Mary Lucey McCarthy
Mitchelsfort
Watergrasshill
Co Cork

2 November 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Re: FORMAL OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION REF: Case Reference VA04.324632 Proposed Air Insulated Substation (AIS) and Loop-in Grid Connection and related works in the townlands of Ballyneague, Ballydaniel, Knocknappagh, County Cork.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to formally object to the above-referenced planning application for a Proposed Air Insulated Substation (AIS) and Loop-in Grid Connection and related works in the townlands of Ballyneague, Ballydaniel, Knocknappagh, County Cork.

The proposed development represents an unprecedented scale of industrial energy infrastructure in a rural agricultural setting being a 220KV Substation.

My objection is grounded in material planning considerations relating to agricultural productivity, biodiversity protection, residential amenity, and appropriate development scale. I respectfully request that the planning authority refuse permission for the reasons detailed below.

Visual Impact
The proposed unit is in an area of historical importance near the site of an old graveyard and Rath Fort. These units require a substantial physical footprint and prominent steel structures which will alter the local landscape. The security element alone will turn this into what would resemble a maximum-security prison.

Water Pollution
Water is one of the most basic necessities and the last few summers alone should show us how valuable our water source is and we should be doing everything in our power to protect this. Accidental spills or leads of insulating oil from power station can seep into soil and contaminate local groundwater of surface streams, creating severe ecological and fire hazards. Vandalism or equipment damage can also directly pollute nearby rivers.

Emergency Risk & Fire
As this is a battery will our local Fire Service be able to deal with this should an incident occur. There have been numerous reports recently regarding batteries going on fire in recycling trucks, what sort of damage and impact on the local community should there be a fire there. How long would it take for the fire brigade to reach this site and then to bring it under control?

Noise & Vibration
Transformers continuously emit a low frequence hum. This noise pollution can expand during wet weather due to corona discharge. Should the local community have to put up with the impact of the constant noise and vibration from this Substation. This is a very peaceful and beautiful area and the noise from this unit will carry destroying the enjoyment the local community of their homes.

Hazard Risks

Equipment faults can cause arc flash explosions or localised mineral oil fires.

This application seeks permission for an unprecedented scale of development that is inappropriate to its rural setting, inadequately assessed in terms of environmental and social impacts, and contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse this application on the grounds outlined above.

Mise le Meas,

Mary Lucey McCarthy