

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: PL 16.207212.

Defer Re O/H ☐

TO:SEO

Having considered the contents of the submission ~~and~~ received 12/07/04. from

Máirín N. Mhurdú I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

☒ not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s):. No new issues.

E.O.: Kieron Samers

Date: 12/07/04.

To EO: _____

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☒

Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply ☐

S.E.O.: M. Dahan

Date: 12/7/04

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached submission
to: _____

Allow 2/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File with Section

OBSERVER FORM

Appeal No: PL 16.207212

S.37

Received: <u>12/07/04.</u>	Date Appeal Lodged: <u>19/05/04.</u>
	Date Last Appeal Lodged: <u>27/05/04.</u>
	Date of E.I.S. Publication: <u>14/06/04.</u>

Name: <u>Máire Ni Mhurchú</u>
Address/Agent: <u>Ruball,</u>
<u>Cill Larrach, Béal Átha na Mhuice, Co. Mhaighéo.</u>
Status: Invalid – (insert reason):

VALID	INVALID
M: <u>1 Fagan</u>	1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____
1. Acknowledge with BP <u>40.</u>	2. Keep envelope <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Keep copy of Board's letter <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Keep copy of Board's letter <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Prepare refund form <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Prepare refund form <input type="checkbox"/>

Attach to file	RETURN TO EO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(a) R/S <input type="checkbox"/>	
(b) Mapping <input type="checkbox"/>	
(c) Processing <input type="checkbox"/>	
(d) Screening <input type="checkbox"/>	
(e) Inspectorate <input type="checkbox"/>	

EO: <u>Kieron Somers.</u>	AA: <u>James Fagan</u>
Date: <u>12/07/04.</u>	Date: <u>12/7/04</u>
Comments:	

An Bord Pleanála

Re: PL 16.207212

Construct Gas Terminal for the reception and separation of gas from the Corrib Gas Field and for a peat deposition site

Bellagelly Sth., Srahmore, Arravally, Bangor Erris, Co. Mayo.

Enclosed is the required fee of € 50

Máirín Ni Mhurchu,
Ruball,
Cill Lasrach,
Beal Átha na Muice,
Co. Mhaigheo. Tel: 094 9252639

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AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
Received:	12/7/04
Fee:	€50 - cheque
Receipt No.	B 53250

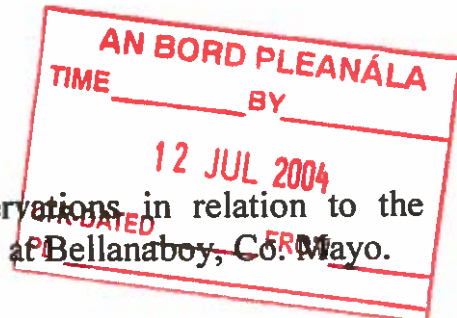
AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME	BY
12 JUL 2004	
LTR-DATED	FROM
PL	

Ruball,
Cill Lasrach,
Beál Átha na Muice,
Co. Mhaigheo.
10th. July 2004

An Bord Pleanála,
Sráid Mhaoilbhríde,
B'lá Cliath.

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

I would like to make the following observations in relation to the proposed building, by Shell, of a gas terminal at Bellanaboy, Co. Mayo.



1. I attended the oral hearings held in Ballina in 2002. The inspectors examined every detail of the proposal put forward by Shell. Their report was comprehensive and impressive. It surprises me greatly that this report might now be set aside – ignored, basically – except for the issue of the relocation of peat deposits. This was only one of the many issues considered by the inspectors when they recommended that planning permission be withheld. What is now being proposed in relation to the peat deposits seems to me, a mere ‘laywoman’, to be a very simplistic solution. From my own childhood experience of working with my father in the bog, I know that once turf is taken out of the ground, the space thereby created is immediately filled with water. I shudder to think of what could happen if hectares of peat are removed! Inexpert though I may be, I uphold the view expressed at the oral hearing that ‘you cannot build a terminal in a bog’!
2. The many conditions laid down by Mayo Co. Council, to be met by Shell in the event their receiving planning permission do nothing to satisfy or reassure me. In view of all that has been written about Shell in recent times, I would have no confidence in any promises that they might make. According to reports, Shell has overestimated its reserves; its chairman, head of exploration and production and its financial director were relieved of their duties; its work practices are being investigated by more than one country; its shameful history in relation to the Ogoni people in Nigeria has been well documented; despite recommendations made by the inspectors at the first oral hearing that it would look at other options for the location of the terminal, it did not comply. It

continued to insist, in a most arrogant way, that Bellanaboy was the preferred option and that an off-shore facility would be financially prohibitive. Details of Shell's enormous profits are on public record!

In the light of all of this, could you or could we expect Shell to comply with any conditions that might be imposed on it? In my opinion, continuous monitoring would be of little use. It is quite likely that this would be done at the expense of the Irish taxpayer and, in the event of a breach of conditions, it would be too late to reverse the damage done.

Given Shell's history, it amazes me that it would be allowed to engage in any project in this country!

3. I have serious reservations about the 'deal' done with Shell by representatives from our government whereby a national asset was so easily and freely signed over to a foreign-based multinational. This becomes even more serious in light of what we have learnt in recent years about the dubious business practices of at least one politician involved in this 'deal'.
4. Much has been made by some local interest groups of the 'boost to our economy' that this particular infrastructure would bring to the North Mayo region. In my opinion, this is classic 'tunnel vision'. Of course there will be short term economic gains but the long-term pain will come with the inevitable devastation to the local environment. This will be a great loss in terms of tourism alone. Who ever heard of visitors flocking to see a gas refinery? They will, if they are wise, be giving this area a wide berth. We will have exchanged our beautiful landscape and natural heritage – the envy of so many countries – for the proverbial 'mess of potage'.

5. The 'ordinary' citizens of any country ought to be protected and supported by their elected authorities – local and national. In this case, I doubt if the residents of Bellanaboy, who have anxieties about the health and safety of their families, their homes and future generations experience this support and protection. What they, and others of us who care, see is a bending- over- backwards and a 'kowtowing' of our authorities to Shell whose only interest is profit. Those of us who attended the oral hearings in Ballina were witnesses to the barrage of support – legal people, secretaries, experts on all aspects of the project etc – that Shell had access to. All involved in the hearing could afford accommodation in the hotel in which the hearings were held and they could be bankrolled

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for any back-up that they would need. On the other hand, the 'small' people, the concerned residents of Bellanaboy, had to travel long distances each day and to suffer financial hardship in order to defend themselves and their families. A real David and Goliath scenario!

6. It is now accepted that, since the landslides of last September, Dooncarton mountain is unstable. There is a real fear that the laying of a gas pipeline in the Glengad area would have a further de-stabing effect. In the event of further landslides, who would be held responsible?

7. I have grave concerns for the natural habitats of this area. Damage has already been done in relation to the birds that used to nest in the cliffs above Broadhaven Bay. We, in Ireland, have already been censured by the E.U. because of our neglect of such wildlife habitats. Will we be allowed to do even more damage?

8. In the Native American tradition, it was customary, before undertaking any activity involving the natural world, to imagine how this might affect the seventh generation into the future. It would seem that in this instance, as with many others in these days of greed and avarice, it is more a case of 'to hell with the future, let's make money now'! It would behove us to remember that

'we have not inherited the earth from our ancestors, we have borrowed it from our children'.

Guim beannacht agus rath Dé oraibh-se a bhfuil an breithiúnas tábhachtach seo le déanamh agaibh.

Is mise,

Máirín Ní Mhurchú

Máirín Ní Mhurchú

