

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: PL 16.207212.

Defer Re O/H ☐

TO:SEO

Having considered the contents of the submission ~~dated~~ received 15/06/04. from

Innaltairi, Cumbachto Teoronto I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

☒ not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s):.

No new issues.

E.O.: Kieron Samog

Date: 25/06/04.

To EO: _____

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☒

Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply. ☐

S.E.O.: M. Doherty

Date: 13/7/04

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission

to: _____

Allow 2/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File with Section**OBSERVER FORM**Appeal No: PL 16.207212

S.37

Received: <u>15/06/04</u>	Date Appeal Lodged: <u>19/05/04</u>
	Date Last Appeal Lodged: <u>27/05/04</u>
	Date of E.I.S. Publication:

Name: <u>Innealtóirí Cumhachta Teoranta</u>
Address/Agent: <u>Ballina</u> <u>Co. Mayo</u>
Status: Invalid – (insert reason):

VALID	INVALID
M: <u>r Fegan</u>	1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____
1. Acknowledge with BP <u>40</u>	2. Keep envelope <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Keep copy of Board's letter <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Keep copy of Board's letter <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Prepare refund form <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Prepare refund form <input type="checkbox"/>

Attach to file (a) R/S <input type="checkbox"/> (d) Screening <input type="checkbox"/> (b) Mapping <input type="checkbox"/> (e) Inspectorate <input type="checkbox"/> (c) Processing <input type="checkbox"/> _____	RETURN TO EO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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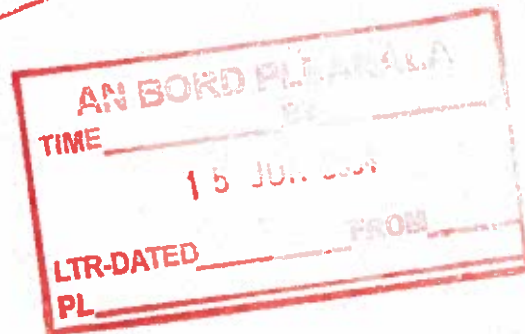
EO: <u>Kieron Somers</u>	AA: <u>James Fegan</u>
Date: <u>25/06/04</u>	Date: <u>28/6/04</u>
Comments:	



Our Ref: ICT-DG059

11 June 2004

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1



Dear Sirs,

County Mayo – Bellanaboy Gas Treatment Plant
Observations on Planning Approval – County Mayo Planning Application Number P03/3343

SUMMARY

We would like to draw attention to a significant issue which, we believe, relates to the Planning Approval for the gas treatment plant for the Corrib natural gas supply.

Approval for the gas treatment at the proposed Bellanaboy site will allow the gas pipeline to pass close to Bellacorick. This route for the pipeline would in turn permit the construction of a gas-fired power plant at Bellacorick. Such a power plant would make a good use of existing electricity transmission and substation assets, to inject electricity into the weak transmission system, at the western extremity of its 110 kV supply lines. Such a power plant at Bellacorick would make effective and environmentally-sympathetic use of existing infrastructure, while being of considerable benefit to electricity supply system, and providing long-term, high grade employment at Bellacorick.

GAS-FIRED ELECTRICITY GENERATION AT BELLACORICK

Some five years ago, the staff of the POWER Engineers consulting group considered the probable route for a pipeline, to conduct the Corrib gas to its likely market. Our consideration of environmentally-sensitive areas in the region and costs of pipelines (particularly sub-sea), pointed strongly to routing the gas line across the worked-out boglands to the north of the existing Bellacorick peat-fired power station.

We were also aware that the elderly peat-fired power station at Bellacorick was due to close. (ESB Generation plans to shut it down after burning the peat harvested in the Summer of 2004.) With the closure of the existing power station, there would be strong advantages in adding new generation, to offset the electrical demand in the West.

The existing 110 kV lines supplying County Mayo (from Roscommon/Ballina and Galway/Castlebar) were constructed some 40 years ago when rural electrification was a priority. To build new lines today would however likely encounter resistance, on grounds of visual impact, especially in much of the West, with its perceived scenic value. New generation in the West would therefore best be constructed with the minimum of new electricity transmission lines.

11 June 2004

Based on the foregoing considerations, we commenced development of a proposal for a compact, high-efficiency, gas-fired power station, to be located at Bellacorick. The plant is proposed as having around 70 MW capacity, which roughly equates to the electrical demand of County Mayo. This size was selected to match the load-carrying capabilities of the 110 kV lines from Roscommon and Galway.

We secured land immediately to the west of the existing 110 kV substation and proposed that the power plant be connected to the ESB transmission system via short (70 m.) underground cables routed into the substation.

We enclose three copies of a leaflet prepared to summarize the proposed development. We used this leaflet in our consultation with the community in Erris and the surrounding areas.

The power plant project gathered excellent local support. Planning Approvals P01/1249 and P01/1250 were granted on 17 and 18 October 2001. The Approvals were not appealed by any objectors. The Environmental Protection Agency granted Integrated Pollution Control licence 633 for the project on 6 March 2003.

A GAS SUPPLY FOR THE POWER STATION

It was hoped to have the gas-fired plant operational for Winter of 2003/2004. This would have given operating experience, and allowed the plant to be proven in reliable operation, before the closure of the peat-fired plant.

The power plant project awaits the construction of the gas pipeline, and therefore the Approval process for the gas treatment plant.

If the location of the gas treatment plant were to be changed, so as to route the gas pipeline away from the 110 kV substation, and the river water supply at Bellacorick, the hurdles for a gas-fired power plant development in the region could be considerable.

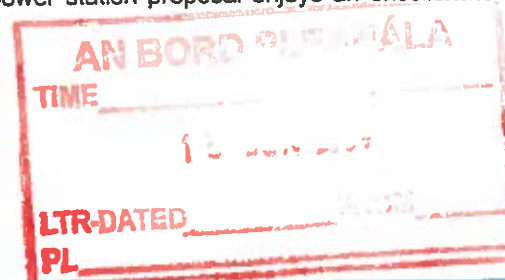
Building even a short transmission line to connect to a new location could have a significant visual impact. The transmission system in the region has only the capacity to accept a small power plant. The economies of a small power plant are particularly strongly influenced by the costs of any lengths of pipelines to supply gas or water, and of transmission connections. The Bellacorick site has strong advantages in that it is immediately adjacent to a substation for transmission connection, and the Owenmore River for water supply, and close to the proposed route for the gas line.

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

We would like to suggest that consideration of the Planning Application for the Bellanaboy gas treatment plant might include the following points: -

- There is increasing demand for electricity in Ireland and the 70 MW requirement for County Mayo will need to be generated somewhere.
- If new generation is not added in Mayo, Corrib gas will be piped to the south and the east, a portion will be used to generate electricity, which will be transmitted back to Mayo, through a heavily-loaded transmission system already over-burdened by power flows from east to west.
- Planning Approvals and an Environmental Integrated Pollution Control licence have already been guaranteed for a gas-fired power plant at Bellacorick, which will make effective and environmentally-sympathetic use of the existing transmission assets, in a manner which suits existing land use very well. The Bellacorick power station proposal enjoys an excellent level of community support.

ICT-DG059



11 June 2004

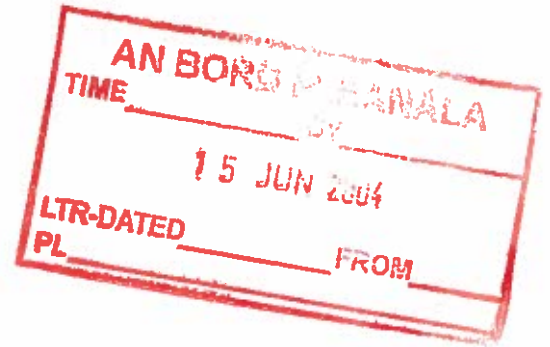
- If Planning Application for the Bellanaboy gas treatment plant is rejected, and the gas treatment plant is relocated so as to re-route the gas line away from Bellacorick, it is very unlikely that a new power plant will be built at Bellacorick. And alternative power plant sites in the region are very likely to be less suitable than Bellacorick in terms of both Planning and environmental considerations.

Yours sincerely,

David Gardner
Managing Director

MARGARET REILLY
P.P. Margaret Reilly.

Enclosed: Cheque for €50.00 "Observation" fee.



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The Benefits

The project is one of the largest proposed investments in the county for many years and will help to plug the gap in electricity supplies that is currently being experienced. Other benefits include:

- Attracting further inward investment following fundamental improvement of the electricity system.
- Locally generated, clean, reliable electricity.
- Reduced electricity costs for local industry.
- Up to 130 jobs during the construction period of between 18 months and two years.
- Around 15 full-time permanent jobs at the operational plant.
- Up to a further 45 jobs with businesses supplying goods and services to the power plant.
- Contract opportunities for local businesses during both the construction and operational phases.
- Fewer emissions to the atmosphere.

RPPV's proposals strengthen the case for routing the Corrib field gas pipeline across the county, ensuring the community benefits from the gas find. The pipeline will act as catalyst for further economic development, with businesses requiring a gas supply able to invest in County Mayo for the first time.

Licensing Process

RPPV is seeking planning permission from Mayo County Council for the plant. The planning process involves consultation with various government departments and regulatory bodies. A comprehensive environmental report, prepared by independent consultants, has been produced and is available for study by members of the public or other interested parties.

The project will be seeking an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency, which will ensure that the design and operation of the plant meet strict environmental standards.

The project will also be seeking the necessary authorisations and licences from the Commission for Electricity Regulation.

Subject to approval, it is anticipated that work could start on the site in the first half of 2002, with construction and commissioning taking between 18 months and two years. Construction traffic will be carefully managed to the approval of the county council.



BELLACORICK
POWER PROJECT

West Elevation

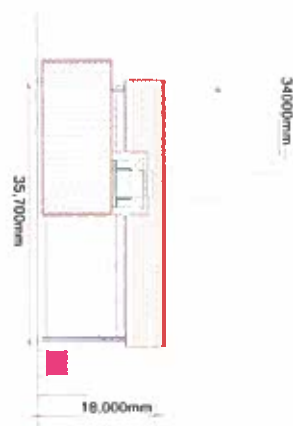


Operational Plant

Electricity will be generated by burning natural gas in a gas turbine. The hot exhaust from this turbine is used to raise steam in a boiler. This is then fed into a steam turbine which generates additional electricity. This arrangement is known as a combined-cycle gas turbine plant and produces electricity more efficiently than any other form of power generation based on either coal, oil or gas.

The plant will be cooled using a circulating water system topped up from the Owenmore River. Operational noise will be minimised by careful engineering to comply with the limits that will be set in the IPC licence.

South Elevation



Environment

The plant will normally burn natural gas, with emissions consisting largely of hot air and water vapour. Per unit of electricity generated, gas-fired power plants produce substantially fewer greenhouse gases than other conventional power stations, and almost no sulphur dioxide. Emissions will be regularly monitored and will comply fully with the stringent standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Irish Government has acknowledged that the change from inefficient coal, peat and oil-fired power plants to efficient gas-fired equipment will form the largest single contribution to meeting the country's commitments under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

Appearance

The plant will be architect designed, with buildings no higher than 18 metres and a single 34 metre exhaust stack. Modern low-level cooling towers will minimise the likelihood of a visible vapour plume.

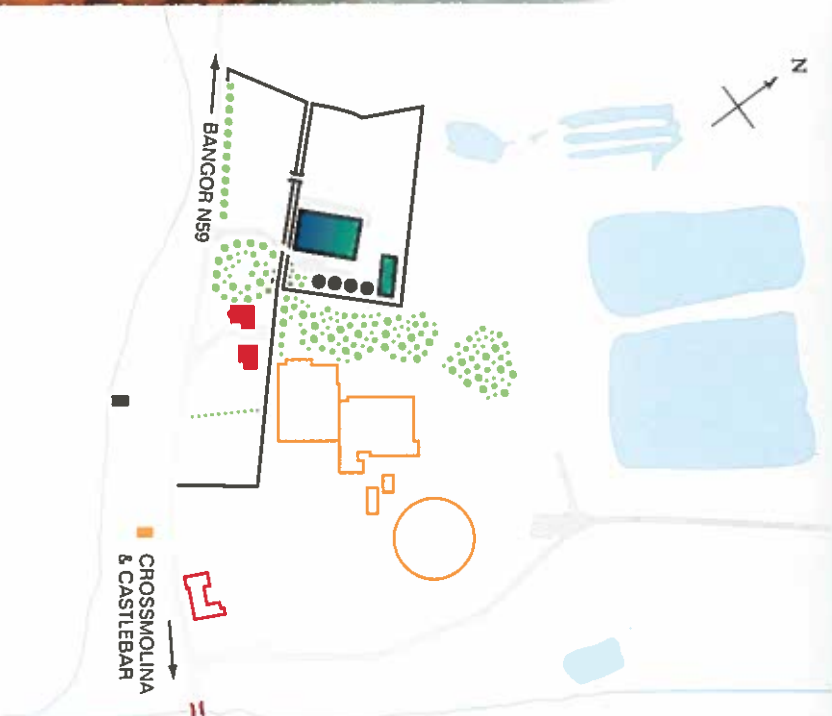
Overall, being significantly more compact in size, it will occupy less than half the land of the current power station. A landscaping scheme will be developed with the local authority to help reduce the visual impact of the plant.

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	existing cooling tower
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	public house
	"musical" bridge
	existing river pump house
	planting

present plant

proposed plant

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The Local Need

County Mayo has no supplies of natural gas and is dependent for heating on peat, oil and LPG. Its electricity supplies, meanwhile, are widely acknowledged to be expensive and inadequate, with the peat-fired power station in Bellacorick scheduled for closure. The infrastructure itself is in need of reinforcement, leaving local communities and industries vulnerable to disruption.

These factors together act as a major deterrent to investment, with many industries, particularly those in the high-tech field, unable to consider investing in the region. Existing industries are at a disadvantage when competing in both the national and the global market.

The construction of the gas pipeline and new gas fired power plant will be significant factors in helping to overcome these obstacles to economic growth.

The National Need

Ireland is facing a potential shortage of electricity generation for the next few years and has already been in the position, during the winter, of having to lease emergency generators as a temporary measure from the US. At the same time, the country is under pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using cleaner fuels and by improving energy efficiency in order to meet the targets agreed at the 1997 Kyoto summit on climate change.

In order to meet these two demands, existing coal, oil and peat-fired power plants must be replaced by cleaner and more efficient forms of generation.

The majority of power generation in Ireland is concentrated around Dublin and the Shannon estuary. Rural areas like the north-west import most of their electricity through overhead lines along long distances. Generating electricity close to where it is needed helps to avoid the costs and losses involved in this kind of transmission.

proposed plant

Community

Rolls-Royce Power Ventures Limited will be a good neighbour, working closely with the local community to establish a positive relationship.

In addition to an extensive communications programme during the planning period, a community liaison group will be set up to ensure local people and interested parties have an avenue of communication during the construction and operational period.

The liaison group will include representatives from RRPV, the main contractors, councillors, council officers, local residents and other interested groups. Regular meetings would enable all matters of interest or any concerns to be discussed.

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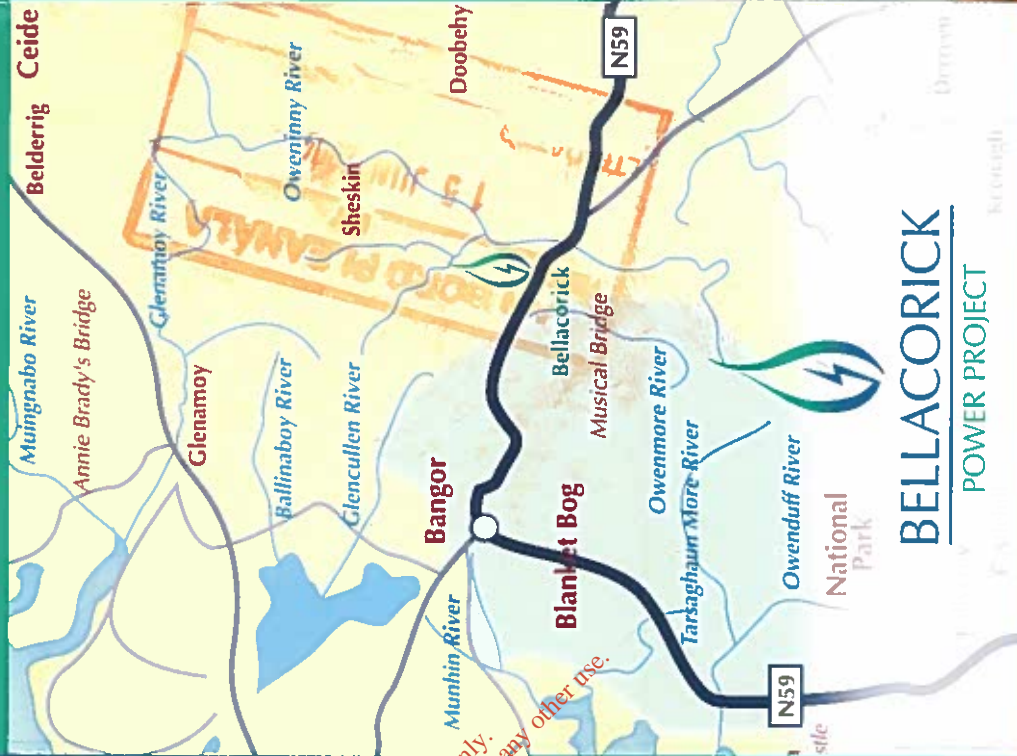
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ELECTRICITY FOR
COUNTY MAYO

The Project

Rolls-Royce Power Ventures Limited (RRPV) is proposing to construct a highly efficient gas-fired power plant next to the existing Bellacorick power station in County Mayo, which is due to close at the end of 2004. Representing an investment of more than IR £40 million, the 68MW plant will supply enough electricity to meet the entire residential and industrial needs of the county. It will also create employment, contribute towards a cleaner atmosphere and help to attract new business to the area.

The proposed site of approximately four acres lies next to the existing peat-fired power plant within the Erris region of north-west Mayo, which has been identified by the Government for the promotion of economic development.

Natural gas to fuel the plant will be delivered by a spur off the new underground pipeline from the Corrib field. An electrical connection will be made to ESB's National Grid transmission system at the existing Bellacorick substation which is immediately adjacent to the site. There will be no additional overhead lines.

RRPV became involved in the project after discussions with Mayo-based engineering consultants Power Engineers, who developed the original concept and identified a suitable site.

The Investors

Formed in 1994, RRPV is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rolls-Royce plc, and was formed to develop opportunities in the international power generation market.

With a main base in London, RRPV is one of the world leaders in small to medium-sized private power projects, with interests in Europe, the Americas, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Its first project in Ireland will be the construction of a 120MW gas-fired power plant at Dungarvan, County Waterford, due to start later this year.

RRPV is committed to investing in the most advanced technology to stay at the forefront of electrical power generation.

present plant

The Benefits

The project is one of the largest proposed investments in the county for many years and will help to plug the gap in electricity supplies that is currently being experienced. Other benefits include:

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- Around 15 full-time permanent jobs at the operational plant.
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RBPV's proposals strengthen the case for routing the Corrib field gas pipeline across the county, ensuring the community benefits from the gas find. The pipeline will act as catalyst for further economic development, with businesses requiring a gas supply able to invest in County Mayo for the first time.

Licensing Process

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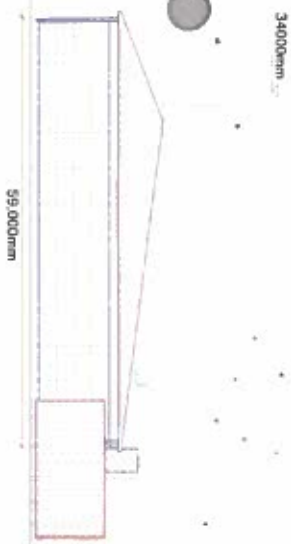
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BELLACORICK
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West Elevation



Operational Plant

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South Elevation



Environment

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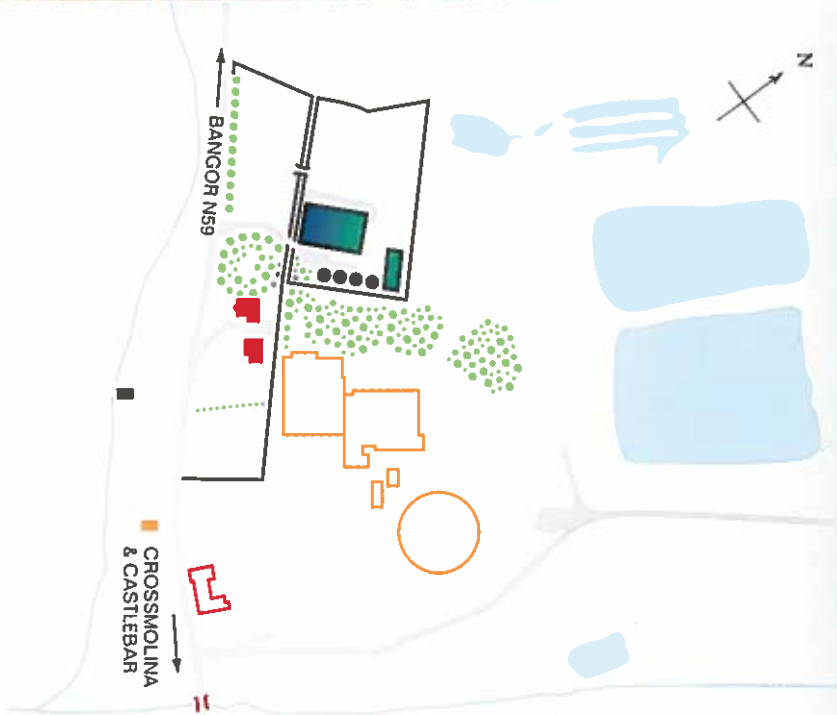
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These factors together act as a major deterrent to investment, with many industries, particularly those in the high-tech field, unable to consider investing in the region. Existing industries are at a disadvantage when competing in both the national and the global market.

The construction of the gas pipeline and new gas-fired power plant will be significant factors in helping to overcome these obstacles to economic growth.

The National Need

Ireland is facing a potential shortage of electricity generation for the next few years and has already been in the position, during the winter, of having to lease emergency generators as a temporary measure from the US. At the same time, the country is under pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using cleaner fuels and by improving energy efficiency in order to meet the targets agreed at the 1997 Kyoto summit on climate change.

In order to meet these two demands, existing coal, oil and peat-fired power plants must be replaced by cleaner and more efficient forms of generation.

The majority of power generation in Ireland is concentrated around Dublin and the Shannon estuary. Rural areas like the north-west import most of their electricity through overhead lines along long distances. Generating electricity close to where it is needed helps to avoid the costs and losses involved in this kind of transmission.

proposed plant

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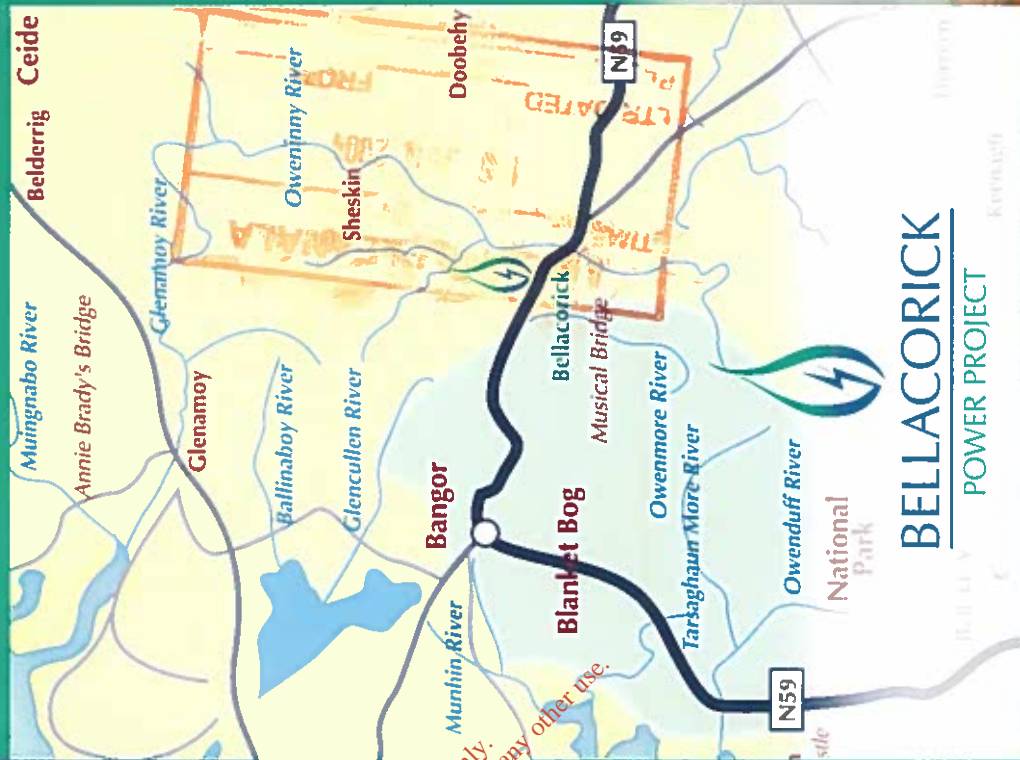
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The proposed site of approximately four acres lies next to the existing peat-fired power plant within the Erris region of north-west Mayo, which has been identified by the Government for the promotion of economic development.

Natural gas to fuel the plant will be delivered by a spur off the new underground pipeline from the Corrib field. An electrical connection will be made to ESB's National Grid transmission system at the existing Bellacorick substation which is immediately adjacent to the site. There will be no additional overhead lines.

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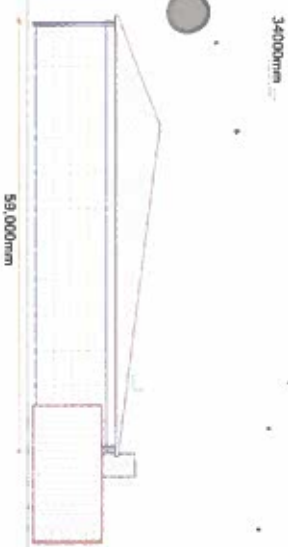
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West Elevation



South Elevation



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Rolls-Royce Power Ventures Limited (RRPV) is proposing to construct a highly efficient gas-fired power plant next to the existing Bellacorick power station in County Mayo, which is due to close at the end of 2004. Representing an investment of more than £40 million, the 68MW plant will supply enough electricity to meet the entire residential and industrial needs of the county. It will also create employment, contribute towards a cleaner atmosphere and help to attract new business to the area.

The proposed site of approximately four acres lies next to the existing peat-fired power plant within the Erris region of north-west Mayo, which has been identified by the Government for the promotion of economic development.

Natural gas to fuel the plant will be delivered by a spur off the new underground pipeline from the Corrib field. An electrical connection will be made to ESB's National Grid transmission system at the existing Bellacorick substation which is immediately adjacent to the site. There will be no additional overhead lines.

RRPV became involved in the project after discussions with Mayo-based engineering consultants Power Engineers, who developed the original concept and identified a suitable site.

The Investors

Formed in 1994, RRPV is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rolls-Royce plc, and was formed to develop opportunities in the international power generation market.

With a main base in London, RRPV is one of the world leaders in small to medium-sized private power projects, with interests in Europe, the Americas, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Its first project in Ireland will be the construction of a 120MW gas-fired power plant at Dungarvan, County Waterford, due to start later this year.

RRPV is committed to investing in the most advanced technology to stay at the forefront of electrical power generation.

present plant