

Robert and Lorely Forrester

Dilkhush

Dromore West

Co Sligo

F26 DF10

1.10.26

Strategic Infrastructure Dev. Section
Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re Case Ref 324561 (PAX21. 324561)

Cumhach Wind Farm, Co Sligo, Application by SSE Renewables

Dear Sir or Madam

We wish to lodge our concern over many aspects of the proposed new windfarm in this area. We both support renewable energy, and have had no complaints about the existing windfarm. However the new wind turbines are massively larger than the ones currently operating. It is also a concern that, apparently, one reason why the current wind turbines are very often not in use is that Ireland's grid is unable to cope with the amount of wind energy currently being produced. If this is the case, why is it necessary to build even bigger ones?

Ireland's West Coast is one of the main reasons the country has such a vibrant tourist business, upon which many local people and businesses rely. It is therefore of great importance that serious consideration is given to exactly where windfarms are placed.

The new location, and the size/height of the new development cannot help but impinge on a large part of Sligo's unparalleled natural landscape and the wildlife – much of it already endangered – eg Irish hares, curlews and many other species. This county is not

just a scenic asset to the country as a whole, it is already a precarious home to many creatures who are already under threat from many other factors. The proposed escalation in height of the wind turbines is yet another hazard for the many birds who rely on our climate for breeding or overwintering, waxwings, many types of duck, swans and others – many of them already endangered breeds.

Quite apart from all that is stated above, the demolition of the current site and the construction of a new, probably bigger site will impose a vast stress of the infrastructure of this part of the county. The roads in the specific areas to be developed are small, country lanes for the most part and were not designed for the kind of heavy traffic that will be required. This traffic will also cause major upheaval for an already overstretched N59 which services the whole west of Sligo, and is used by vast numbers of people going to and from work – often from the north of the county as far as Ballina or beyond, let alone emergency vehicles and children and students going to schools/colleges etc. This will cause on-going obstruction for a long time – there are no alternative routes that people can use.

If the current turbines have reached the end of their life cycle, which we understand is the reason for this project, it would seem to make far more sense for the existing turbines to be taken down and the infrastructure already in place to be used to install new replacements of the same size, which the people of the area as well as the wildlife using these corridors/habitats are already used to. This would mean far less disruption for everyone. In the spirit of WHY we are using wind turbines, it would also help to minimise un-necessary waste and expenditure. What no one seems prepared to discuss is the fact that, apparently, the existing wind turbines cannot be recycled, and the vast blades, possibly even the enormous towers themselves, have to be buried. Where are they buried? What disruption does that cause, placing such eco-unfriendly objects of this size in the ground? Hardly environmentally-friendly practice to achieve a renewable energy source.

Yours sincerely

Robert and Lorely Forrester