

CORRIB GAS DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC) HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CASTLEBAR, ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 11.00am.

Chairman: Mr. D. Mahon, County Manager

Present: Mr. Gerry Costello, Shell E & P Ireland Ltd.
Ms. Agnes McLaverty, Shell E & P Ireland Ltd.
Mr. Leslie Finnegan, Shell E & P Ireland Ltd.
Mr. Nicholas Whyte, Community Representative
Mr. Vincent Roche, NWRFB
Mr. Bryan Kennedy, NWRFB
Mr. Ray Smith, EPA
Mr. Denis Strong, National Parks & Wildlife Service
Sergeant James Gill, An Garda Síochana
Mr. Gerry Honer, Dept. CMNR
Mr. Peter Hynes, Mayo County Council
Mr. Paddy Mahon, Mayo County Council Project Engineer

Apologies: Mr. Enda McDonagh, Bord na Móna
Mr. Michael Daly, Dept. CMNR
Mr. Gerard McDonnell, Community Representative

In attendance: Ms. Muriel Finnerty, Mayo County Council

1. Minutes

The Minutes of Project Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 10th August 2005, and already circulated, were approved, having been proposed by Mr. Costello and seconded by Mr. Whyte.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr. J. Beirne, who chaired the PMC meeting held on 10th August last.

2. Matters arising

Mr. Costello indicated that there was no change in the position on Court Case in relation to Mr. Martin Harrington -v- An Bord Pleanála and others.

3. Updates:

- Roadworks / Transportation

Mr. P. Mahon circulated report setting out current position on roads and transportation and also access to site/environmental issues. Mr. Costello undertook to revert to Mr. P. Mahon on necessary repairs to haul roads.

- Bord na Móna

Bord na Móna Environmental Management System up-date (14/09/05) together with fortnightly progress report were circulated to the meeting. Due to the fact that Mr. McDonagh was unavoidably absent, it was agreed that any queries arising would be dealt with at the next PMC meeting.

4. Environmental Issues

Mr. P. Mahon circulated summary of results of water samples taken from Carrowmore Lake and the Erris Regional Waterworks. These indicated that the quality of the treated water provided at the Erris Regional Waterworks, which uses Carrowmore Lake as its source, complies with the relevant EU drinking water regulations. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the North Western Regional Fisheries Board would meet with representatives of the County Council and the EPA in relation to this matter.

Mr. Costello outlined the action necessary in order to guarantee the quality of water leaving the Terminal site. Depending on progress in installing equipment on site, he indicated that Shell will revert to County Council in relation to letter from the Council dated 8th September 2005. However, he pointed out the difficulties, created by protesters, in gaining access to the site in order to carry out necessary environmental works. He indicated that every effort will be made by Shell to comply with the requirements set out in the Council's letter of 8th September.

Mr. Hynes outlined the need for the North Western Regional Fisheries Board and the County Council to access the site on a regular basis to carry out monitoring activities.

The Chairman pointed out that the Project Monitoring Committee does not have any legal authority and does not impinge on any function of the constituent Bodies – each of which has its own responsibility in relation to the project. He informed the meeting that he proposed issuing a Press Release outlining the deliberations and role of the PMC.

Mr. Finnegan circulated a report to the meeting on environmental issues and clarified matters arising.

Mr. Whyte raised the question of the possibility of seepage from cement used on site and was assured that no problems arose. Ms. McLaverty pointed out that the use of cement on site is covered in the EIS.

Mr. Finnegan clarified the position regarding status of toilet facilities on site.

5. Community Fund

Chairman requested Mr. Hynes to prepare draft proposals (together with map) for works to be carried out under the Community Fund – these proposals to be available for the next meeting of the PMC. As transportation of peat is currently stood down, no funds are available at present for Community projects.

6. Technical Advisory Group

Mr. Honer advised the meeting that the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources had set up a Technical Advisory Group to monitor the Corrib Project. Advantica have been appointed to undertake a safety review of the Project and it is expected that their Preliminary Report will be available by the end of September.

7. Any Other Business

Mr. Whyte clarified his position and that of Mr. McDonnell regarding their role on the PMC vis-à-vis recent local media reports.

Ms. McLaverty informed meeting that the Geo-Technical Report for June/July (first week) has been prepared and will be available this week.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PMC will take place on 12th October 2005.

This concluded the business of the meeting.