

Oatfield
Sixmilebridge,
Co Clare
V95E5Y3

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St.,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you with serious concerns about the above project and the effect it will have on our homes and family farm. Our family live in Oatfield, and we have farmed our land here for the past 176 years. We will be surrounded by a staggering 33 massive turbines all more than 175m in height the majority 185m should this proposed project goes ahead with the Orsted and Ballycar Green Energy. I am a radiographer qualified more than 30years and a manager with the HSE. I am not an expert in planning, but I believe that there are several serious issues with this proposal that are of worry to me and my family,

The following are our main areas on concern (in no particular order)

1. The size and scale of this development and the many other proposed wind projects in the area strike us as an assault on the rural communities of East Clare. The Knockshanvoe project is in fact collocated with the Orsted project. There are very poor cumulative studies done by MKO in their report e.g. the EIAR and traffic to name but two and in my opinion every effort is made to obfuscate this fact from the planning authorities not familiar with the locality.

2. We are deeply troubled by the traffic analysis in the proposal. It does not provide appropriate detail in terms of how the road infrastructure in East Clare and beyond will cope with the significant increase in traffic, particularly heavy-goods vehicles, to facilitate site clearance, concrete deliveries, and the delivery of the turbines themselves. It is likely that the increase in traffic will make extremely difficult to carry out our farming activities which are necessary to care for our animals and make a living. Any emergency could not be responded to in an appropriate time due especially to the grid connection construction of the Knockshanvoe, Ballycar and Oatfield projects which would essentially cut us off from access to our farm. The proposed construction of both grid connections is obfuscated on the planning applications and whether this is deliberate or not it is difficult to see how access to Ballycar and Derrnaveagh will be facilitated during the years of construction. I have outlined this in a previous observation to yourselves, but I feel it needs to be highlighted yet again.
3. There is obvious detrimental impact on biodiversity in the area. The Hen Harrier and Lesser Horseshoe Bats are two examples of species on endangered lists where this and the proposed collocated Oatfield project would be constructed in their foraging area. FEI have admitted this in their proposal that T2 and T3 are in fact inside the 2.5 km foraging zone of the Danes Hole SAC. T4 from Orsted is also located very near the T2 and T3 turbines. Lesser Horseshoe Bats are extremely photophobic and the lack of any significant detail as to what lighting will be on these turbines could severely affect their ability to forage and commute between roosts causing a decline in their population. There is also Hen Harrier in the immediate area of the proposed turbines and there is no way these nearly extinct birds will be unaffected by these proposed developments. Both the bats and the Hen Harrier are European Annex 2 protected species. Bats are a big feature in the area (they roost in my attic numbering over 200) along with many birds of prey such as the Peregrine Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Merlin and Kestrel. If these 3 proposed projects were to go ahead it would spell disaster for these very rare and protected species.
4. It is our understanding that in decision C-24/19 The European Court OF Justice said that WEGs need an SEA. It is a legal requirement, and it is our understanding that planning permissions granted without an SEA would therefore not be compliant with European law.

5. There have been very serious concerns for air safety expressed by AirNav and Shannon Airport authority to the Bord in regards to Oatfield Ballycar and Knockshanvoe proposals. Some of these concerns are for higher level traffic of between 10,000 and 35,000 feet. However, if there are any issue on a more local level our houses are directly under the flight path into Shannon and surely An Bord Pleanála are not willing to underpin planning permission that could actually endanger any life including our own. The Bord is aware of these dangers as outlined in previous objections. In addition to this the ability of air support in the event of an accident or medical emergency to access our locality would in my understanding be impossible. I am not an aviation expert but R 115 or the defence forces helicopter would be precluded from flying into the immediate area of these massive turbines. Why should my family and our wider community be deprived of this basic humanitarian service.
6. The 12 O Clock Hills will in essence be destroyed by the location of the Knockshanvoe and Oatfield turbines. I have been fortunate to bring friends from Canada, the UK, France as well as people from all over Ireland to this unique area where they unwind and disconnect from busy life. Sunyata is a silent Buddhist retreat centre which is a truly unique and internationally renowned centre of worship uniquely nestled in the shadow of the 12 O Clock Hills. This beautiful facility will be massively affected by this proposal. I would plead not to allow these truly unique amenities to be destroyed by these proposed developments.
7. Noise has now been ruled a nuisance by the high court and a danger to health in a recent judgement on a windfarm in Wexford. It would be wilfully endangering my family's wellbeing and health having these industrial scale turbines situated so near our family farm and our homes.

In summary we believe there are many aspects of this development that are contrary to proper planning as outlined above. There is an onslaught of proposed windfarm developments in our immediate area, and it feels like there is no consideration for the ordinary person and our rural way of life that we have been fortunate enough to carry on for generations. We believe our way of life and livelihood is being threatened for current and future generations. I would urge the board to look at what is proposed for the communities of Oatfield and beyond and that common sense should prevail and leave

our natural landscape and environment untouched by these proposed industrial scale developments.

Yours sincerely,

Mary, Maureen and Noel Fitzgerald.