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**The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
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30th of October 2024

Re: Case reference number PA03. 320705 – FutureEnergy Knockshanvo DAC

To whom it may concern

I would like to make 4 significant points in relation to this planned development in East Clare that are of major concern:

- 1. Air Safety Risk.** The siting of the proposed wind turbines on elevated hills on the **landing and take-off approach to Shannon Airport** represents an unacceptable risk to air traffic. I note that the combined height of some of the turbines on elevated land will be approximately 1480 feet and this represents a **collision risk** with aircraft on a descending landing approach to Shannon Airport. On a descending landing approach aircraft may only clear these proposed turbines by a few hundred feet. I am very concerned that in poor weather and if an aircraft is experiencing difficulties and cannot circle around due to unavoidable descending that a potential major disaster event could arise here. Even a miniscule chance of this happening must be seriously considered in relation to this proposed development. **The proposed development is directly on a flightpath to Shannon Airport and no mitigation measures can alter this.**

2. **Aircraft Navigation Radar Risk.** I understand that AirNav Ireland have serious concerns in relation to **radar safety and integrity** and that the proposed wind turbines will create **signal interference** with the nearby radar systems that both control Shannon Airport aircraft traffic but also air traffic at greater altitudes over Ireland. This not only represents a risk to air safety but also to the badly needed development of Shannon Airport and the Mid-West region.
3. **Confirmed Hen Harrier breeding and flight territory.** I note on Chapter 7, **Ornithology Section, pages 33 – 35** on the planning documentation submitted by the developer that the endangered and protected Hen Harrier is present on the site. The “**observations confirm breeding in the area**” as per the report and the proposed development will add further risk to this declining species that is protected under EU law. These vulnerable birds will not survive the construction work and the presence of up to 20 giant wind turbines when completed and no mitigation measures can avoid this. **I also note on the developers planning submission chapter 7 Ornithology, page 35 that a confirmed Hen Harrier nest site is present within the Wind Farm location.**
4. **Project Splitting on what is essentially one large wind farm development of 20 turbines.** This application represents only one part of a larger wind farm development of 20 wind turbines up to 185 metres in height and the project has been split between application references 320705 and 318782 mixed into the same tract of land. This appears to be done to ‘water down’ the full extent and impact of the development and create difficulty and confusion in relation to submissions and observations as well as adding to the unfair cost to individuals and groupings wishing to submit observations and objections. **The cumulative effect of 20 giant turbines on elevated land so close to Shannon Airport, it’s flightpath and radar facilities needs to be considered and not just the 9 turbines of this development.**

On these 4 points alone I strongly object to this development proceeding. The area is completely unsuitable for the siting of wind farms for multiple reasons and I cannot understand how the planning application has proceeded to this stage.

I trust that An Bord Pleanála on reviewing all submissions will refuse planning permission in this case and not allow this development and associated developments to proceed any further.

Yours sincerely

Ivan O’Connell