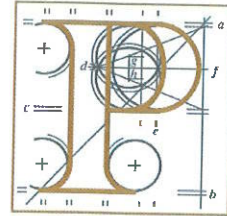


Our Case Number: ABP-309121-21
Your Reference: Curns Energy Limited



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Meabhann Crowe
MKO, Tuam Road
Galway
Co. Galway
H91 VW84

Date: 8th April 2022

Re: Wind Farm Development and all associated infrastructure.
In the townlands of Lyrenacarriga, Co. Waterford and the townlands of Lyremountain, Co. Cork.

Dear Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above mentioned proposed development which is before the Board for consideration.

Please be advised that the Board, in accordance with section 37(F)(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, hereby requires you to furnish the following further information in relation to the effects on the environment of the proposed development: .

Details and Particulars

Details of Proposed Turbines

It is noted that the development description as set out in the statutory notices refers to a maximum overall blade tip height of 150 metres. To enable the Board to determine the application please confirm the nature and extent of the development for which permission is sought, by reference to plans and particulars which describe the works to which the application relates, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

If the development for which permission is sought incorporates a range of options, please indicate clearly in the application documentation the detail of all such options and confirm that each option has been fully assessed within the application documentation including within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement.

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Biodiversity

Submissions received from the Development Applications Unit of the Department, from the Ecology Unit of Cork County Council and the Heritage Officer of Waterford County Council in relation to Biodiversity. In particular you are requested to address the following:

- (a) The potential impact of the proposal on the aquatic environment and associated fauna of the Tourig River particularly at those sections of the river associated with crossing points.
- (b) You are requested to provide further information in relation to the presence of Giant Hogweed within the site (Section 7.5.2.7 EIAR) in relation to the location of same and an assessment of the likely impacts and effects of the spread of this species been provided. Measures which may be required to control/eradicate the species should be specified.
- (c) Further detail is required in respect of the detailed design of the settlement pond structures.
- (d) You are requested to respond to concerns expressed in respect of the geochemistry of the borrow pit near the entrance, especially in relation to pyrite and/or marcasite and risk of acid drainage
- (e) You are requested to review and address the in-combination collision risk for golden plover for all wind turbines in the range (12km) of this species from the Blackwater Estuary SPA.
- (f) Concern has been expressed that a hedgerow in proximity to turbine 16 remains within the 50m buffer zone for bats with the potential for increased mortality rates for bats at this location. Please address.

Noise

- (a) Submissions received including the report from the Planning Authority (Cork County Council) and a number of reports authored by Acoustic/Related Consultants/Experts which critically assess the information provided in Chapter 13 of the EIAR and related appendices. You are requested to review the submissions and respond/clarify accordingly.
- (b) Your attention is drawn to the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019 and in particular to reference within Chapter 2 (Section 2.4.5.3.1) of the EIAR whereby it is stated that the design of the proposed development has been developed with the provisions of the draft guidelines in mind.

Please expand.

Shadow Flicker

Your attention is drawn to the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019 and in particular to reference within Chapter 2 (Section 2.4.5.3.1) of the EIAR whereby it is stated that the design of the proposed development has been developed with the provisions of the draft guidelines in mind. Please expand in respect of shadow flicker.

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Landscape

Visual impact on receptors

- (a) You are requested provide a number of additional photomontages from viewpoints which represent the local community and from a location to the east of the development which represents the potential impact on the wider landscape along the Blackwater River particularly in the vicinity of structures of national heritage importance. A photomontage to the south of Tallow along the R627 should also be provided. A thorough viewpoint assessment of the additional viewpoints is also required.
- (b) You are requested to review the photomontages undertaken and submitted by a number of the observers and provide a viewpoint assessment for each.
- (c) You are requested to review and respond to the concerns raised by the Planning Authorities in relation to landscape and visual impact.

Cultural Heritage

Historic Houses and Landscapes within the Blackwater Valley

You are requested to review the potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of historic houses/castles and demesnes along the Blackwater River Valley from Villierstown to Youghal Bridge on both banks of the River.

Land Use

Equine Industry

It is stated at Section 5.2.7.1 of the EIAR that all facilities within 10km of the proposed development have been included in the assessment. However, Table 5-7 outlines the stud farms/equestrian facilities within 5km of a turbine location, two of which are more than 5000m (5km) of a turbine location.

- (a) Please provide a table outlining all facilities assessed within 10km of the distance and distance to the nearest turbine.
- (b) You are also requested to review and respond to the matters raised in the observations received by An Bord Pleanála in respect of the potential impact on the equine industry.

Roads and Entrances

- (a) You are requested to respond to the Report of the Senior Executive Engineer particularly as it relates to concerns that the bearing capacity and condition of approx. 6.1km section of L-7806 proposed as access route/haul route has not been adequately considered.
- (b) Traffic and Transportation Department of Cork County Council
- (i) It is stated that detailed site investigations will need to be carried out to establish the quantity of site won material that will be available during construction, as this information will be required to adequately establish the accuracy of the HGV movements provided in the EIAR.
- (ii) Table 15-7 (Chapter 15 of the EIAR) proposes a worst case scenario whereby a 'portion' of crushed rock will need to be imported onto the site however, it is unclear what portion this is or how it has been calculated.

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Please address.

Other Matters

Air

You are requested to clarify if it is proposed or if any background dust monitoring has been conducted in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Alternatives

Section 3.4 of the EIAR addresses alternative renewable energy technologies and it is stated that:

In this instance, the proposed wind energy development requires 45.6 hectares of commercial forestry to be permanently felled. A solar PV array of the scale necessary to provide the same electricity output would require the permanent felling of a significantly larger area of commercial forestry.

Please provide details as to the larger area referenced.

Cumulative Impacts

Section 2.7 of the EIAR refers to other wind farms within 20km radius of the subject site and refers the reader to Section 2.5.1 of the planning history and to Table 2-1 and 2-2 and Figure 2-2. While the permitted windfarms referenced in County Waterford are shown on Figure 2-2, those referenced as permitted in County Cork (Knocknagappagh & Crocane) are not shown on Figure 2-2.

- You are requested to address this omission.
- You are also requested to provide details as to the status of the consents i.e. extant/under construction/complete and the distance from the subject site.

Submissions and Observations

Please respond to the matters raised in the submissions and observations received by the Board from members of the public and prescribed bodies and to the matters raised in the report received from the Planning Authorities, where not specifically addressed in the matters raised in the further information above.

Given the large number of observations received and the commonality of many issues you are advised to address the matters arising by topic.

The further information referred to above should be received by the Board **no later than 5:30pm on Friday 14th October, 2022.**

In this regard, please submit 2 hard copies and one electronic copy of the above information.

Please note that following its examination of any information lodged in response to this request for additional information, the Board will then decide whether or not to invoke its powers under section 37(F)(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, requiring you to publish notice of the furnishing of any additional information and to allow for inspection or purchase of same and the making of further written submissions in relation to same to the Board.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

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Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7250

PA11

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