

Date: 31st August 2026

Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Application

An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference: 324429

Development Description: Proposed 110kV onsite electrical substation, loop-in grid connection, and associated infrastructure in the townland of Cloonbaul, County Mayo.

Applicants: Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Ltd.

Dear Planning Commission Team,

We, Michael and Breda Maguire, residing at Knockaunakill, Mayo Abbey, Claremorris County Mayo], wish to submit our formal observation and strong objection regarding the above-referenced Strategic Infrastructure Development application.

As local residents of the Mayo Abbey community, we request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses planning permission for this development based on the following critical planning grounds:

1. Unlawful Project Splitting under EU Environmental Law

The sole purpose of this 110kV electrical substation and grid connection is to service the proposed Cunlaghfadda Wind Farm. Mayo County Council has already robustly refused planning permission for the parent wind farm development. Seeking a separate strategic infrastructure consent for the grid connection while the wind farm itself remains refused constitutes unlawful "project splitting" under the EU Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. The substation cannot be assessed in isolation from the broader wind energy project it is structurally dependent upon.

2. Proximity to Residential Dwellings and Community Impact

The proposed scale of this industrial substation and its associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) infrastructure is entirely out of character with our rural, residential community. We are deeply concerned about the cumulative impacts on local families, including potential low-frequency noise pollution, electrical hums, and the risk of industrial accidents or fire hazards adjacent to family homes. The introduction of heavy industrial utility infrastructure will significantly degrade the residential amenity and tranquility of Cloonbaul and the surrounding townlands.

3. Impact on Landscape, Scenic Views, and Architectural Heritage

The site layout and towering grid infrastructure will cause severe, irreversible scarring to a highly sensitive rural landscape. Mayo County Council previously recognized that the energy infrastructure in this cluster would negatively impact protected scenic views and the unique architectural and cultural setting of the early Christian heritage site at Mayo

Abbey Cemetery. This historic and spiritual heart of our community must be protected from industrial encroachment.

4. Environmental and Ecological Vulnerability

The construction of a large-scale 110kV substation involves massive excavation and concrete works that threaten local hydrology, drainage networks, and biodiversity. We remain highly concerned that runoff from the development site could compromise local water tables and negatively impact vulnerable wildlife habitats in the area.

For the reasons outlined above, we respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to uphold the proper planning and sustainable development of our region and **refuse permission** for this application.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this submission and keep us informed of any further updates, public hearings, or decisions regarding this file.

Michael & Breda Maguire

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