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Recd From: Council for the West
(Brendan Cafferty)

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Council for the West
Comhairle don Iarthar

Mr. Frank Clinton
Chairman EPA Oral Hearing
Broadhaven Bay Hotel
Ballina Road
Belmullet
Co. Mayo

20th April 2007

Dear Mr. Clinton

On behalf of the Council for the West I sent you a submission yesterday for the EPA Oral Hearing. I rang your office today and have been told that you will not accept a written submission.

I am out of the country (in the US) for all of next week and will not be in a position to appear personally. I have also checked with some other members of our council but they are not anxious to attend because of the intimidation that exists from the Shell to Sea group.

Most of our members have heard of the intimidation suffered by the secretary of the The Pro Mayo Gas organisation there earlier this week. Most of our members have suffered this type of intimidation many times over the past two years. However our submission is more about the overall benefits rather than any technical input.

We wish you every success in your efforts

Yours sincerely

Sean Hannick
Chairman

Council for the West, Killala Business Park, Killala, Co. Mayo. Tel: 096 32975, Fax: 096 32014, E-mail: cftwest@iol.ie
Web: www.councilforthewest.ie, Charitable Status No.: CHY 10724, Developing the West Together Limited Registered No.: 197197

Members: Chairman: Sean Hannick, Vice-Chairman: Declan O'Callaghan, Treasurer: Ray O'Donoghue, Secretary: Michael McGarrigle,
PRO: Terry Reilly, Seamus Caulfield, John Connolly, Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Finnegan, Most Rev. Bishop John Fleming, Tom Garvey, Mildred Gilmore, Most Rev. Bishop Christy Jones, John Kearney, Joe Killeen, Seamus Rodgers, Sean Sweeney. Co-ordinator: Caroline Wilson.
Patrons: Most Rev. Bishop Philip Boyce, Most Rev. Bishop Thomas Flynn, The Right Rev. C A Henderson, Most Rev. Bishop John Kirby,
Most Rev. Bishop Martin Drennan, Most Rev. Archbishop Michael Neary, Most Rev. Bishop Colm O'Reilly, Most Rev. Bishop Leo O'Reilly,
Most Rev. Bishop Willie Walsh.



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Chairman EPA Oral Hearing
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Co. Mayo

18th April 2007

Dear Mr. Clinton

We wish to make the following submission to the EPA Oral Hearing on the Corrib Gas Project.

Yours sincerely

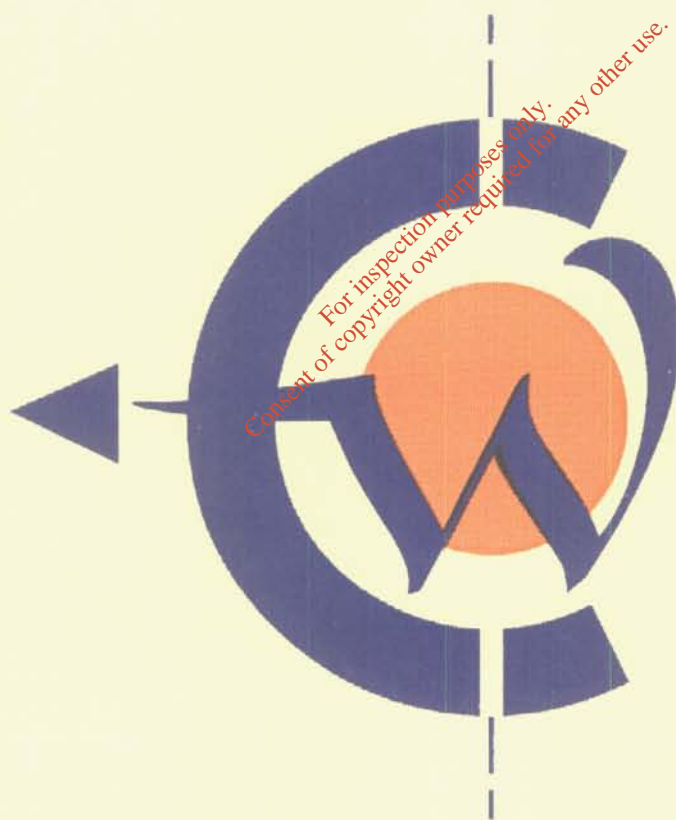

Sean Hannick
Chairman

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COUNCIL FOR THE WEST



Council for the West
Comhairle don Iarthar



Council for the West
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Council for the West Submission to the
EPA Oral Hearing on
the IPPC License - Corrib Gas Terminal

18 April 2007

The Council for the West is a voluntary, independent, non-political body with charitable status established in 1994 to combat the decline in population and services in rural areas of the West of Ireland. It was set up by the Western Bishops arising out of a report entitled Crusade for Survival.

Its membership is comprised of voluntary, non-remunerated persons comprising representation from the main churches, businesses and community activists.

The Council for the West is concerned with major social and economic issues affecting the development of the counties in the region: Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

Officers are:

Chairman:	Sean Hannick (Mayo)
Vice Chairman:	Declan O'Callaghan (Roscommon)
Secretary:	Michael McGarrigle (Donegal)
Treasurer:	Ray O'Donoghue (Galway)
Co-ordinator:	Caroline Wilson

Contact Details:

Council for the West
Killala Business Park
Killala
Co Mayo
Phone: 096 32975
Fax: 096 32014
Email: cftwest@iol.ie
Web: www.councilforthewest.ie

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As an organisation deeply committed to the development of the West of Ireland and to enhancing the economic and social prosperity of the region, the Council for the West welcomes this oral hearing for the proposed determination of an IPPC license for the Corrib Gas Project. The Council believes that this IPCC licensing system is allowing for an open and transparent examination of all the issues pertaining to the licensing of the gas terminal.

The Council firmly believes that the proposed Corrib gas project is, and will continue to be of immense benefit to both Erris and the Western region. For many decades, Erris suffered from a lack of employment opportunities that led generations to leave their homes and families and seek employment both abroad and more recently in other parts of Ireland.

In this debate here today on the possible effects the gas terminal may have on the local environment, it is important to remember that a large section of the local community currently work and earn their living in the construction of this gas terminal. Between the peat deposition site at Srahmore and the construction work at the terminal nearly 300 jobs have been created. Over 70% of these jobs are filled by Erris people and it is expected that over 700 jobs will eventually be created. Over €1.5million a week is being spent locally on wages, goods and services. Added to this is the spend on ancillary local services such as accommodation and catering and it is amply clear that this project is contributing in a sizeable manner to the local community and economy.

For decades the Western region has lagged behind the rest of Ireland in terms of economic development. One of the reasons for this was the lack of a readily available energy source for industry. Industry needs a reliable and cheaper source of energy. Unlike other regions throughout Ireland, the West lacked the ready availability of such a form of energy. That is until now. The decision by the Commission of Energy Regulation to add eleven towns and villages in the west of Ireland to the natural gas grid is of huge significance for the economic development of our region. It ensures that we now possess a greater possibility of attracting additional industry and securing more employment possibilities. We have been told repeatedly by IDA Ireland over the last number of years that they could not show any major energy using industry north of a line from Galway to Carrick in Shannon because of the lack of a proper electricity transmission system. Now with the availability of gas a combined heat and power generation system can be installed to power a major industry or industrial estate.

In conclusion, the Council for the West recognises the expertise and independence of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Furthermore the Council for the West commends the mission of the EPA to protect and improve the natural environment for present and future generations, taking into account the environmental, social and economic principles of sustainable energy.