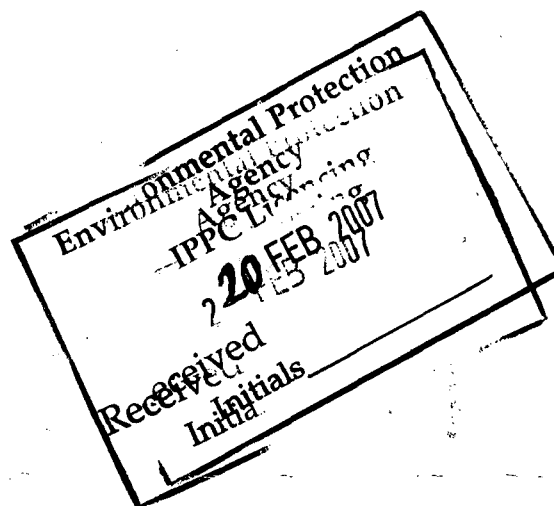


dsj, No 10.

**PARISH OF KILCOMMON ERRIS – DIOCESE OF KILLALA  
AUGHOOSE, PULLATHOMAS, BALLINA, CO. MAYO - 097 87990**

Mr Paddy Nolan  
Programme Manager  
Environmental Protection Agency  
PO Box 3000  
Johnstown castle Estate  
Co. Wexford



15<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Dear Mr Nolan

**RE : THIRD PARTY SUBMISSION - E.P.A. REFERENCE PO738-01.  
Corrib Gas Project, Ballinaboy, Co. Mayo**

It is evident that the Corrib Gas Project is adversely impacting on many people whether they are for or against the chosen method of development. It is having negative social implications in the Parish community and beyond. Issues impacting on people in the vicinity of the project continue to be highlighted. People have health, safety, environmental and sociological worries for the future facing them.

The granting of an EPA Operating Licence with conditions raises the question of adherence to such conditions and what the impact will be if they are breached through negligence, error, accident or something unforeseen. In such case conditions and monitoring might not have much practical value for environmental protection. If a failure occurs and is detected who or what can undo the damage that results? Fines or penalties will hardly rectify a damaged or destroyed ecology. An area where this point applies is the waste pipe going into the sea and the concerns it raises. To take this pipe sufficiently far out to sea so that its contents can be dispersed by the currents outside of Broadhaven Bay might give some assurance. Safeguards are what matter. Better safe than sorry! Anything that would lessen the unease should be embraced. Broadhaven Bay still has untreated sewage flowing into it from Belmullet town. Numerous people have informed me that near Barnatra chemicals from the Erris Water Treatment Plant also flow into the bay destroying shellfish, seaweed etc., on the strand in that area.

The competence and expertise to issue conditions with the licence for the Corrib Project is within your remit. Avoiding possible risks is essential. Conditions that might be open to abuse not detectable until it is too late with implications for air quality, water supply, fishing in Broadhaven Bay and Carramore Lake would be most undesirable. Our environment is more precious, in both the long and short term, than economics.

As people who live here and revere what we have, we must strive to maintain it in the best possible condition for the future.

I enclose a submission fee of €126, which I hope can be refunded in some measure.

Yours sincerely,

*Fr. Michael Nallen*

**FR MICHAEL NALLEN**  
**Parish Priest**

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