

Subs No. 11

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY

10 FEB 2005

Elly,
Clogher,
Ballina,
Co. Mayo.

8 February 2005

The Secretary,
Environmental Protection Agency,
PO Box 3000,
Johnston Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

Ref. 738 – Corrib gas development application for waste licence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident on the Mullet peninsula, Co. Mayo and I wish to make the following observations on the EIS (Offshore Field to Terminal) submitted by Shell-E&P-Ireland Ltd. on their application for a waste/emissions licence applicable to the waters surrounding and including Broadhaven Bay, Co. Mayo.

I believe the EPA should take the following points into consideration when processing the application by Shell E&P Ireland Ltd.

- Protected species
- The inappropriate positioning of the discharge/outfall pipe

Protected species

The EIS has loosely acknowledged that marine mammal species are known to occur in the coastal waters of Mayo and from what I can understand, it regards Broadhaven Bay as a unecologically active bay. I would strongly dispute this as the bay have resident dolphins (Annex II) and a large number of whales (several different species) have been reported in the bay. Also present are basking sharks, large numbers of sea birds and even sun fish have been recorded in the bay during the summer months.

I am concerned that the discharge of harmful metals and chemicals into the water will destroy their habitat or worse kill them.

The inappropriate positioning of the discharge/outfall pipeline

I believe that the outfall pipe from the terminal is not extending far enough out to sea. The EIA has stated that the current is running from South to North in the region where the discharge material is being dumped, therefore it should not flow back into the bay and surrounding waters. I strongly disagree with this and I am very worried about the position of the outfall pipeline. The study that was conducted to determine the direction of the

current was carried out in the summer months. I believe the study should have been carried out over a period of at least 12 months. The study did not take into consideration the heavy (large) swells and strong winds experienced in this region during autumn and especially the winter months. Such sea conditions would push water back into the bay.

'Total organic carbon including methanol, 3 tonnes per annum'. This was in response to questions by Niall Rielly(RTE) to queries on discharge material from outfall pipelines of an offshore field and their potential impacts. The discharge material from this outfall pipe will include phosphorous, manganese, copper, zinc, arsenic, silver, mercury, lead, methanol and glycol. If such heavy metals and toxic chemicals flow back into the bay it will destroy all habitats of cetaceans, sharks, fish and sea birds in the area. It will also have serious effects on the health of the people in the area who use the water for both recreational and commercial use.

The area in question has huge potential for eco-tourism due to it's vast collection of different species of birds and cetaceans etc. and work is currently underway to develop this aspect of tourism. This area and the surrounding waters will most certainly will be destroyed or at the very least severely damaged if the discharge pipe is built at it's planned location.

It is vital that the outfall pipe is **extended further out** then is currently planned.

I use the waters around the Mullet peninsula and Broadhaven Bay for surfing, windsurfing, snorkelling and swimming. I am very seriously concerned for the health and safety of myself, my family and friends who use these waters quite regularly, but also for the rest of the people on the peninsula who enjoy using the sea for recreational use. If any discharge material from that outfall pipe flows back into the bay and accumulates, it will prevent anyone from using the water and will destroy any businesses in the area based on the sea and environment.

I hope that the material herein is of use to the EPA in reaching a decision

Yours sincerely,

Ronan Leonard
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