



Proposed Arklow offshore wind farm development

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To Marine <marine@pleanala.ie>

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I made a submission to An Bord Pleanala in 2024. I have received correspondence via registered post from ABP earlier this year.

I object to this wind farm as it is currently proposed for the following reasons.

1. The installation of 53 turbines will involve an enormous displacement of sand and rock on our foreshore seabed. This will be replaced by massive quantities of concrete, iron etc for the structures. The effect this will have on the local geology and marine dynamics is unclear but it is highly likely to alter the distribution of sand to the beaches. It may also lead to additional coastal erosion.
2. The installation of these turbines will be very noisy and could take several months. This will be a big, if short-lived, burden on coastal residents. Limiting times for construction will add to costs.
3. The turbines will be an eyesore and severely reduce the scenic and general amenity value of the region. We place a high value on natural beauty and that value is only increasing as we have more money and leisure time.

In the early 70s there were many objections to the pylons at Turlough Hill. Bord Failte, amongst others, said it would destroy the beauty of the Wicklow gap. Over half a century ago our planners had the foresight to amend the original plan and run the first kilometer or so of cabling underground only starting the pylons in the depths of the valley and largely out of sight. We have enjoyed 55+ years of our beautiful Wicklow mountains being given the respect they deserve. Even today Wicklow councillors voted against land turbines in the northern half of the county but allowing them on the low hills of the south. This thinking needs to be applied to the Arklow project. Is the modest extra cost of positioning the turbines the EU recommended minimum of 22km out to sea greater than the cost of destroying, for years to come, the beauty of the south Wicklow/North Wexford coastline?

This is one of the most visited sections of coast in Ireland with very high property prices to match that. We are not thinking ahead on this. We will have higher incomes in the future. We prioritise a clean and pleasant environment with ever higher incomes. People won't mind slightly higher electricity bills for a preserved scenic environment. As a former editor of The Economist (now resident in Dalkey) put it - this is our front garden that we will be destroying.

4. The turbines should be on floating platforms. This will increase costs further but it will be far more environmentally neutral, requiring no extraction of the seabed. Floating turbines can be moved easily when it comes to decommissioning. There may other benefits to that mobility.

5. Turbines 25 to 35km out will generate greater quantities of electricity due to more wind.

6. Energy supply is not determined by the market in most countries today but by government mandate. There is a market within the heavily regulated govt framework but, fundamentally, prices are set by governments. They should intervene here and determine that offshore wind farms with 300 metre turbines just 6km offshore are an unacceptable cost and poor policy. They won't be the first. Maine state decided this a few years ago protecting at least the first 20 MILES of foreshore from wind farm development. Long Islnd, New York successfully overturned proposed developments that were fully 20 miles off its southern shore. The view, if nothing else, is worth far more to them than an 30% hike in their electricity bill!

Edit: the proposals for the Atlantic are to have the farms 30km plus out. Why? To protect the view. We don't need this near shore farm. We can afford it much further out.

I don't want the farm built. I'd prefer a nuclear plant on Mizen head but if it is built erect it the EU recommended minimum of 22km out and on floating platforms.

Thank you for reading.

Yours truly,

Neil Stone.