

Our Ref: 16.GA0004

Your Ref:



Environmental Protection Agency  
P.O. Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
Co. Wexford.

12th May 2009

Re: Onshore upstream gas pipeline facility relating to  
the Corrib Gas Field Project, Co. Mayo.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above mentioned case and in particular to the recent notification regarding the preliminary oral hearing.

Please be advised that the preliminary oral hearing has now been deferred as a mark of respect to the families of Garda Terence Dever of Achill and Stephen Conway who were killed in a road collision outside Belmullet on the 10th of May, 2009.

The preliminary oral hearing will now be held in conjunction with the substantive oral hearing which is due to commence on the 19th of May, 2009. To facilitate the orderly running of matters I attach a document containing details of dates of sitting order of appearances and questions etc. Please note that the programme may be subject to change depending on discussions on the morning of May the 19th.

The arrangements for the oral hearing as previously advised are as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday, the 19th of May, 2009


**Time:** 11.00 a.m.

**Venue:** The Broadhaven Hotel, Ballina Road, Belmullet, Co. Mayo

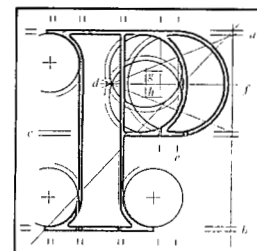
Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
Alan McArdle  
Executive Officer

An Bord Pleanála



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Baile Átha Cliath 1.

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## Preliminary Procedures Meeting\*

Originally fixed for the 13th May this agenda will now be taken on the morning of the Oral Hearing itself at 11am on 19<sup>th</sup> May

### AGENDA

1. **Availability of Files 16.GA.0004 and 16.DA.0004**
2. **Availability of Submissions Received**
3. **Appearances for Applicant Prescribed Bodies and Observers**
4. **Oral Submissions**  
Confirmation and identification of Persons wishing to make oral presentations at the Oral Hearing
5. **Seating arrangements**
6. **Mutual Translation System**
7. **Order of Appearances**  
These are set out in Schedule 2 attached
8. **Procedures**  
Verbal Contribution to the OH  
Written Contributions/Document to the OH  
Order of Appearances  
Time restrictions  
Specific Topic areas whereby questions may be asked
9. **Programme for OH**  
Attached is the outline programme now envisaged this will be reviewed in light of information and the requirements presented by the applicant, the prescribed bodies, and the observers at this preliminary meeting. A programme will be maintained and updated during the OH
10. **Any Other Matters**

\* The Preliminary meeting is being held to plan procedures and appearances in Advance of the Oral Hearing into

(1) Corrib Gas Pipeline Project Application for Approval for the onshore upstream gas pipeline facility  
File 16.GA.0004

(2) Corrib Gas Pipeline Project Compulsory Acquisition Order  
File 16.DA.0004

The Oral Hearing itself commences at 11am on 19<sup>th</sup> May in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel Belmullet  
County Mayo

### **Procedures for Oral Hearing**

**Verbal Contributions to the Oral Hearing:** All verbal contributions, presentations, questions and answers to questions, will be addressed to the Inspector. It will not be permissible to conduct any other discussions in the hall of the OH. Mobile phones should be switched off or set at silent.

Each person or group who wish to make a verbal submission will be required to set out the details of the issues they will raise in their oral submission. This will be clarified at the preliminary meeting. This will enable the inspector to proceed in an orderly manner through each oral submission and to manage the time fairly for all persons. There is no obligation on any person to make a verbal submission. The written submissions received by An Bord Pleanala will be considered fully in any event whether presented or not at the OH.

Each person speaking at the Oral Hearing should

- (1) Use the microphone
- (2) Clearly state their name
- (3) Clearly state who they are representing.

**Written Contributions to the Oral Hearing:** If any person wishes to submit a document(s) to the OH this should be handed in to the admin desk, 24 hours in advance of that person's evidence/ appearance. The document will be numbered for reference and date stamped and passed to the inspector and his assistants. 20 Copies of such documents should also be handed in to the admin desk.

**Order of Appearances at Oral Hearing:** The Order of Appearances for the applicant, the prescribed bodies and for the observers is set out on the attached Outline Programme for the Oral Hearing. Schedule 1 lists the order of appearance for the prescribed bodies, Schedule 2 lists the order of appearances for the observers. The updated programme will provide information on approximate day/time of appearances. Each person will be called by the inspector in turn as set out in the schedules 1 and 2, and if not present then the programme will move forward to the next party in the order of appearance. The order set out will be strictly adhered to with the following exception.

Where a prescribed body or an observer requests it, at least 24 hours before the expected time of that person's appearance, (admin office request form) the inspector may allow that prescribed body or that observer to appear at a later time than programmed ( it will not be possible to appear earlier) in the order of appearances.

**Time Restrictions:** Time restrictions will apply. These will be as set out in the final programme.

It is clear from the written submissions received that there is overlap and similarity between submissions. A number of submissions make the same points. Observers are asked to consider joining together in groups to avoid repetition and where such groups come together (admin office group presentation form) the inspector will facilitate additional time to the group to make their combined submission, to put the questions they require to expert witness's and to put concluding statements at the close of the OH. All persons including the applicant are asked to avoid unnecessary repetition.

**Questioning will be by way of Special Topic:** The special topics under which questions will be dealt with are set out in Schedule 3. This part of the OH is expected to commence on 28<sup>th</sup> May with questions from the inspector and observers regarding the Acquisition Order. Topics will be considered once and when topics are concluded no reopening of those topics will be accepted. Schedule 3 sets out the relevant EIS chapters that will be taken with each special topic. The questioning will follow in the order of appearances for observers as set out in Schedule 2.

Repetition of questions should be minimised and avoided. In order to get the maximum benefit from the time available for questions observers are urged to form groups so that repetition of questions will be avoided and so that a more complete set of questioning can be planned in advance by the group. In the event that groups are formed (at least 4/5 from the schedule 2 per group) then it is expected that a maximum of 2 hours per group per topic may be reasonable to allow for presentation of the group's own expert witness(s) and for cross questioning by the group of SEPIL expert witness's. This is an important part of the OH and it will be handled sensitively so that observers can raise the questions and make the arguments fully. Cooperation will be required from the applicant, the prescribed bodies and from observers to ensure best and fair allocation of time between all the issues and between all the observers involved.

## Schedule 1 Prescribed Bodies Order of Appearances

Acquisition Order File 16.DA.0004

1. Mayo County Council
2. Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government
3. Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources
4. Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Food
5. Commissioners of Public Works
6. Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Section 182C File 16.GA.0004

1. Mayo County Council
2. Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government
3. Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources
4. Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Food
5. Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
6. Minister for Transport
7. An Taisce
8. North Western Region Fisheries Board
9. Environment Protection Agency
10. Health Services Executive
11. Commissioner for Energy Regulation
12. National Roads Authority
13. An Comhairle Ealaíon
14. Fáilte Ireland
15. The Heritage Council

	Schedule 2 Order of Appearances by observers	Date /Time for initial presentation	Time for closing remarks	
1.	Ian Mac Aindriú Comhalta Údarás na Gaeltachta	26 <sup>th</sup> May 10AM		
2.	Turasóireacht Iorrais (Gabháltais) Teo			
3.	Bord Gáis Networks			
4.	Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)			
5.	Council for the West			
6.	Dara Calleary, TD			
7.	Councillor Harry Walsh			
8.	Fr. Michael Nallen			
9.	Erris Chamber of Commerce			
10.	Chambers Ireland			
11.	Irish Offshore Operators' Association			
12.	Engineers Ireland			
13.	Pobal Le Chéile			
14.	Pobal Chill Chomáin			
15.	Mícheál Ó Seighin & Others			
16.	Belmullet G.A.A. Club			



	Schedule 2 Order of Appearances by Observers	Date/Time for Initial Presentation	Time for Closing Remarks	
17.	Fritz and Betty Schult & Others			
18.	Rosspport Solidarity Camp			
19.	Goodbody Economic Consultants			
20.	Shevlin Engineering Ltd.			
21.	Pro Gas Mayo Group			
22.	J. McAndrew & T. McAndrew			
23.	Cornelius King & Gerry Sheerin			
24.	Maura Harrington			
25.	Monica Muller & Peter Sweetman			
26.	Roadbridge Ltd.			
27.	DB Marine Research and Associates			
28.	Seán Staunton			
29.	Ethel Corduff and Thomas Corduff			
30.	John Monaghan			
31.	Brendan Hegarty			
32.	Mercury Engineering			
33.	Teach John Joe Teo			

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	Schedule 2 Order of Appearances by Observers	Date/Time for Initial Presentation	Time for Closing Remarks	
34.	Paraic Cosgrove & Padraig McGrath			
35.	Lennon Quarries			
36.	Teresa & Brid McGarry			
37.	Catherine McAndrew			
38.	Tom Philbin			
39.	Colm & Gabrielle Henry			
40.	Terence M. Conway & Others			
41.	Kilcawley Construction			

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### ***Schedule 3 Specific Topics for Questioning of Applicant by Observers***

1. **Acquisition Order File16. DA. 0004** Expected to Commence on 28<sup>th</sup> May
2. **Design/ Safety/Stability** Expected to commence 3<sup>rd</sup> June

This Specific Topic Area includes the aspects of the project concerned with the following chapters and appendices in the EIS.

Chapter 4	Appendix M
Chapter 15	Appendix Q
	Appendix S

3. **Natural Environment /Cultural Heritage** Expected to commence 5<sup>th</sup> June

This Specific Topic Area includes the aspects of the project concerned with the following chapters and appendices in the EIS.

Chapter10	Appendix I
Chapter11	
Chapter 12	Appendix J
Chapter 13	Appendix K
Chapter 14	Appendix L
Chapter 16	Appendix N
	Appendix O
	Appendix P

4. **Construction / Traffic** Expected to commence 9<sup>th</sup> June

This Specific Topic Area includes the aspects of the project concerned with the following chapters and appendices in the EIS.

Chapter 5	Appendix E
Chapter 7	Appendix F
Chapter 8	Appendix G
Chapter 9	Appendix H
	Appendix R

Volume 3 Srahmore Peat Deposition Book 1 and 2

Volume 3 Srahmore Peat Deposition Book 3 Appendices

5. **Other Project Issues** Expected to commence Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

This Specific Topic Area includes the aspects of the project concerned with the following chapters and appendices in the EIS.

Chapter 1	Appendix A
Chapter 2	Appendix B
Chapter 3	Appendix C
Chapter 6	Appendix D
Chapter 17	
Chapter 18	

## Outline Programme for Oral Hearing\*

<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	11.00 AM	Opening of Oral Hearing Procedures for Oral Hearing refer to Preliminary Meeting Agenda Confirmation of Appearances
	2.00 PM	SEPIL Begin Presentation of the above Applications
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	SEPIL Continue Presentation of the above Applications
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	10.00 AM -6.00 PM	SEPIL Continue and Conclude Presentation of the above Applications
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>		No Oral Hearing
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00 AM -6.00 PM	Prescribed Bodies Present their reports in order as set out in the Schedule 1 Commencing with Mayo County Council
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Commence Observers Submissions in the order of appearances as set out in Schedule 2
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Continue and conclude Observers Submissions in the order as set out in Schedule 2
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Questions regarding Acquisition Order
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>	<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b> No Oral Hearing
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Questions Regarding Design/Safety/Stability see Schedule 3
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Questions Regarding Design/Safety/Stability see Schedule 3
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	} 10.00AM-6.00 PM	Questions Regarding Natural Environment/Cultural Heritage see Schedule 3
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	} 10.00AM-6.00 PM	Questions Regarding Natural Environment/Cultural Heritage see Schedule 3
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Questions Regarding Construction/Traffic see Schedule 3
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Questions Regarding Other Project Issues see Schedule 3
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00 AM-6.00 PM	Closing Statements

\*The Oral Hearing is being held by An Bord Pleanála at Broadhaven Bay Hotel Belmullet at 11am on 19<sup>th</sup> May to consider

- (1) Strategic Infrastructure Act Application for Corrib Gas Onshore Pipeline file 16.GA.0004
- (2) Corrib Gas Acquisition Order Application file 16.DA.0004

## At a Glance Programme for Oral Hearing

### Days the Oral Hearing is projected to be in Session

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	19 <sup>TH</sup> May	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	-----		
25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup> May	-----		
-----	-----	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>		
8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	-----		
(15 <sup>th</sup> )	(16 <sup>th</sup> )	(17 <sup>th</sup> )	(18 <sup>th</sup> ) June			

### Outline Programme at a Glance

- 19<sup>th</sup> May Oral Hearing Commences SEPIIL Begin to Present the Scheme Applications
- 20<sup>th</sup> May SEPIIL Present Scheme Applications
- 21<sup>st</sup> May SEPIIL Present /Conclude Applications
- 25<sup>th</sup> May Prescribed Bodies Present Reports per Schedule 1 Mayo County Council to begin
- 26<sup>th</sup> May Observers Submissions per Schedule 2
- 27<sup>th</sup> May Observers Submissions per Schedule 2
- 28<sup>th</sup> May Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Acquisition Order
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Design /Safety/Stability
- 4<sup>th</sup> June Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Design /Safety/Stability
- 5<sup>th</sup> June Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage
- 8<sup>th</sup> June Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage
- 9<sup>th</sup> June Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Construction /Traffic
- 10<sup>th</sup> June Specific Topic Questions per Schedule 3 Other Project Issues
- 11<sup>th</sup> June Closing Arguments

### **Questions Expected**

It is expected that questions will be asked on the following matters during the Oral Hearing

The applicant, the prescribed bodies and the observers are given notice accordingly.

Mayo County Council

1. Protection of drinking water supplies
2. Road Maintenance/Strengthening and Road Closures planned for the area.
3. Economic Planning for the Area
4. The Strategic Environment Assessment of the Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2013 in relation to the Corrib Gas Field Development.
5. Planning Policy in relation to Development at Dooncarton.
6. Planning Policy in relation to new development in the vicinity of the proposed gas pipeline if approved.
7. The Health and Safety Regulations involvement of the Fire Service in the operation of this pipeline

SEPIL

1. Constituents of the raw gas coming from the wells.
2. Details of the valves proposed at the landfall valve site.
3. The safe distance envelope in the event of pipeline failure.
4. Failure frequency factors for the pipeline (non third party interference failures)
5. Failure frequency factors for the pipeline (third party interference failures)
6. The position of competent person to oversee operations of the proposed pipeline.
7. Impact of the construction method on the environment of the proposed pipeline in the blanket bog (designated and non designated)
8. The impact of the storage of turves on bog mats beside the stone road in the blanket bog sections.
9. The expected recovery period for restored designated and non designated peat areas and the long term residual impact expected.
10. Impacts of the proposed development on visual amenity, the beach, peat lands, hydrology of Rosspoint Commonage.
11. Issues raised by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government National Parks and Wildlife Service in their submission to An Bord Pleanála.
12. The considerations that determined the stone road method and the alternative methods of construction considered for the blanket bog sections.
13. Emergency Plan Requirements for the Scheme when in operation.
14. The emergency shut down of the proposed pipeline.
15. The influence of the proposed construction on ground stability at Dooncarton.
16. Peat stability each side of the fill area of the proposed stone road during and post construction. Including the method for controlling surface water during construction.

## ***Questions Expected***

17. The estimation of the Community Gain from the project over the first five years and projected over the lifetime of the project.
18. Detail considerations regarding the selection of the land fall site.
19. Detail considerations regarding the evaluations of the alternative routes and the selection of the final proposed route for the pipeline.
20. Considerations that determined the location of the centreline of the proposed pipeline.
21. Considerations that determined the deviation limits in the acquisition order.
22. The impact of a bentonite breakthrough in Sruwaddacon Bay.
23. Decommissioning of the Pipeline.
24. The footprint of the Sea Pipeline works (pull in/ anchor in) at the proposed landfall site.
25. The discharges proposed through the outfall pipe.
26. The rationale underpinning the design decision of the onshore pipeline pressure at 144 bar.
27. Site inspections and site maintenance during operation of the pipeline.
28. Emptying of the pipeline after testing.
29. Noise levels during construction.
30. Drainage effects of the stone road acting as French drain.
31. Marking the pipeline in the commonage.
32. Traffic plans and provision for local road use during the proposed construction period.

### **Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources**

- 1: The Regulatory System for commissioning and operation of an upstream pipeline.

### **Health and Safety Authority**

1. The Health and Safety Regulations involvement of the Health and Safety Authority in the operation of this pipeline
2. The regulation of the Emergency Plan for the pipeline.
3. The safe distance envelope in the event of pipeline failure.