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Re: Ireland 2040 Our Plan National Planning Framework

We would like to make the following submissions on the NPF as requested from the public.

We live 1.1km from 8 x 130mtr Wind Turbines named the 'Woodhouse Windfarm' in Co. Waterford.

Since April 2015 when Woodhouse Windfarm started operating our family has been tormented by noise, sleep deprivation, visual impact and nuisance inside and outside our home. The use and enjoyment of our garden has literally been taken away from us.

There are many families in this community who live within a 2km radius of this windfarm who are suffering from shadow flicker, noise, nausea, tinnitus and sleep deprivation.

Our family and our neighbours are living proof that 500mtrs is a completely insufficient set back distance for turbines of such height.

To date there has been a deferral of any decision on the issue of new Wind Energy Guidelines. The current guidelines are out of date and no longer fit for purpose. Before any further Windfarms are allowed to operate in our county, at a minimum the new guidelines should specify a ratio of height to set back from turbines of 1:10 to retain the current position whereby the existing guidelines set back of 500m related to set back from turbines of 50m height. The current turbines are of the order of 176m height and should require a setback of 1.76km to maintain the former ratios.

A moratorium on the construction or planning of any further wind farms is justified, when it is clear that families and communities all over this country are suffering daily from the lack of proper guidelines to protect domestic homes.

We really support the Country's commitment in addressing climate change, but we request that a better more efficient method is adopted. There is widespread public opposition to a further roll out of wind farms as the main basis of this policy as they generate particular and specific environmental implications for communities, which are no longer acceptable and there is little evidence of concern for impacts on human beings.

It is widely known that Moneypoint power station is the largest emitter of Co2 in this country. It is also known that the beef stock within the farming industry has increased significantly and as the latest reports from the Government suggest, rather than our CO2 emissions decreasing they have in fact increased, which will undoubtedly lead to heavy penalties and fines from the EU in due course.

Total electricity generating capacity in Ireland exceeds peak demand by a large margin. In round numbers the total installed capacity is about 10,000 MWs, while peak demand is only about half this figure. Low demand can be less than half of this. The capacity of existing wind farms, about 3070 MWs, exceeds minimum demand. If wind-speeds are adequate there are times when it is apparently possible to meet demand from wind alone although there cannot be complete reliance on intermittent power sources for system operation reasons.

A ridiculous situation has emerged where more and more windfarms are being added to our energy system which gives intermittent supply only. Operators are entitled to compensating payments whether electricity is in high or low demand, therefore creating an completely inefficient economic energy supply system. However wind-farms continue to be planned and delivered, reflecting the subsidy regime rather than sustainable long term planning for minimising energy consumption.

A moratorium on the construction or planning of any further wind farms is justified in the context of the scale and extent of the existing wind farm capacity and the scale of oversupply of generating capacity nationally. Any future proposals for wind energy should demonstrate cost effectiveness without subsidy.

Our suggestion is to convert Moneypoint power station to biomass as has been successfully done by Drax power station in the UK. Biomass produce could be imported from outside Ireland at the beginning of this process while plans are introduced within the Irish farming industry to grow biomass in Ireland. This alone will reduce our CO2 emissions within EU regulations.

We therefore conclude that the removal of all subsidies for wind energy should be implemented as part of the NPF. The conversion of Moneypoint to biomass should be looked at and included in the national capital investment plan.

Yours Sincerely,

John & Niamh Reynolds