



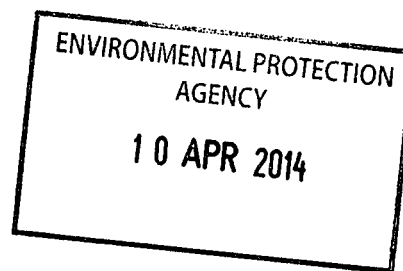
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha

Submission No. 3

Your Ref: PO738-03

9 April, 2014

Ms Noleen Keavey
Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co Wexford



Re: Shell E&P Ireland Limited - Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal. Licence review application

Dear Ms Keavey

I refer to your letter dated 4th March 2014 in connection with the above licence review application.

From this Department's perspective, the Corrib gasfield project is of strategic importance for Ireland. Production of gas from the gasfield will significantly strengthen our energy security of supply as it will reduce our reliance on gas imports. In its first two years of full production, Corrib will provide over 40% of gas demands for the whole of the Island of Ireland.¹

In regard to the development of the project, Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPI), on behalf of the Corrib Gas Partners, has received all statutory consents for the completion of the development phase of the project. In July, 2001, the then Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources requested the Marine Licence Vetting Committee (MLVC)² to examine all environmental aspects of the project. The MLVC considered the environmental implications of the proposed development in the light of the applications for statutory permissions relevant to the then Department of the Marine and Natural Resources (i.e. applications for Foreshore Licence, Approval of the Plan of Development and Pipeline Consent) all of which entailed publication, for public consultation, of a two part Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covering both the marine and land based elements of the project including potential impacts under the Habitats Directive.

The MLVC considered the EIS, the submissions received on foot of its publication, the responses by the developer to the submissions, the developer's responses to queries raised by the Committee and reports by both the Department's consultants and the MLVC's own consultants on all environmental impacts. On the basis of its consideration of all the above the MLVC recommended that the project

¹ Ref: Commission for Energy Regulation publication "Joint Gas Capacity Statement 2012" (Pages 47 – 48)
(www.cer.ie/docs/000138/121220-igcs-cag-final-for-website.pdf)

² The Marine Licence Vetting Committee (MLVC) was established to advise the Minister in relation to the environmental impacts that may arise from proposed developments on the foreshore and recommend appropriate conditions in the event of approval.

be given the relevant statutory permissions subject to a number of conditions. The report of the MLVC was published in April 2002 and a copy can be downloaded from the Department's website at the following link:

www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/2FF26122-41FB-4785-8EAC-1591D52E3128/0/MLVCreport.pdf

Furthermore, in May 2010, SEPIL submitted a new application to the then Minister under Section 40 of the Gas Act, 1976 with supporting EIS in respect of a modified route for the onshore pipeline and an application under Section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960 for approval of an Addendum to the Plan of Development which included modification to the route of the onshore pipeline, the incorporation of the Landfall Valve Installation at Glengad, Co Mayo and the use of spare cores in the service umbilical for the discharge of treated produced water at the Corrib sub-sea manifold. A public consultation process was conducted by this Department from 30 June to 30 July 2010. An additional public consultation process also took place from 9 November to 10 December 2010.

Following the assessment of the above applications, the then Minister having first satisfied himself that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of any sites protected under the EC Habitats or Birds Directives and then having regard to the strategic benefit of the Corrib Gas Project decided, in exercise of the powers vested in him under section 40 of the Gas Act, 1976 and section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960, decided to approve the application to construct a natural gas pipeline from the Corrib subsea facilities to the gas terminal at Bellanaboy, Co. Mayo and to approve the Addendum to the Plan of Development, subject to the conditions set out in separate Letters of Consent, dated 25 February 2011. A copy of both letters can be downloaded from the Department's website at the following links:

1. www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/17748234-0C20-473F-9CE9-2D0196A6CD2A/0/Section40ApprovalLetter25Feb2011.pdf
2. www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/1E2C53A8-F9E2-4CAE-9814-D1E75CCF37FF/0/PODApprovalLetter25Feb2011.pdf

With regard to SEPIL's review application to the EPA, the only interfaces/overlaps with the Department's Consents referred to above, are the point of discharge of treated produced water and associated change to the nature of discharge at the permitted outfall. The details of the emissions included in the application are aligned with the Company's 2010 Addendum to the Plan of Development and I understand that the Company does not intend to seek any further modifications to this Plan in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Purcell

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