Noreen Lucey
19 The Meadows
Mogeely,
Castlemartyr
Co. Cork
01-11-2026

TO: The Secretary, An Coimisiun Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

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,

I wish to formally object to the above-referenced planning application for a 220kv Air Insulated Substation, loop in grid connection and related works in the above townlands. While I reside outside the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, I am a native of Inch, County Cork, and maintain strong familial and social connections to this rural area. My extended family, including aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, nieces, nephews, and young grandnieces and grandnephews, continue to live within and around the proposed development site.

I am a nurse and understand the importance of evidence-based decision-making. It is from this perspective that I submit this objection, grounded in legitimate planning concerns relating to community wellbeing, public safety, visual amenity, and economic sustainability. I respectfully request that Cork County Council refuse permission for this development on the grounds outlined below.

a) COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING - CONTRAVENTION OF PROPER PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development raises serious concerns regarding community mental health and psychological wellbeing, matters which constitute material planning considerations.

The absence of a coherent National Strategy for solar farm site selection has resulted in private entities unilaterally identifying rural locations without meaningful community consultation or strategic planning oversight. This approach fundamentally undermines the principle of proper planning, which requires that development be managed in a coordinated, evidence-based manner that serves the common good.

The psychological impact on established rural communities must be considered. The imposition of

industrial-scale energy infrastructure across over 800 acres of productive agricultural land, 56 BESS units and all the associated works that accompany a 220kv substation creates what environmental psychologists term "place disruption" - the severing of deep emotional and historical connections between people and landscape. For communities like Inch, where generational families have lived and worked the land for centuries, this represents a profound psychological stressor.

My extended family members residing in the area report significant anxiety and distress since this application was lodged. The prospect of a permanent industrial operation transforming their rural environment has caused heightened stress levels, and a pervasive sense of powerlessness. These are not trivial concerns but genuine health impacts that will persist throughout the two-year construction phase and beyond.

The construction period alone, extending close to 2 years, represents an extended period of community stress. Construction noise, visual intrusion, traffic disruption, and general uncertainty create what health researchers identify as chronic environmental stressors. Unlike temporary construction projects with defined community benefits, this development offers no compensating local advantages while imposing decades of landscape industrialization.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 requires consideration of impacts on community welfare. The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications' own guidelines acknowledge that renewable energy developments must balance climate objectives with community acceptance and wellbeing. This application fails that test by imposing industrial infrastructure on an unwilling community without adequate strategic justification for this specific location.

b) VISUAL IMPACT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF AMENITY PROTECTION

I object strongly to the visual impact of this proposed development, which will fundamentally and irreversibly alter the landscape character of an area I have known intimately since childhood.

The site encompasses not only 2.2 hectares but also over 800 acres across multiple townlands including Barnaviddane, where I spent my youth walking and exploring green rolling fields that have defined this landscape for generations. The overall development will be visible from over thirty townlands and will create an industrial vista wholly inconsistent with the existing rural agricultural character.

The elevated topography of the site makes effective screening impossible. The substation can not be meaningful screened through landscape mitigation planting. The result will be the permanent transformation of a scenic rural landscape into an industrial energy facility.

The Cork County Development Plan emphasizes the protection of landscape character and visual amenity. The sheer scale of this proposal represents landscape industrialization on a scale disproportionate to the receiving environment. This is not sensitive integration of renewable energy infrastructure but wholesale transformation of rural character.

My young relations growing up in this area deserve to experience the same connection to green countryside that shaped my own childhood. A permanent industrial installation spanning multiple townlands deprives future generations of that heritage and fundamentally alters what it means to live in rural County Cork.

c) ECONOMIC IMPACT AND EMPLOYMENT - THREAT TO SUSTAINABLE RURAL ECONOMY

The proposed development threatens the long-term economic sustainability of this agricultural area by removing productive farmland from a complex, interdependent rural economy.

This substation is to serve 800 acres of a solar farm which will inevitably remove approximately 1,300 dairy cows from milk production which therefore represents the loss of 9.75 million litres of milk annually for Dairygold processing facilities. This is not merely a statistic but represents the undermining of an economic ecosystem that includes veterinary services, agricultural feed suppliers, farm equipment providers, livestock hauliers, dairy processors, and the Mogeely cheese plant where I live and which depends on local milk production.

These agricultural enterprises provide permanent, meaningful local employment. By contrast, the proposed substation offers only temporary construction jobs with no guarantee of local hiring, followed by minimal operational employment. The economic benefit flows entirely to the developer and international investors, while the economic cost is borne by the local community through the displacement of sustainable agricultural employment.

The Cork County Development Plan explicitly supports the retention of prime agricultural land for food production and recognizes agriculture as fundamental to rural economic sustainability. This application directly contradicts those policies by converting productive dairy farmland to industrial energy generation.

I request that this submission be given full consideration in the assessment of Planning Application 324632 and that permission be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Noreen Lucey