

Liek Versloot
Carrig,
Ballingeary, co. Cork

Ballingeary, 29-5-2022,

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- _____	
DP- _____	
01 JUN 2022	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <i>rest</i>

To An Bord Pleanala,
64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

Re: ABP -307939 -20

Substitute consent for the Cleanrath Windfarm development

Townlands of Reananerree, Cloontycarthy, Cleanrath North, Derrineanig, Cleanrath South, Milmorane, Coombilane, Rathgaskig, Augeris, Gorteenakilla, Carrignadoura, Gurteenowen, Gurteenflugh, Lyrenageeha and Lackabaun, co. Cork .

Madam/Sir ,

I have been informed that the Derragh is now part of the Cleanrath windfarm. Cleanrath now has 15 turbines. The substitute consent , I suppose, is for the old Cleanrath, the 9 turbines only?

The EIAR 4.6 gives the Cleanrath capacity as 26.4 MW.

The Website 'Enerco Energy' , d.d. 23-8-20 under 'wind' mentions Cleanrath, UNDER CONSTRUCTION, capacity 42.6 MW. (Nigel de Haas, observation at leave to apply for substitute consent 24-8-'20).

If we now speak about Cleanrath is that the Cleanrath sec, the merged Cleanrath- Derragh, or all plus a future expansion, as only 9 of the 11 turbines were built?

There would be reasons to look favourably upon substitute consent: if this was a project the community and the public in general would value as , if not always welcome, at least as needed to benefit us all, as caring for human beings, animals and the environment, and if the relations with the developer, if not cordial, were at least business-like and adequate.

ABP decided on permission 19 may 2017.

Challenged and brought to High Court in July 2017.

From there the developer knew that building was his own risk,

It may have looked less risky once the High Court refused application for judicial review,

but subsequently the Supreme Court gave leave to appeal,

And the Bord's decision is squashed by the Supreme Court 12-12-2019.

Now the whole project is not legalised ,

But the developer keeps building the wind turbine nearest his other project, the ex-Derragh windfarm, (when did Derragh change hands from Framore Ltd. to Enerco? I now understand the 'operational reasons for renumbering the turbines, the two farms were merged. If anywhere there is mention of the

money spent on Cleanrath that is probably the money spent on the two farms together, and is not indicative for losses made because of persisting opponents against the Cleanrath sec?).

The developer's representatives (MKO to ABP, 4-8-2021, page 4) speak of a procedural error in the decision making's process, no fault of the applicant, and on page 8 they call it 'a narrow error of law or procedural error on the part of the Board'. They don't seem to understand, that the voice of the public has to be taken seriously, and persevere in not understanding, as was lately shown in their disrespect for the public protests against the Gougane Barra plans, where it would only have been decent to withdraw the planning applications. In fact that public voice was central in the decision of the Supreme Court.

There never is a real discussion in the making of the plans, there is no cooperation, while we, the public, spending time and money on submissions, see how by small project after small project, north and south of the river Lee, the hills are colonised by the one developer's windfarms.

Still, the reason the permission was squashed was that the public voice had not got her due. For the developer there still is no reason to listen, so there is no reason to give him the escape via the, maybe not even under European law legally permitted, substitute consent.

Don't call it minor procedural errors of the Bord, MKO: they simple did what the developer is also used to do.

Also don't come with the need for more green energy. The grid capacity is not ready for it. Targets set for renewable energy for 2030 can most likely be met, there are constantly new ways to micro-generate wind power, most public buildings still have no solar photovoltaic panels on the roofs (would be a way for cities to return a favour to rural Ireland), and there is always no scheme ready for everyone to feed micro generated energy into the grid. And offshore and maybe tidal could play a part.

Apart from the 'more and bigger ideology' there is no vision on what data centra we need, (and people with at least financial interests in both windfarms/solar and data centra can't be seen as reliable visionaries). Written files might suddenly prove to be more reliable, netflixes might become boring, people can start reading again, and cyberwarfare makes the whole net dangerous. It doesn't have to happen, but the other predictions, the end of history, may be false as well.

Public participation.

Apart from a meeting in Ballyvourney (why not Balingeary or Inchigeela, or all three), nothing more was organised. So, people listen to what the developer's plans are, go home and start thinking and discussing in their own circles, wait for the conversation with the developers starting. And that never happens. So people have to go through the uncomfortable process of reading, and reading, and writing, and adhering to strict rules of the cococo and ABP, and on top have to spend money as well. Can't call that normal communication. Many people will find it too complicated and difficult, let alone the idea, quite common actually, that developers and planning authorities are powerful and very bad listeners. (?)

It is, in the meantime, internationally general knowledge that the acceptance of wind turbines is far easier if communities have a say in where their turbines might come, if they have shares/ ownership, and share the profits (here still not officially established and with the developer as the patriarch handing out the goodies to the community. Money that, it's said from the side of the developer's office, might be partly withhold from the village, because of the village's objections to the Gougane Barra project).

Effects on the environment,

That the continued operation will have no side effect on the environment cannot be said. You can only speak about expectations.

What the effect is on for instance the bat population, is difficult to say. Research by two English universities shows that esp. the common bat is actively attracted to turbines, esp. in lower windspeeds, and that that happens even if this was not a spot where bats normally were foraging. So the predictive value of research before building is low. Counting dead bats under the turbines is a bit too late, you have to take measures for halting the turbines in low windspeed and certain types of weather.

Migratory bats are attracted to the red lights on top of the turbines. An extra reason to do something about the red lights. People hate it that the darkness has been stolen, and there are solutions for this problem!!! How often do we have to ask!

The area of Cleanrath is potentially suited for hen harriers, says Lizzy Flemming in one or more of her submissions to the too many projects around here in the planning at the moment.

In one of the planning applications, I think it was the Carrigarierk extension, MKO says there were sightings of sea eagles around Ballingeary. You can't expect that they stay in Killarney, they can fly, and do so over long distances, meeting more and more turbines on their way.

Therefore it is too easy to stick to research of a couple of years ago.

Insights in how noise can stress people, and from stress cause health problems are developing. Some scientist now start speaking about a wind turbine stress syndrome, questioning if the stress might be caused not just by the noise in se, but also from feeling not to have been listened to, not been taken seriously, by anger that can't find outlets.

Setback distances, noise limits, ways of combining distance, noise and shadow flicker, they are adapted in many countries. Guidelines from 2003, or 2006!, we should all be ashamed.

Exceptional circumstances?

Yes, the developer could know that he might end without building permission. He took the risk, maybe fixed on the REFIT 2 prize, and he lost.

Effects on the environment can only be seen if a plant has been in operation for a while,

Same with remediation, you can tell what you assume might work, and then you have to wait and see if you were right..

Restored peat cannot replace the original peat, a temporary felled tree I have never seen, and a dead bird or bat stays simply dead.

On the procedural error see before.

On the public participation idem.

Compliance with previous planning permissions, or carrying out unauthorised development:

At Cleanrath at least part of the building was unauthorised,

If every project gets is a new company responsibility is always limited to that one project.

But as a developer you stay responsible for the whole series, as we are all responsible for what we are doing, and what is righteous is wider, sometimes different, from what is legal.

On the cable route from Carrigarierk to Dunmanway ask the woman who spent, in winter, days on a chair by the roadside, to prevent the cable to be buried too close to her house. She was bullied and summoned to court, but since she didn't give in, and just before the courtcase the developer proposed to buy her house,

And the group of people sharing the protest of a couple , also by the roadside, to make the cable being switched to the other side of the road, where it was meant to be. Those people were intimidated and in the end violently attacked by the developer's employees and security people.

Work and noise on building sites went constantly on for longer than the planned hours. That happens on all sites I know of.

You are allowed to give all children in a school an i-pad, just before you lodge a planning application for a windfarm near their school. You are allowed to send money to a local project on the day you ask for a planning permission on a project next to their village, without the people being aware.

I find it bad taste, not far from bribery.

Leaving the whole renewables industry in private hands was a big mistake.

I see no need for substitute consent.

I hope that our submissions here will have no influence on the decisions around Gougane Barra.

I thank Klaus Balz and Hanna Heubach for not giving up.

And the RED LIGHTS have to go !

Liek Versloot'

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liek Versloot', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ballingeary,

29-5-'22

