Barry and Pamela Fitzgerald
Carriganassa,
Inch,
Killeagh,
Co. Cork
30th October 2026

To: The Secretary, An Coimisiun Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902
RE: OBSERVATION ON STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - CASE REFERENCE VA04.324632 **Applicant:**
Perigus Energy Ireland Midco Ltd **Proposed Development:**
220kV Air Insulated Substation, loop-in grid connection and related works
Location: Ballyneague, Ballydaniel and Knocknagappagh, County Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to formally object to the above-referenced planning application for a 220kV Air Insulated Substation, loop-in grid connection and related works. We are residents and landowners residing in the vicinity to the proposed development site. Our home is located on the L3803, a narrow rural road that will be directly impacted by the solar farm development. We have significant concerns regarding the proposal's impacts on road safety, noise and vibration, visual amenity, and public safety.

ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC IMPACT DURING CONSTRUCTION

We have grave concerns regarding the safety implications of the proposed development on the local road network, particularly the L7829 on which our children regularly cycle as their primary means of transport in the countryside, and they also ride horses around the perimeter of Knocknagappagh, Ballydaniel, Ballyneague and Barnavidane townlands.

The Traffic and Transport Assessment submitted with the application does not adequately address the fundamental incompatibility between the existing road infrastructure and the scale of construction traffic proposed.

Furthermore, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report does not adequately assess the cumulative impact of construction disturbance on local wildlife, particularly the increased deer movement onto roads as animals flee construction noise and activity nor does it adequately assess the overlap of construction traffic with the Lyrenacarraiga wind farm. This represents an additional and unassessed road safety hazard.

NOISE AND VIBRATION IMPACTS

Our property's proximity to the proposed development means that noise impacts will be severe and continuous. The topography of this area comprises hills and high valleys, which will cause sound to travel and amplify across the landscape. We have particular concern regarding impacts on both human residents and animals, specifically our horses which graze in multiple fields around the perimeter of this development in Barnavidane (the townland adjacent to Knocknagappagh and Ballyneague) and surrounding townlands.

The Noise and Vibration Assessment submitted with the application does not adequately assess the duration and cumulative impact of construction noise on nearby residents and animals. The Noise and Vibration Assessment at Appendix S is titled for the Greenhills Renewable Energy Park. Section 1.1 states that it covers solar farm construction, trenching, the substation and the battery compound, and the operation of all three. It is not an assessment of

this application. The closest distances in Table 1.1, 5 m and 8 m, are distances to the energy park red line, not to the platform on drawing 300101185-DR-213. The report gives no distance from the compound or the access to any house. Chapter 15 of the Planning and Environmental Report and section 3.7.6 of the EIA Screening Report repeat conclusions drawn for the whole energy park, and there is no EIAR.

Of greater long-term concern is the operational noise that will be generated continuously once the facility becomes operational. The proposed development will generate continuous humming and buzzing sounds throughout the day and night. These low-frequency sounds travel considerable distances in quiet rural environments and are known to cause sleep disruption, stress, and adverse health impacts in nearby residents.

Once built, the transformers will operate permanently. The file does not demonstrate operational noise levels at any dwelling for this installation, including any tonal or low-frequency component. In hilly terrain with high valleys, sound carries and is difficult to predict without site-specific modelling. Neither Appendix S nor the screening report considers effects on horses or other livestock. Unfamiliar industrial noise and vibration can cause horses to bolt and injure themselves. This is a welfare and economic concern that has not been addressed.

VISUAL IMPACT AND AMENITY

Our property has direct views toward the development site as photographed by Macroworks, see pictures below, and will create a significant industrial intrusion into what is currently an unspoiled rural landscape. This will result in the permanent loss of spectacular rural views that are currently enjoyed by residents and contribute to the area's tourism and amenity value.

The LVIA by Macro Words Ltd uses GLVIA3 and 24 viewpoints. It accepts that residents are highly sensitive receptors and, at page 28, states that "Several residential dwellings are located in the surrounds of the proposed substation building". It then undertakes no dedicated and adequate assessment of the views from those houses.

The substation is substantial yet the viewpoint analysis concentrates on solar panels. VP4 and VP5 are described as residential viewpoints, but the discussion there concerns panels, hedgerows and screening. The LVIA's reasoning that panels not exceeding 3.4 m will be screened by vegetation and landform cannot be transferred to masts of 18 m and 37.5 m, which may rise above hedgerows and trees. No ZTV analysis or visualisations from the affected houses demonstrate otherwise.

The LVIA also relies on proposed planting, which it accepts will be in an establishment phase for three years. The Commission cannot tell what residents will see on completion, at year three, at year ten, or in winter when deciduous cover is bare.

This proposal materially contravenes the proper planning and sustainable development of the area as it fails to protect residential amenity and landscape character as required under the Cork County Development Plan and the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines (2000) issued by the Department of the Environment.

FIRE RISK AND PUBLIC SAFETY

We have serious concerns regarding the location of a 220kv substation alongside 56 Battery Energy Storage System units and a forestry proposed in this application. There are 342 households within 1.5 kilometres of this site and two schools nearby. My animals graze in fields at Barnavidane directly adjacent to the proposed development, and I have no practical means to evacuate them in the event of an emergency.

It is our understanding that local fire brigades lack training and equipment to fight chemical battery fires and their standard protocol is to allow such fires to burn while managing

evacuations. The application contains no adequate combined emergency response plan for the substation and BESS and no assessment of how residents and livestock in the immediate vicinity would be protected. Residents are entitled to see a demonstrated emergency response, and clarity on who is responsible if contamination or loss results.

The proposed site is located on Cronin's Bogs, an area characterized by natural springs and groundwater movement. There is a direct hydrological connection to the Tourig River, which supplies drinking water to Youghal.
Drawing 300101185-DR-200 shows a full-retention separator and soakaways on the surface-water system, with the note "Bunds to be fitted with TBC at Detailed Design". It states no oil volume and does not show that a bund would retain transformer oil together with firefighting water rather than pass it towards a soakaway. We live in an area of natural springs and groundwater movement, with a hydrological connection to the Tourig River, which supplies drinking water to Youghal. Those matters should be settled before permission is considered, not deferred.

CONSULTATION
The lack of a public meeting by Orsted to allow the community to properly understand and question the proposal represents inadequate public consultation for a development of this scale and impact. Perigus have distributed **NO** leaflets to the local community nor have held a public meeting. The community have no contact information for Perigus as Orsteds previous phone numbers/email addresses are non-responsive.
For a permanent installation of this kind, that is inadequate engagement.

CONCLUSION
The assessments on file relate to the energy park as a whole rather than to this permanent station, access and loop- in. We respectfully ask the Commission to refuse permission. At a minimum, we ask that it seek further information, including a site-specific noise and vibration assessment with distances to houses and an assessment of effects on livestock, a residential visual assessment with ZTV analysis, and a fire and emergency assessment covering firefighting water retention and fire-appliance access.

Sinne le Meas,

Barry and Pamela Fitzgerald



Photomontage taken by Macroworks. It is clear that we will see the substation from our property as highlighted. Perhaps is an unrealistic representation of the lattices, pylons, IPP compound etc. This photomontage also does not take into account the BESS.





Another photomontage taken by Macroworks. We will see as outlined in pink the substation from our property.