

**Mr. Danny O'Connor,
Inspector.**

Re: Corrib Gas Field Development Reference PL 16.207212

Outline of Proposed Development

There are two distinct elements to this proposal namely:

- Development of a gas terminal at a site adjacent to Bellanaboy Bridge, Bellagelly South, Co. Mayo.
- Peat deposition site at Srahmore, Bangor Erris.

The **Bellanaboy site** is stated to have an area of 160 hectares and was previously a peatland experimentation station. The proposed terminal footprint is 13 hectares (approx.) and an additional 1 hectare is proposed for temporary construction facilities.

The proposed terminal consists of a series of buildings and other structures to be constructed on a platform. In order to create the platform for the terminal significant excavation and fill would be required. In total, up to 650,000m³ of peat, rock and mineral soils would be excavated. The excavated peat and some mineral soils would be removed from the site.

Proposed access arrangements for the Bellanaboy site are as follows:

- Primary access from the R314 Regional Route
- Secondary access from the Pollatomish Road at the north-west corner of the site
- Further access from the R314 to the west of the main access to facilitate access to settlement ponds

The **Srahmore site** is approximately 11km to the south and a short distance west of Bangor Erris. This is a cutover peatland site. It is proposed to deposit approximately 4000m³ of peat daily on this site over a period of 6 months (approx.), which may be spread over two seasons.

Access to the Srahmore site would be via a newly constructed access road directly opposite the junction between the L1204 Local Road and the R313 Regional Route.

A **Haul Route** is proposed for the transportation of the peat. This is the R314 – L1204 – R313 – L12044. This is approximately 11km in length. A one-way system would operate at the southern end of the Haul Route with returning traffic using the R313 and L12044 for the initial section before returning to the L1204.

The transportation of the peat would involve an estimated 45,000 HCV movements. In addition, the transportation of construction materials would involve an estimated 21,000 HCV movements. It is estimated that there would be up to 400 round trips/day (800 truck movements) on the Haul Route associated with the transportation of the peat and a smaller amount of mineral soil.

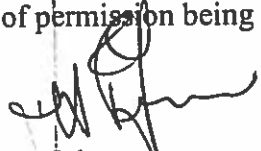
A **Traffic Management Plan** was submitted to the Planning Authority by way of additional information. The Planning authority requested this. I attach a copy.

Public **Notification of Road Upgrading** appeared in newspapers on 21st June 2004. This relates to the upgrading of Regional Roads R313 and R314 and Local Roads L1204 and L12044. The notification was given by Mayo County Council. I attach a copy of the notification and the plans and particulars.

The **Planning Authority's Decision** to grant permission includes conditions relating to Roads and Traffic Management. Conditions 4 – 12 (inclusive) appear particularly relevant. I attach a copy of the Decision.

Advice Sought

1. Critical assessment of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) submitted to the Planning Authority by way of Additional Information. This is titled *Appendix A: Traffic Management Plan*. It is expected that the assessment will focus on the following:
 - The physical adequacy of the proposed Haul Route, improved in line with the TMP proposals, to cater for the nature and extent of traffic predicted during the earthworks and construction phase of the two sites
 - Public safety along the length of the improved Haul Route arising from the traffic generated during earthworks and the construction phase of the sites
2. Examination of the compatibility between the TMP proposals and the proposed roads upgrading and improvement works advertised in the public notice by Mayo County Council on 21st June 2004.
3. Critical review of the relevant conditions attached to the Planning Authority's decision to grant permission with particular comment on their adequacy in the event of permission being granted on appeal.


Des R. Johnson
Deputy Planning Officer
9th August 2004.