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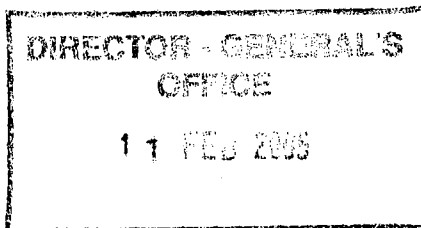


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M/s Mary Kelly
Director General
EPA Headquarters
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford.



Feb 9th 2005

Dear M/s Kelly,

I have received several correspondence and representations recently concerning the health and safety aspects of the Gas Refinery proposed for Ballinaboy, Co. Mayo. There are many local residents in and around the Rosspoint area extremely worried about the safety of the high pressure pipeline that will carry the raw gas from where it come ashore to the refinery.

I enclose a copy of recent correspondence outlining the concerns expressed locally and I would be most grateful if the Environmental Protection Agency could address the issues raised.

Thank you in anticipation of your reply.

Yours sincerely

John Carty T.D.

John Carty

Please acknowledge shortly

EPA

MAIN FILE ☒
PUBLIC FILE ☒
EVALUATION FILE ☒
DATE 15/2/05 (W)

Rosspport,
Ballina,
Co. Mayo

31st January 2005

EPA

Mr John Carty T. D.
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

MAIN FILE ✓
PUBLIC FILE ✓
EVALUATION FILE KAMO
DATE 16/2/05 (LW)

Dear Deputy Carty,

You will be aware that Shell E & P Ireland has been granted planning permission by Mayo County Council and An Bord Pleanála to build a gas refinery or gas processing plant ("terminal" is a misnomer) in your constituency at Ballinaboy in North Mayo. A key element of the Shell project is the 92-Km upstream pipeline connecting the wellhead to the refinery. The onshore section of this pipeline (c. 9-km) is a cause of grave concern to residents in Rosspport, and is the subject of this common letter addressed to all my public representatives seeking clarification of their position in relation to the issues involved.

Perhaps the best way to illustrate the extraordinary nature of the Rosspport pipeline is to compare it with the gas transmission and distribution system operated by Bord Gáis Éireann. (BGE)

1 The Rosspport pipeline is an **upstream** pipeline intended to carry raw untreated, **odourless** gas;

BGE do not own or operate upstream pipelines but transports clean **odorised** (Mercaptan added for smell) through their **transmission** and **distribution** pipelines

2 Rosspport pipeline designed for pressures greater than **345 bar**;

BGE pipelines have a **Maximum** Permissible Operating Pressure (MPOP) of **88 bar**

3 Rosspport pipeline design does not conform to *I. S. 328-Code of Practice for Gas Transmission Pipelines and Pipeline Installations* as operated by BGE

4 Only one pipe in BGE pipeline trench but Rosspport pipeline trench is to house 20" upstream pipeline, 10" waste pipe and umbilical cable operating at pressure of **610 bar**

The Rosspport gas pipeline is not only irregular but also unprecedented and for those reasons the least that residents should expect is that unprecedented measures be put in place to ensure that the highest standards of health and safety apply. Unfortunately this is not the case. None of the State bodies - the Department of Marine and Natural Resources, The Health and Safety Authority, The Environmental Protection Agency, Bord Gáis Éireann, Mayo County Council - is prepared to sign off on the safety of this pipeline and by this I mean the safety of residents from the pipeline. Most families living in this area can trace their ancestry back to the displaced Ulster Irish who at least were offered a choice between going to Hell or Connaught.

With the gas pipeline exempted from the planning process and none of the State bodies prepared to take responsibility it would appear that we are left without a choice.

My family and I are being forced to live dangerously close to a high-risk upstream gas pipeline and we have every reason to fear for our health and safety, even for our very lives. This is not scaremongering. The *"Offshore Field to Terminal"* EIS (2001) states (in relation to the pipeline) that *"upset conditions and accidental events could affect a wide geographic area"* (16.1). As a registered voter in your constituency I urge you to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves and to ensure that our protection is not left in the hands of Shell, notorious the world over for its disregard for health and safety and the bullying of indigenous peoples.

Yours,
Sincerely,

Vincent McGrath
Vincent McGrath

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