

1st January 2025

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Rotunda,
Dublin 1,
D01V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>077114-25</u>
ABP-	
07 JAN 2025	
Fee: €	<u>50.00</u> Type: <u>C2</u>
Time:	By: <u>Reg Post</u>

Re: Objection to the Proposed 110kw Electricity Substation at Moyvannan and approximately 6.5km underground electricity cables (ABP-319042-24)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally submit my objection to the proposed development of an electricity substation at Moyvannan, as outlined in planning application number ABP-319042-24. As residents of the local area, we have serious concerns regarding the potential impact of this development on both the environment and the well-being of the community. We respectfully ask that the application be reconsidered based on the following reasons:

1. Flooding Risk and Impact on Local Properties

The proposed site for the electricity substation will contribute to significant additional flooding in this area. Our road has already had to be raised to make it passable due to flooding near our house and currently the issue of flooding continues directly outside our house where we often can't go for walks as the road is completely submerged and occasionally unable to drive through it. This issue has already been raised with numerous councillors and the Roscommon County Council.

- **Historical Flooding in the Area**

The area surrounding Lough Funshinagh has a well-documented history of flooding, which has already affected local farms and residential properties. In the past, heavy rainfall and seasonal high water levels have caused significant flooding in nearby fields, including the flooding of agricultural land. This demonstrates that the area is particularly vulnerable to waterlogging and flooding, especially during periods of intense rainfall or when water levels in the lake rise.

- **Potential for Increased Flooding Due to Development**

The construction of an electricity substation, with the associated disruption to the natural landscape and drainage systems, could potentially worsen the flooding risk in this area. The large-scale earthworks required for the substation, including excavation, the creation of new access roads, and the installation of infrastructure such as foundations and cables, could alter the natural flow of water. Without adequate flood risk mitigation measures, this development could contribute to surface water runoff, further saturating the ground and increasing the likelihood of flooding downstream.

- **Inadequate Drainage and Flood Prevention Measures**

The planning application does not appear to sufficiently address how potential flood risks will be mitigated, particularly in light of the area's history of flooding. There is no indication of any flood risk assessments or measures to ensure that floodwaters will be properly managed, such as the installation of flood barriers, stormwater drainage systems, or retention ponds to control surface runoff. Without proper planning for drainage, the construction of the substation could contribute to our current problem of flooding in our area.

2. Health and Wellbeing Concerns

There is considerable concern over the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) generated by the substation. Research has shown that long-term exposure to high levels of EMFs could pose health risks, including potential links to cancer and other health conditions. As the substation will be located in close proximity to our home, the health and safety of our family could be compromised. Our household has a current [REDACTED] and we are extremely concerned about the potential neurological impact the substation may have to exasperate the condition further. A family member has also recovered from [REDACTED] in recent years and additional rays as a result of EMF exposure over long periods can lead to harmful effects to the human body. This in turn could possibly lead to secondary cancer, a major concern to our family. The information brochure from Galetech Energy Developments briefly refers to the health risks associated with substations and how the 'consensus from health and regulatory authorities is that extremely low frequency EMFs do not present a health risk'. Unfortunately 'consensus' by definition is an opinion and as such is not a guarantee and therefore does not alleviate our health concerns.

3. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Concerns Due to Inadequate Road Infrastructure

Our roads are currently hazardous and people are very reluctant to walk or cycle and the increase in traffic will only contribute to an already serious problem in our area. During the construction phase, the risk to pedestrians would be substantially higher. Even after the substation is operational, the increase in road traffic, including lorries and service vehicles, would continue to pose a serious threat to pedestrian safety.

4. Devaluation of Property

The construction of an electricity substation in a rural area will have a negative effect on property values. The visual impact, coupled with concerns about potential health and safety issues, could deter potential buyers and reduce the desirability of properties in the vicinity. This could have long-term financial consequences for homeowners in the area. We are looking directly across at the proposed development, a development would destroy our quiet rural property and the visual impact of the proposed development is in our direct line of vision and would severely diminish our property value.

5. Environmental Impact and Threat to Local Wildlife

This area is home to a variety of wildlife species. Swans nest and swim regularly in the flood waters right beside the proposed substation. We are also a safe space to a rare Egyptian vulture which has been seen on numerous occasions with many bird watching communities flocking to see it, documented by various media outlets and newspapers. A January 2022 article in the Irish Independent on the sighting described 'The Egyptian vulture is the smallest of Europe four vulture and it is also the most endangered'. We are also home to the egret bird and this development will have detrimental impacts to all of these and more.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that the planning application be refused, or at the very least, deferred until further studies are conducted on the environmental, health, and social impacts of the proposed development.

We trust that the Council and Bord Pleanala will carefully consider these points and take appropriate action to protect the community, the environment, and the well-being of all residents.

Yours faithfully,



Shane and Orla Kinahan
Carrownolan,
Kiltoom,
Athlone,
N37 T273