

Corrib Gas Development

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC) HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CASTLEBAR, ON 5th APRIL 2006, AT 11.00am.

Chairman: Mr. D. Mahon, County Manager

Present: Mr. Gerry Costello, SEPIL
Ms. Agnes McLaverty, SEPIL
Mr. Leslie Finnegan, SEPIL
Mr. John Fitzpatrick, SEPIL
Mr. Bryan Kennedy, NWRFB
Mr. Ray Smith, EPA
Mr. Martin McGarrigle, EPA
Mr. Enda McDonagh, Bord na Móna
Mr. Nicholas Whyte, Community Representative
Mr. Gerard McDonnell, Community Representative
Mr. Peter Hynes, Mayo County Council
Mr. Paddy Mahon, Mayo County Council
Mr. Michael Daly, Dept. Comm. Marine & Natural Resources
Sergeant Gus Moran, An Garda Síochana

Apologies: Mr. Denis Strong, National Parks & Wildlife Service

In attendance: Ms. Muriel Finnerty, Mayo County Council

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Project Monitoring Committee Meeting, which was held on 15th February 2006, were approved, having been proposed by Mr. Costello and seconded by Mr. Hynes.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Water Quality – Carrowmore Lake

Mr. Kennedy outlined the current position as set out in NWRFB report circulated to the meeting on aluminium toxicity in the Carrowmore Lake Fishery from the Bellanaboy catchment area. He indicated that there was no cause for concern in relation to aluminium levels in the lake from the Fisheries Board perspective.

Mr. McGarrigle pointed out that the biology of the lake is good with evidence of mayfly, which has a one year life cycle, in the area.

Mr. Whyte queried the possibility of aluminium being associated with the water treatment process. Mr. Finnegan clarified the position indicating that due to the high aluminium content in the soil in the region, there is consequent contact with this aluminium rather than contact through the water treatment process.

Chairman stated that as this matter was the subject of media interest, he undertook to have all relevant reports placed on Mayo County Council's website as soon as possible.

Mr. P. Mahon further outlined the position, set out in report circulated to the meeting, regarding the Erris Water Supply.

4. Environmental Issues

Mr. P. Mahon informed the meeting of the up to date position on environmental issues as set out in report circulated to the meeting.

Mr. Costello pointed out the difficulties being encountered, by the presence of Shell to Sea Campaigners, in getting additional Axonics equipment on site. However, he stated the Contractor is available to carry out the necessary groundwork and if there is no interference, it is expected to have this equipment operational by the end of May 2006.

Mr. Finnegan briefed the meeting on contents of SEPIC report circulated to the meeting.

In relation to graphs circulated with Mr. Finnegan's report, Mr. Kennedy requested that where there are spurious results as a result of technology malfunction, this should be alluded to in the graphs.

5. Updates

▪ Roadworks/Transportation

Mr. P. Mahon informed meeting that accommodation works and road repair works at Glenturkbeg and Derrynameel are being carried out at present by Mayo County Council.

▪ Bord na Móna

Mr. McDonagh circulated update report to the meeting and indicated that no adverse impact has been made on receiving waters downstream of Bord na Móna activities. He also indicated that natural revegetation has commenced in the area.

6. Update on Terminal

Mr. Costello indicated that Shell are in a position to expand the Axonics unit subject to gaining unhindered access to the site.

Discussion ensued regarding site access/Axonics unit/water supply and Mr. Costello undertook, at the request of Mr. Whyte and Mr. McDonnell, to arrange meeting with Shell Community Representatives to establish how these issues can be progressed. Mr. McDonnell expressed disappointment that the Safety Report had not yet been published. However, Mr. Daly indicated that the Report, together with recommendations, will issue shortly.

It was agreed that a letter would be forwarded from the PMC to the Minister for Communication, Marine and Natural Resources requesting that the Report be published as soon as possible.

7. Court Cases

Mr. Costello informed meeting of the position regarding Court Cases:

▪ Judicial Review – Martin Harrington-v-An Bord Pleanála and Others:

Ms. Justice Fidelma Macken turned down a Supreme Court appeal application by Mr. Harrington over her earlier High Court decision to refuse leave for a judicial review. She also refused to refer the case to the European Court of Justice.

The issue of costs is currently being dealt with.

▪ Onshore Pipeline Proceedings:

This matter is currently being dealt with by Ms. Justice Mary Leffoy. The next Court Hearing is scheduled for 9th May next.

- Peter Sweetman-v-Shell E & P Ireland Limited and Lennon Quarries and TJ Lennon:
The Hearing in this case took place on 7th March 2006, prior to which Mr. Sweetman had settled with Lennon Quarries.

Shell were awarded costs, which have not as yet been fixed by the Taxing Master.

Ms. McLaverty undertook to circulate copy of the Judgements to the PMC.

8. Community Fund

This matter was deferred.

9. Local Issues

There were no issues raised.

10. Any other business

There were no issues raised.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the PMC will take place on 10th May 2006 at 11.00am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.