Andrew & Nuala Murphy
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Park,
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Planning Department,
Cork County Council,
County Hall,
Carrigrohane Road, Cork.

RE: Formal Objection to Planning Application [case file 324632] – Proposed construction of a 220V Air Insulated Substation, loop in grid connection at Ballydaniel, Ballyneague, and Surrounding Townlands

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to formally register our objection to the proposed industrial solar farm development originally associated with Ørsted and currently under Perigus Energy. We are a family of 6, 2 adults, 4 young children living across from the local national school. While we support renewable energy in principle, this specific site choice is entirely reckless. The project introduces an unacceptable level of environmental risk to the local water table, compromises the physical safety of school children, threatens critical heritage assets, and creates a logistical emergency risk that leaves our community uniquely vulnerable.

Our objections are based on the following specific planning grounds:

1. Severe Flooding Risk and Increased Surface Water Runoff
The proposed development introduces a risk of localized and downstream flooding due to the sheer scale of the installation. Covering vast tracts of rural greenfields with hundreds of ground-mounted solar panels will fundamentally change how water interacts with the landscape. The solar panels will create a massive, impermeable canopy. Rainwater will sheet off the panels, creating concentrated "drip lines" that trigger rapid soil compaction and severe erosion.
This layout significantly accelerates surface water runoff. Without the natural absorption capacity of undisturbed greenfield earth, immense volumes of displaced water will be forced onto adjacent areas. This localized runoff poses an immediate and severe flooding threat to low-lying country lanes, neighbouring residential properties, and the nearby school, none of which possess the infrastructure to manage this sudden hydrological shift.
Recent storms over the past 5 years have caused flooding and huge run off on the roads, with this development, the potential of increased frequency and severity will only be increased. See pictures below of flooding outside our house after sustained heavy rainfall. This will be exacerbated further with the proposed development.

2. Major Risk to Local Drinking Water Supply (domestic wells) and Local Hydrology
The proposed development presents an immediate, existential threat to the region's public water infrastructure. Many houses including our own source our water from Domestic Wells, The application site contains **multiple natural springs** and directly intersects the catchment area of the **River Tourig**. The River Tourig is a vital ecological waterway. The extensive civil engineering required to clear this land—including ground-piling thousands of solar panel mounts and deep cable trenching—will disrupt underground aquifers, alter the flow of the natural springs, and cause massive sediment runoff into the river. Increased turbidity and siltation will overwhelm the local water treatment process. Any chemical or fuel leaks from heavy construction machinery, or toxic leaks from the massive, proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), risk contaminating these nearby waterworks and its environs.

3. Severe Emergency Response and Access Risks
The layout of this proposed development creates an elevated risk emergency planning failure. The proposed substation is located approximately 1 mile away from the main public road, and the only access route to it will pass directly through the middle of the proposed industrial solar farm.
This creates an unacceptable safety bottleneck. Large-scale solar arrays and battery energy storage systems (BESS) carry documented risks of toxic thermal runaway fires and chemical off-gassing. If a fire or critical failure occurs within the solar farm, the 1-mile access track to the substation will be completely cut off or rendered too hazardous for emergency vehicles. Emergency services will be unable to safely access the substation in a crisis, severely compounding the risk of a widespread industrial disaster.

4. Complete Lack of Public Consultation by Ørsted and Perigus Energy
The developers have shown a flagrant disregard for local democracy. We, the directly affected local residents, **have not been consulted by Ørsted or Perigus Energy**. A development of this massive magnitude—which directly impacts a school, local roads, protected wildlife, —demands thorough, active engagement with the people who live here. Instead, this project has been advanced with a total absence of open forums or clear communication, denying us our right to be properly informed.

5. Cumulative Impact with the Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm Substation
This area has already done its part for renewable energy infrastructure. The community is already absorbing the massive footprint of the nearby 17-turbine Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm development and its heavy-duty electrical grid substation. Granting permission for an industrial-scale solar farm alongside this infrastructure creates an unacceptable cumulative industrial impact. Our rural area is rapidly being converted into a dense energy-generation hub, stripping the landscape of its character and overburdening local roads and resources.

6. Water Pollution Risks to Sensitive Ecosystems
The construction and clearing phases present an immediate risk of water pollution to local watercourses. Silt runoff, soil disturbance, and potential chemical or fuel leaks from heavy construction vehicles threaten the water quality of local streams. Any

pollution incident will have devastating downstream effects on sensitive aquatic habitats and local drinking water supplies.

7. Severe Local Visual Impact and Loss of Rural Amenity
The visual impact of this project will be devastating for local residents. The site will replace open, scenic, and historic green fields with a harsh industrial landscape of glass, metal, security fencing, inverter cabins, and intrusive CCTV columns. This visual blight will permanently damage the rural character of our community, completely degrading the landscape value and the general well-being of the local population.

8. Proximity to School, Ecological Destruction, and Archaeological Threats
The development is dangerously close to the local school, **Park National School**, bringing documented risks of toxic thermal runaway fires and heavy traffic danger to pupils. Furthermore, our local biodiversity is already suffering from initial disruptions, with documented instances of dead badgers (a protected species) and foxes in the area. Additionally, archaeological discoveries on the site **(Rath Forth)** highlight its irreplaceable historical value, which will be irreversibly damaged by ground-piling and trenching.

9. Diminution of Residential Property Values
The scale of this development will drastically reduce the market value and saleability of neighbouring homes. While property values are often considered a private asset issue, the root cause here is a severe, permanent loss of residential amenity, overbearing visual impact, and low-frequency inverter noise nuisance that directly degrades our living conditions.

For these critical reasons, We strongly urge Cork County Council to protect our heritage, our environment, our public drinking water, and our children by refusing planning permission for this application.
Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and keep us informed of the progress of this application.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Murphy & Nuala Murphy






Coomur





