

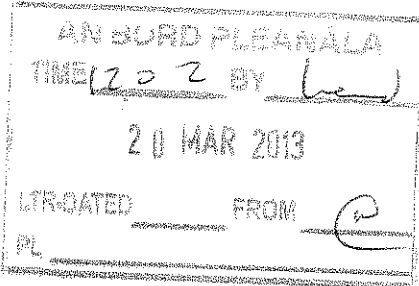
Ref VA0015

An Bord Pleanála,  
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Dublin 1

20-3-13  
CO LAOIS  
8120607

Date: 7th March 2013

EMail  
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Contact Name:

PADRAIG FLEMING MCL

Contact Address:

WESTBANK HOUSE  
THE SWAN  
(VIA) ATHY,  
CO LAOIS

### LAOIS COUNCILLORS OBJECTION TO PROPOSED SUPER-SUBSTATION IN LAOIS

Dear Sir / Madam,

We, the undersigned hereby object in the strongest terms to the referenced project proposed by Eirgrid namely, the application for permission to construct a supersubstation in Coolnabacky, Co. Laois and associated works. Our grounds for objection are summarised below:

1. Landscape - The landscape in the proposed location is scenic, rural / agricultural.
  1. The nature and scale of the project would have a significant and permanent negative impact on the landscape.
  2. The industrial nature of the development is not in keeping with the landscape character.
2. Heritage - The area is rich in heritage and contains many key heritage assets in the proximity of the project. This project will degrade the historical character of the area.
3. Views -
  1. The scenic views in the area would be damaged by infrastructure of this scale and type (e.g. Views from "The Windy Gap" etc.)
  2. The local topography does not allow for sufficient screening to mitigate the visual impact.
4. We are concerned that the development would have a detrimental effect on natural habitats in it's vicinity.
5. Tourism - the project will be detrimental to the future touristic potential of this scenic part of Laois.
6. Property devaluation - This infrastructure will permanently devalue property and real estate in it's vicinity. This significant and permanent impact has not been acknowledged or dealt with as part of the planning process so far.

7. Aquifer - the project is proposed to be sited on a regionally important aquifer that serves approx. 1,500 homes and a number of schools. We are concerned about the permanent risks that the project would pose to this vital resource and the people depending on it.
8. Cause of stress among communities - we have seen first hand the significant and long-standing stress and concern that this project has had on the communities due to be permanently affected by this project.
9. We cannot see how this project will enhance the lives of those in the affected communities in any way.
10. We request that an EIS be prepared in order to examine the impacts of the project in detail.
11. We request that an oral hearing is held by An Bord Pleanála as part of the process for consideration of this planning application.

Signatures of elected representatives to Laois County Council.....

Alvin Redmond Fleming M.C.C.  
 James Daly M.C.C.      Ray Larkin M.C.C.  
 Alan Hand M.C.C.      Bob Brennan M.C.C.  
 John Bonham M.C.C.  
 Kathleen O'Shea M.C.C.  
 Joe McMill M.C.C.  
 Mary Sweeney M.C.C.  
 Catherine Fitzgerald M.C.C.      Paul Mitchell M.C.C.  
 Willie Auld M.C.C.  
 John Purcell M.C.C.      Gerry Hodge M.C.C.  
 John Joe Funnell M.C.C.      James M. O'Rourke M.C.C.  
 Rotimi Odebanjo M.C.C.

