

Minutes of meeting of Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) held in Áras an Chontae, Castlebar on 13th January 2005 at 11.00am.

Chairman Mr. D. Mahon, County Manager.

Present: Mr. Gerry Costello, Project Director, Shell E & P.
Ms. Agnes McLaverty, Health, Safety & Environmental Advisor, Shell E & P.
Mr. Leslie Finnegan, Environmental Officer, (Terminal Site) Shell E & P.
Mr. Michael G. Daly, Dept. Communications, Marine & Natural Resources.
Mr. Noel Kirby, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (deputising for Mr. Denis Strong).
Mr. Nicholas Whyte, Community Representative.
Dr. Michael Flanagan, EPA (deputising for Mr. M. McGarrigle).
Mr. Donal Wynne, Bord na Mona.
Mr. Peter Hynes, Director of Services, Mayo County Council.
Mr. Paddy Mahon, Mayo County Council Project Manager (Corrib Gas Development).

In attendance: Ms. Muriel Finnerty, Mayo County Council.

Apologies: Mr. Gerard McDonnell, Community Representative.
Ms. Mary McBride (deputising for Mr. G. McDonnell).

The Chairman Mr. D. Mahon, welcomed everybody to the meeting and outlined Condition no. 34 of the planning permission issued by An Bord Pleanála for the Gas development, under which the PMC has been established. He informed the meeting that the Community Forum system which is part of the Local Government system was used to invite nine local communities to attend a meeting and chose two representatives to become members of the PMC. The two community representatives are Mr. Gerard McDonnell and Mr. Nicholas Whyte.

1. Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Project Monitoring Committee held on 1st December 2004, which were circulated at the meeting, were approved, having been proposed by Mr. Hynes and seconded by Mr. Costello.

2. Matters arising

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had written to Bord Gáis Éireann in order to establish their programme for pipelaying in 2005 and 2006.

3. Membership of Project Monitoring Committee

Mr. P. Mahon suggested that the Gardai should have a representative on the PMC and this was agreed. The Chairman undertook to request the Chief Superintendent of the Gardai to nominate a representative.

4. Updates

(i) Environmental Monitoring Programme

Mr. P. Mahon circulated report setting out progress to date in relation to monitoring of:

- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Dust
- Noise, and
- Use of monitoring equipment

Dr. Flanagan suggested that periodic measurement of oils should be carried out in respect of the site development and this was agreed.

It was agreed that a synopsis of all monitoring results would be circulated at each monthly PMC meeting. It was also agreed that weekly environmental reports should be placed on County Council's website, and Mr. Hynes undertook to arrange this with the Council's IT Department.

In reply to a query, Mr. Finnegan informed the meeting that during the planning process a very comprehensive Base Line Study had been prepared. He updated meeting on progress to date on monitoring by Shell on environmental issues and pointed out that the Marine Institute in Furnace and the Western Regional Fisheries Board were contacted when site investigation work was being carried out.

Ms. McLaverty confirmed that Shell will be in close liaison with the relevant Statutory Bodies on an ongoing basis during construction work on this project.

(ii) Roadworks:

(a) Haul Road

Mr. P. Mahon circulated report and map outlining roads for upgrade to cater for the development and informed meeting of Mayo County Council progress to date on upgrading.

It was pointed out that the necessary action was being taken to protect wildlife/fish during improvement works on roads/bridges. He indicated that all transportation to Bellanaboy site is being undertaken in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan prepared by the Developer as part of the planning process. The Chairman indicated that an update will be given at each PMC meeting on progress by Mayo County Council on roads and transportation.

(b) Road Survey

Mr. P. Mahon outlined that under Condition No. 10 of Planning Permission the Developer shall be responsible for carrying out a Road and Bridge Survey before and after the construction period.

A survey of all roads affected by the development in and around the Erris area and extending as far as Castlebar was carried out in December 2004 and a similar survey will again be carried out when the development is completed in order to establish the impact on the roads and bridges in question.

(iii) Bellanaboy Bridge Site:

Mr. Costello circulated Activity Report setting out the overall Project Schedule. Mr. Costello also circulated report on Bellanaboy Bridge Site setting out progress to date, work programme to 13th March 2005, and environmental report. Mr. Finnegan elaborated on environmental issues set out in Mr. Costello's report.

4. Court Cases.

Ms. McLaverty outlined the position in relation to two High Court Hearings scheduled for 17th January 2005 and 24th January 2005 :

- Martin Harrington -v- An Bord Pleanala, Ireland and the Attorney General seeking judicial review of An Bord Pleanala decision in relation to Gas Terminal.
- Peter Sweetman -v- Mayo County Council, An Bord Pleanala and the EPA seeking judicial review in relation to Planning Authority's assessment of the Gas Project.

5. Any Other Business

The Chairman requested that the schedule of dates for meetings of the PMC be revised and this was agreed – the revised schedule to be circulated at next meeting of PMC.

In reply to query raised by Mr. Whyte regarding enquiries from local residents, it was clarified that any queries in relation to the Gas Project would be dealt with by personnel in the Shell Office in Bangor Erris and the County Council Office in Belmullet. (Tel. 1800 201525 – Bangor Erris/097 81004 – Belmullet).

It was agreed that meetings between representatives of the local communities and the County Council would be held every two months. The Chairman indicated that such meetings could be set up through Mr. J. Coll, the Council's Director of Services for Community and Enterprise. The Chairman undertook to request Mr. Coll in arrange accordingly.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PMC will take place on 9th February 2005 at 11.00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.