises the question of whether it is designed to serve further turbines in the future that have not been disclosed or assessed.
4. Impact on the local area. The substation would introduce continuous industrial noise (transformer hum) into a quiet rural area, close to occupied homes. It is sited in the townland of Cloonbaul, where the Council's own archaeologist has identified an unrecorded archaeological feature requiring assessment. And the adjacent battery storage facility introduces a fire and toxic-emissions hazard that is not assessed in the substation's own documents.

5. The project should be assessed as a whole. The applicant has split this single project across three separate applications before two different authorities. No single assessment considers the whole. The public has not had a proper opportunity to comment on the combined development within any single consultation window.

For these reasons I respectfully request that this application be refused, or at a minimum that it not be determined in isolation from the related wind farm and battery storage applications.

Yours Sincerely,
Helen McNamara