

# An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2013

## Offaly County

**Planning Register Reference Number: PL 2/12/293**

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 19.242354

**APPEAL** by the National Roads Authority of Saint Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin and by Val Martin of Gortnakesh, Cavan, County Cavan against the decision made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2013 by Offaly County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to Galetch Energy Developments Limited care of IWCM Limited of Unit, 1 Cootehill Enterprise Centre, Cootehill, County Cavan in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Development comprising the erection of 10 number wind turbines each with a hub height of up to 110 metres and rotor diameter of up to 120 metres, with an overall maximum tip height of up to 170 metres and all associated site development works including one number temporary site compound area, turbine foundations, crane hardstandings, access tracks, underground cabling, site entrance off the N62, the construction of a 38kV switch room and control facility (85.5 square metres) with associated equipment and compound area enclosed by a 2.4 high palisade fence on lands at Stonestown, Kilcamin, Crancreagh and Derrinlough, Cloghan, County Offaly.

## DECISION

**REFUSE permission for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.**

## **MATTERS CONSIDERED**

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

## **REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

Having regard to the nature of the receiving environment and the open nature of the immediately adjoining lands and the size and scale of the proposed turbines, it is considered that a wind farm development of the scale proposed would create a significant visual intrusion in this landscape by reason of the height and spatial extent of the proposed turbines which would be excessively dominant and visually obtrusive when viewed from the surrounding countryside and villages. The proposed wind energy development would, therefore, seriously injure the visual amenities of the area, would be contrary to the provisions of the Wind Energy Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in June, 2006 and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

---

**Member of An Bord Pleanála  
duly authorised to authenticate  
the seal of the Board.**

**Dated this                    day of                    2013.**