

**MINUTES OF PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CASTELEBAR, ON 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 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. 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. Peter Hynes, Mayo County Council  
Mr. Paddy Mahon, Mayo County Council Project Engineer  
Mr. Enda McDonagh, Bord na Móna  
Mr. Michael Daly, Dept. CMNR

**Apologies:** Mr. Gerard McDonnell, Community Representative

**In attendance:** Mr. D. McKeever, Dept. CMNR  
Ms. Muriel Finnerty, Mayo County Council

**1. Minutes**

The Minutes of Project Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2005 and already circulated, were approved, having been proposed by Mr. Costello and seconded by Mr. Roche.

**2. Matters arising**

Chairman informed meeting that a Press Release had been issued after the last PMC meeting and it was proposed to also issue Press Release following today's meeting.

**3. Correspondence**

There were no issues arising.

**4. Environmental issues**

Mr. P. Mahon circulated report setting out up to date position on environmental issues and on access to site. Discussion ensued and Mr. Costello outlined the difficulties being encountered in gaining access to the site at Bellanaboy.

He also highlighted the significant potential environmental risks to water quality as a result of aluminium levels in the exposed mineral soils on site. Chairman informed meeting that a letter had been forwarded by Mayo County Council to Shell E & P

Ireland Limited recently directing that appropriate remedial action be taken immediately to resolve the problem.

Mr. Finnegan circulated photographs and technical data on the Axonic equipment and outlined the procedure involved in the use of this equipment. The equipment is in situ and subject to satisfactory access to site, should be operational by the end of the week. This equipment has been tested and should deal satisfactorily with all water quality issues.

In relation to protesters blockading the entrance to site, Sergeant Gill confirmed that the full co-operation of the Gardai would be available if and when required in order to ensure access.

## **5. Updates:**

- Roadworks / Transportation:  
Mr. P. Mahon circulated a report outlining the position in relation to progress to date and indicated that Mayo County Council had carried out works in agreement with Shell E & P Limited.
- Bord na Móna:  
Mr. McDonagh circulated a report outlining the up to date environmental position and indicated that no further peat deposition will take place on site until next year.

## **6. Update on Terminal**

Discussion took place on matters set out in report circulated to meeting by Mr. Finnegan. In relation to incidents, Mr. Strong and Mr. Roche queried amounts of hazardous waste, soil, and quantity of diesel referred to in report and this was clarified.

## **7. Court Cases**

Mr. Costello outlined the position relating to ongoing legal actions:

- Judicial Review: Martin Harrington –v- An Bord Pleanala and Others  
No recent progress has been made.
- Onshore Pipeline Proceedings: - Shell E & P Ireland Limited-v-McGrath and others  
It is expected this case will proceed to full hearing in the New Year.
- Peter Sweetman-v-Shell E & P Ireland Limited and Lennon Quarries Limited and TJ Lennon  
There have been no further developments in this case.

## **8. Community Fund**

Mr. Hynes outlined proposals for Community Fund as set out in Framework Document circulated to the meeting. It was agreed that any comments/feedback relating to the proposals should be submitted to the Secretary, PMC, by 9<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

It was further agreed that possibly one or two selected projects could be undertaken within next three to four months out of the first €100,000 fund, and that the Community and Enterprise Section of Mayo County Council would be requested to establish if the local communities have any such agreed projects ready to proceed. In the event that agreed projects were not ready to proceed, the process outlined for setting up a formal application and evaluation system would continue.

The Chairman confirmed that the beneficiaries of funding would be registered community groups located along haul route from Terminal Site to Deposition Site and which would include Bangor Erris. He also pointed out that all projects for consideration should have full planning permission, if required, and have plans for construction/maintenance.

## **8. Local issues**

No issues arising.

## **9. Any other business**

Mr. Daly updated the meeting on mediation process and indicated that Mediator is currently contacting various groups involved.

Mr. McKeever informed meeting that a Draft Report had been prepared for the Technical Advisory Group of the Department by independent International Consultants Advantica, and that the first public consultation on this Draft Report is scheduled to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in Belmullet.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PMC would take place on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 11.00am in Castlebar.

This concluded the business of the meeting.