

Patricia Barnicle
15 Ashview Drive
Sixmilebridge
Co. Clare

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

Technical Observation – ACP Reference 324429

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to submit an observation on ACP Reference **324429** concerning the proposed 110 kV substation and associated grid-connection works.

1. Proximity and Residential Amenity

The application does not adequately assess:

- Noise emissions from transformers and switchgear
- EMF exposure modelling for nearby dwellings
- Visual and landscape impacts of a permanent high-voltage compound in a rural area

These are material considerations for residential amenity and public health.

I would have a concern about the radiation exposure level and electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure for residents in the community and the health risks that could be caused due to living near the 110 kv substation and wind turbines.

2. Ecological Impact

The proposed site and cable route traverse sensitive habitats, including wetlands and areas supporting protected species. Comprehensive baseline ecological surveys are required to show:

- Clear mitigation measures for habitat disturbance
- Long-term biodiversity monitoring commitments
- Communication with local residents on measures to protect wildlife and native flora is insufficient. A clear conservation strategy is required, including commitments to habitat protection, tree replacement, and safeguarding ecological features from damage during construction and operation.

3. Soil, Water, and Subsurface Infrastructure

The application does not clearly address:

- Risks of soil or water contamination from transformer oil or SF₆ equipment
- Long-term management of underground cabling, ducting, and earthing systems
- Decommissioning obligations and land reinstatement at end-of-life.

4. Landscape and Cultural Considerations

The visual impact of the fenced compound, lighting, and ancillary infrastructure is not sufficiently assessed in the context of the rural landscape and nearby heritage features.

5. Public Consultation

The consultation process is inadequate. Residents outside the narrow notification radius have not been engaged, despite facing clear impacts from a 110 kV substation, including noise, visual intrusion, construction disturbance, and increased traffic.

Material issues such as potential property devaluation, new architectural constraints, and the risk of limiting future residential or agricultural

development and other business investments have not been communicated or assessed.

Given the scale and long-term implications of this infrastructure, the consultation area must be expanded and all affected residents afforded meaningful participation.

Conclusion

I wish to formally lodge this observation on ACP Reference **324429**.