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Roads Department & Athlone
Municipal District Councillors
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Greener Ideas Ltd
No1 Warrington Place
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22nd July 2025

Ref: PD18/256 & PD22/234

Subject: Greener Ideas Ltd (GIL): Construction of a Gas Fired Power Plant at Monksland Athlone Co. Roscommon N37 R9N3 – Roadworks on R362

An Chara,

A Chathaoirligh and members of the council,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. We regret that we are unable to attend in person due to the unavailability of key personnel. In our absence, we have requested that the following statement be read on our behalf.

Greener Ideas Limited (GIL) is currently constructing a new gas-powered peaker plant at Monksland, Athlone. This will provide flexible electricity generation which is recognised as a key part of the transition to net zero and to energy security. This project and the associated works play an integral part in supporting the security of Ireland's electricity supply during periods of peak demand, while also facilitating the integration of greater levels of renewable energy into the national grid.

The project is currently nearing completion and will very shortly connect to the electricity network to enable export of power during periods when it is necessary to ensure the grid has sufficient power to meet demand. The primary fuel source for the Monksland Peaker Plant will be natural gas, which will be supplied from the Gas Networks Ireland's gas transmission pipeline that runs to the south of the site. The pipeline to connect the plant to the existing gas pipeline is presently under construction.

We would like to formally acknowledge and apologise for the extended duration of the roadworks currently taking place on the R362 in Monksland, which are in connection with the electricity grid connection. We understand the disruption this has caused and wish to provide an explanation for the delays, as well as an update on the expected completion timeline. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to share details regarding the ongoing gas pipeline works on the R446 and in the vicinity of Summerhill National School and & Coláiste Chiaráin Secondary School on the Drum Road.



Electrical Grid Road Works on R362 beside Westpoint Business Centre

Roadworks on the R362, between the Westpoint Business Centre and Junction 13 of the M6, are underway to install high-voltage cables linking GIL's peaker power plant to the Athlone ESB substation.

This phase of work, which includes cable pulling, testing, and jointing, began in May 2025 and was initially scheduled for completion by the end of July. However, a failure of the cable pulling equipment on 9th June halted the final cable installation. Subsequent investigations into the cause of the failure have prevented the resumption of work. However we are now in a position for installation to restart. The resulting six-week delay, along with the need to reschedule overseas specialists, to carry out cable jointing and testing, means the works will now extend into mid to late September.

To reduce public disruption, the work area on the R362 will be temporarily removed in August and reinstated in September to enable the completion of cable jointing and testing.

Gas Pipeline works on R446 in the vicinity of Summerhill National School & Coláiste Chiaráin Secondary School

To supply natural gas to GIL's Peaker Power Plant in Monksland, Gas Networks Ireland is installing a pipeline from its existing gas pipeline at Keelty along the R446, passing Coláiste Chiaráin Secondary School, Summerhill National School and the Drum Community Centre.

Works began on 26th May and have progressed to Summerhill Business Park, before being relocated to the Drum Road at the start of the school holidays. This was to minimise disruption to the schools during term time. These works are expected to be completed before schools reopen. At that point, resources will return to the R446 to complete the final sections of the pipeline, with completion expected by mid to late October.

Gas Networks Ireland will continue to engage with stakeholders along the pipeline route and provide them with updates on any changes to the schedule.

Why is Greener Ideas Limited's Peaker Plant Required?

The development of GIL's peaking power plant in Monksland is in line with the government policy statement published on 30th of November 2021. This policy states that "***the development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gasoil/distillate-fired generation) is a national priority and should be permitted and supported in order to ensure security of electricity supply and support the growth of renewable electricity generation***".

As we move towards an electricity grid that is increasingly based on renewable energy, peaker power plants, such as the one presently under construction at Monksland, will be required to ensure security of electricity supply to the national grid.



The availability of renewable electricity, such as solar or wind, can be intermittent in nature and these generation sources may not always provide the power necessary to meet peak demand on the grid. During these periods, EirGrid may request peaker plants like Monksland to come online to make up the shortfall and ensure the grid has sufficient power to meet demand. However, as peaker plants are expensive to run they are typically the last line of defence, dispatched only when absolutely required to keep the lights, refer to Figure 1 below.

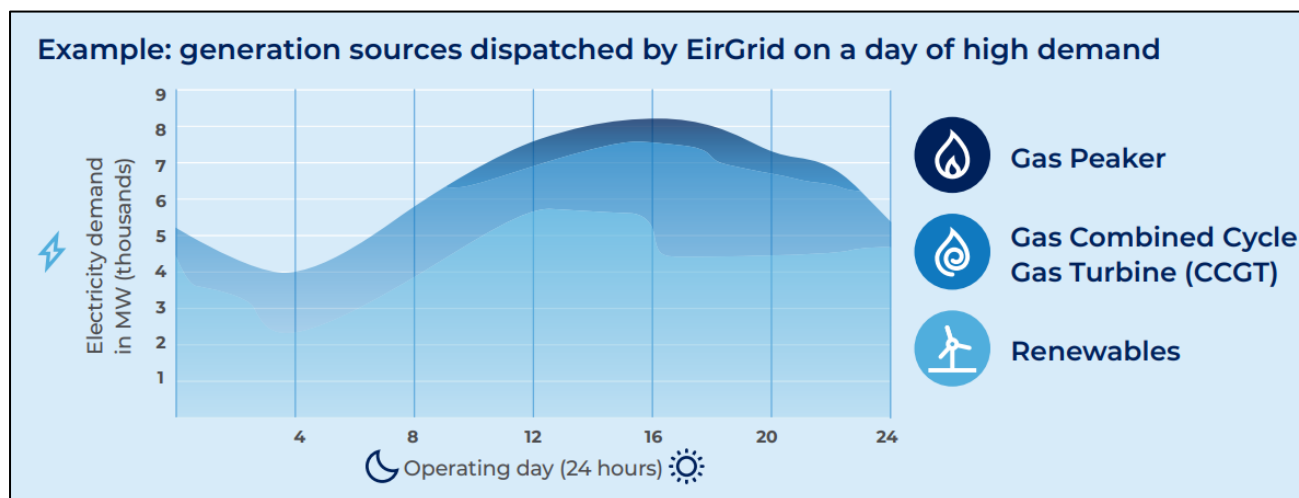


Figure 1 Generation Sources Dispatched by EirGrid on a day of High Electricity Demand

Yours sincerely

Greener Ideas Ltd. | Project Director