

An
Bord
Pleanála

Memorandum ABP-321238-24

To: The Board

Cc. Una Crosse ADP

From: Hugh O'Neill

Re: 110kV Electricity Substation,
approximately 7.5km of Underground
Electricity Line & All Associated Works

Date: 14/05/25

1.0 Site Location and Description

The proposed development is in County Roscommon circa 9km Northwest of Athlone, 2.5km West of Lough Ree and 2.7km South of Lough Funshinagh.

The substation is proposed on locally elevated, well drained, Agricultural land. There are 2no. Turloughs (undesigned) within 400m south of the proposed substation.

Other than within the proposed substation site the proposed cable route is entirely within public roads.

2.0 Proposed Development

The grid connection the consented for the Seven Hills Wind Farm is no longer viable. The proposed 110kV substation and cable route subject of this application is an alternative to connect the windfarm to the grid. As such the proposal is an integral part of the wider Seven Hills Windfarm project. The applicant states that if the

proposal is approved it is the intention to seek an amendment to the Seven Hills Windfarm approval by way of S146B prior to commencement.

3.0 Planning History

ABP-319042 Pre-Application Consultation Request 110kV 'loop-in loop-out' electricity substation and approximately 6.5km of underground electricity cables as an alternative to Seven Hills permitted connection to Monksland substation. Is a Strategic Infrastructure Development. Signed 25/10/2024.

4.0 Submissions – Prescribed Bodies

In summary:

- **Roscommon County Council** support for the principle of the proposal, concerns over impacts on Roads.
- **Transport Infrastructure Ireland** lack of impact on National Road Network noted.
- **Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage** concern regarding potential for the flight lines of Whooper Swan to transect with overhead lines and/or areas of construction. Conditions proposed to address Archaeology in any approval.

5.0 Submissions - Third Party Observations

In summary:

- **Rose Burke**. Oral hearing requested. Concerns regarding procedural and technical aspects. Focused on Seven Hills Windfarm, karst geology, hydrogeology lack of expertise in ABP to understand the application.
- **Ciara Farrell & the Wind Turbine Action Group South Roscommon**. Oral hearing requested. Submission dominated by legal and procedural concerns including:
 - The potential for the subject application (S182A) to compromise future consideration of a S146B application to amend Seven Hills consent.
 - Deficiencies in the EIAR including scoping thereof.

- Annex I habitats as part of an interconnected network.
- Insufficient baseline including inadequate consideration of protected species in survey methodologies.
- **Shane and Orla Kinahan.** Oral hearing not requested. Flooding, traffic, devaluation, visual and health impacts.
- **Anne and PJ Daly.** Oral hearing not requested. Health, flooding, noise, traffic, impact on farm income, Swans.
- **Margaret Daly.** Oral hearing not requested. Health, flooding, noise, traffic.
- **Maureen Kelly.** Oral hearing requested. Viability, impact on hedgerows and vulnerable road users.
- **John Joe Kennedy.** Oral hearing requested. Critique of expert opinions in Seven Hills Approval.
- **Eileen Kelly.** Oral Hearing not requested. Ecology, hydrology, flooding and population impacts of concern.
- **Gerard and Angela Lennon.** Oral Hearing requested. Concerns regarding viability of proposed joint bays in roads.
- **Shane Butler.** Oral Hearing requested. Concerns regarding Seven Hills approval and the viability of the subject proposal.
- **Ulick Burke.** Oral Hearing requested. Observations relating to landscape impacts of the Seven Hills wind farm.
- **Marty and Mary Moore.** Oral Hearing requested. Procedural matters regarding Section 182 and Section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the content of public notices.
- **Skeavalley Wind Turbine Action Group C/O Orla Glennon.** Oral Hearing not requested. Concerns regarding procedural and technical aspects of the EIAR and process.
- **Gearoid and Grainne Cunniffe/Ni Mheachair.** Oral Hearing not requested. Flooding, road capacity, devaluation, health, non-compliance with CDP objectives to protect road network.

- **Dermot Butler.** Oral Hearing requested. Concerns. regarding Seven Hills Windfarm.
- **Christopher Walsh and Mairead Farrell.** Oral Hearing not requested. Roads impact, project splitting, cumulative impacts with Seven Hills re construction phase deficient, flooding.
- **Liam Kildea.** Oral Hearing requested. Geology, groundwater, surface water, species, turloughs part of protected sites, WFD.

6.0 Need for Oral Hearing

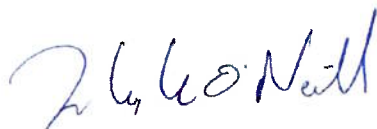
As noted above, 10 submissions sought to have an Oral Hearing.

Having regard to:

- The scale, nature, context and location of the proposal.
- The information provided by the applicant including the comprehensive baseline and analysis set out in the submitted EIAR and NIS.
- The submissions received to date from prescribed bodies and observers.

The consideration and assessment of the proposal can be readily undertaken by way of the written submissions received and the applicant's response to same. Therefore, I do not consider that the issues arising would warrant the holding of an oral hearing and I submit that the documentation on file can be readily assessed by way of the written submissions. I would also submit that the convening of a hearing would not be likely to elicit new information that would assist in the understanding or proper assessment of the proposed development.

I therefore recommend that the oral hearing is not held in this instance.



Hugh O'Neill

Senior Planning Inspector

14 of May 2025