Liek verstoet,
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ballinjeaky, co. cork
P12 DD89

Ballinjeaky, 12-9-2020

to an Bord Pleanala
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

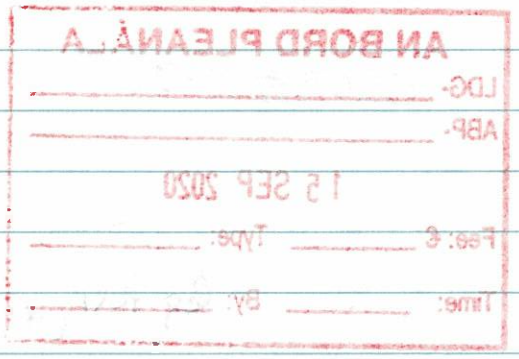
Subject: Cleanrath Windfarm Development
case ref. PL 04 - 307939
substitute consent application
My submission.

L.S.

The site notice for this application was seen by a member of the public on the 13th or 14th of august.
The Echo, more a paper for Cork city than for rural Cork, had it on 12-8-2020. Hanna Heubach and Klaus Baltz (Supreme Court case) had not been notified. NOR, as far as I know, had their solicitor.
It took nearly a week before the documents became available online.

Why was the time allowed for public reactions not extended by a week?

I won't go into the details of applications for building permission on this, or an earlier, Cleanrath wind farm, on the High Court cases, etc.
It ended in the Supreme Court, with the decision in dec. 2019 that the permission, granted by an Bord Pleanála, was invalid.
The developer knew that the permission was not safe, sin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Hanna Heubach and Klaus Baltz had been given leave to appeal by the Supreme Court. He started building; his own risk. But after the decision by the Supreme Court it was different. He should not have finished the last turbine. He said the farm started producing in jan. 2020. It should not have.
Cleancath's developer is not above the law.
This is the main Reason I am against the leave to appeal for subsidiute consent.
I leave it to lawyers to decide if I have a legal right to do so.
Or if this leave to appeal is against the decision of the Court of Justice of the EU and/or against the decision of the Supreme Court on this matter.

The advicing inspector, Pauline Fitzpatrick (Report 3-3-2020). may find Cleancath ltd. to be of impeccable behaviour, I think the developer behind it is not.
His finishing of the last turbine and the start of operation of the farm is just one example of the tendency always to go just that bit further than allowed. With total discegard for the people enjoying his projects.
On two occasions this year house owners have been camping for several months by the side of the Road, to prevent the laying of cables where they were not supposed to be.
Those people were threatened with or summoned to Court.
They were physically attacked. But they won, because they were in their Right.
It is known that in more places the cabling is where it should not have been. So I wonder, all the way from Cleancath into Kerry.

When the first wind farms were planned people were kind of tolerant. Didn't want to belong to the 'not-in-my-backyard' group.
It is Rapidly changing. We have enough of the industrialisation of West Cork, and more than enough of the way it is done.

Klaus Baltz and Hanna Heubach went all the way fighting this project, and ~~he~~ ended up empty-handed.
Put a bit of justice into the law,
and don't give the man behind Cleancath ltd. the idea that he fixed it again.

Do we need this project?
Ember, the independant Climate think tank, says that wind and solar produced 49% of Ireland's energy in the first half of 2020. We seem to be well on our way.
The developer, by joint-venturing into a joint-venture with the american developer of data center Ts, is creating his own demand, over our head and on our hills.
We live in transition times, we don't know if the line upward will go on forever. If it doesn't we are ill prepared.
Smaller community projects, my idea of a safer way into the future. Or, in the words of Liam Quaide, Green Party councillor Co. Cork: '... on shore and off shore wind-farms are needed', but 'serious concerns about private companies that they to build major projects in villages without consultation', and 'I think if the transition to renewable energy was community-orientated we would not be seeing as much of a resistance to them. 10-7-2019 Echo/Live.ie

I won't go into carbon emissions, since power generation is only a small part of this problem. There are bigger ones to be faced in that respect.

Also not much on the local benefits. The proper price as compensation for the burden on local communities simply has to be paid, and that is more than the € 30.000 proposed in the documents. No santa-clausing around anymore.

Building a windfarm has become cheaper these days, money also comes cheap, since nobody knows where to invest safely anymore, there should be no profit-making on essential commodities, so of course the electricity prices will come down.

Engagement with the public.
Ballyvourney of all places, just before christmas 2015.
The way we had to learn about this application for substitute consent. Enough said.

On the consideration of reasonable alternatives:
I understand the grid wouldn't fit 11 x 150 m. turbines
So it became 9 x 150 m. instead of 11 x 125 m. would generate more electricity, more profits. The main reason behind it, let's not talk about the environment.

Decommission can be done by simply taking away the turbines. After that leave the site to nature and watch what is happening. Would be an interesting experiment. Maybe Hanna H & Klaus B would be good caretakers.

Of course the building of the project was done with ultimate care, no damage to rivers, the Cearcagh, the peatland etc.
The only thing forgotten was to take away the rubbish. (See photo's Cecily o' Connell, Macroom District Environmental group, 6-6-'20, Facebook).

Population and Human Health.
People suffer from wind farms. They worry before they are there about what is going to come, they mourn their lost habitat, they are angry because their objections are not heard. Call it what you want, I put them under adverse health effects.

Property prices:
They came and will come down, or houses will be on the market for a long time.
Near one of the other wind farms now under construction: total refurbished house on 4 acres, new roof. 2-3 yrs ago asking price € 225.000. Absolute bargain if not near planned wind farm. Nearest turbine will come at 750-1000 m. Just sold for 190.000. To people who used to live near incinerator south of Cork!

The area around here has changed. Maybe we were spoilt with her extreme beauty. Now only new people will settle in who are used to less beautiful environments. Or, maybe, in emergencies, you will go where ever.

Set back distance of 600 m. I will keep saying: 10 x tip height. The shadow flicker is too much. You don't mitigate that with shrubs or blinds, or by telling people they don't that room at that time of the day. Simply stay away far enough from their dwellings.

Biodiversity.
The damage has been done. Leave it to nature to undo and heal. Read recently: it is not nature that has to be saved, it is us.
Let's hope that animals during construction and the short operating have learned to stay away from the project. They won't be able to tell us how they feel about the loss of their habitat. And if, we very likely wouldn't listen.
Time will tell what it all will do to rivers Lee and Bon, the Gearagh, Gough Allua. I don't doubt the integrity of the researchers. But, no, not even the most 'objective' view/research can claim to be value-free.

Noise and Vibration.
Same here.
Low frequency and infra-sound are disputed. And of course I won't expect you to come with the views of the portugese scientist dr. Alves-Pereira. Or maybe the studies by dr. Neil Kelley for the US department of energy, 1987, that led to changing the downwind bladed to upwind bladed horizontal axis wind turbines. NASA research, Shepard and Hubbard said in 1989 that that could even produce higher levels of infra- and low frequency sound.
I don't know ..... do you?
This time, I think, noise measurements were done in a better way than before. It is what is allowed in noise levels that I object to. At the sites, mentioned in the EIAR aug 2020 the background is 'birdsong and distant traffic.'
In area, with background ≤ 30 dB I wouldn't allow to extra 5 B. Not even the extra 5 dB (guidelines ≤ 30 dB area

40dB, areas > 30dB 45dB or 5dB extra over background, whatever is higher).
In a silent area birdsong or a passing car underlines silence. The constant whirring of turbines destroys it. You can't measure silence in degrees. And it can not be over valued.

Visual and landscape.
A few well placed turbines, at a distance and not right into your face, it can be beautiful.
But seeing them all around, NO of course.

The red lights are a huge problem. Some one living at < 2km from Clankath mailed me this week: "as I was driving home after the meeting (Ballingeary) the lights on the Sheiry farm were turned on for the first time. It is horrible, such beautiful views destroyed, they can be seen for miles. Where I live I can now see the red lights from 4 different wind farms. If I wanted to be surrounded by lights I would be living in the city. It is disgraceful that they can get away with this."

At least this is something that can be remedied. Turbines can be equipped with a need-based light system that is activated by a transponder inside the plane. There is a system, Raytheon Safe Sky, that has passed the test. The system will be mandatory in Germany from July 2021.

This should be installed on ALL wind farms, existing and future.

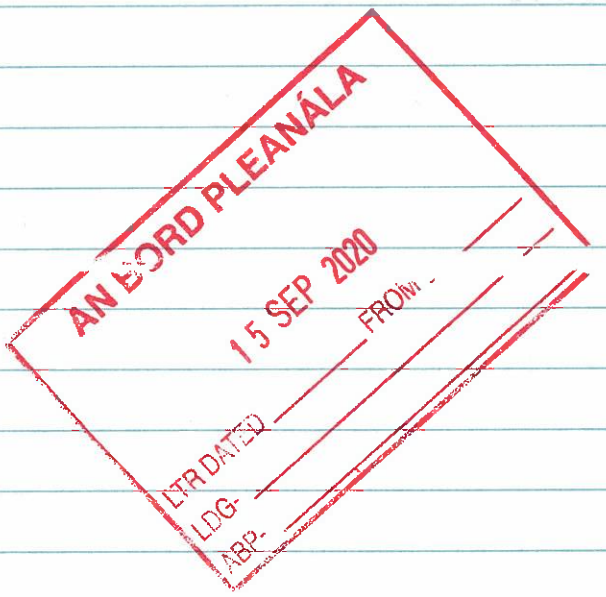
To end with: I suggest the developer to reduce on his steps, and to use his talents on more sustainable and more community-friendly projects.

It keeps coming back into my mind:
What happened to the 'spirit-of-Ireland' project, 10-15 years ago, that looked so promising. The combination of windpower and hydro- , the best solution for storage.

And: teach me how to temporarily fall a tree.

Regards,

Liek Veersloot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