

CORRIB GAS DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (PMC) HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CASTLEBAR, ON 8th November, 2006, AT 11.00am.

Chairman: Mr. D. Mahon, County Manager

Present: Mr. Terry Nolan, SEPIL
Ms. Agnes McLaverty, SEPIL
Mr. Tony Doyle, SEPIL
Dr. John Conneely, NWRFB
Mr. Enda McDonagh, Bord na Móna
Mr. Gerard McDonnell, Community Representative
Mr. Peter Hynes, Mayo County Council
Mr. Paddy Mahon, Mayo County Council
Mr. Denis Strong, National Parks & Wildlife Service
Sergeant James Gill, An Garda Síochana

Apologies: Mr. Ciarán Ó hÓbáin, Dept. Comm. Marine & Natural Resources
Mr. Nicholas Whyte, Community Representative
Mr. Vincent Roche, NWRFB

In attendance: Ms. Muriel Finnerty, Mayo County Council

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Project Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 11th October 2006 and already circulated were approved, having been proposed by Mr. P. Mahon and seconded by Mr. McDonnell.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Update on Terminal

Mr. Nolan informed the meeting:

- That good progress had been made in relation to the Terminal Site with 170 jobs being linked to the Terminal construction.
- While the current Axonics Unit continues to operate, preparations are being made for the installation of the new Axonics Unit.
- Work is underway on the improvement of the perimeter fence.

- The fencing at the entrance to the site is being moved closer to the roadway due to piling being undertaking adjacent to current fence.
- The temporary pipe compound in Rossport is currently being dismantled – he thanked Mr. McDonnell for bringing this to the attention of the Committee

It was proposed by Mr. Hynes and seconded by Mr. McDonnell that the professional support, in the most difficult of circumstances, being provided by the Gardai to workers at the Terminal site entrance be acknowledged. These comments, which were endorsed by the Chairman, were noted by Sergeant Gill.

4. Water Quality – Carrowmore Lake

Mr. P. Mahon outlined the up to date position in relation to water quality as set out in report circulated. Mr. McDonnell indicated that he had recently visited the Terminal Site and was satisfied with the visual aspect of the water in the settlement ponds.

5. Environmental Issues

Mr. P. Mahon updated the meeting on the Environmental issues relating to the Bellanaboy Site, as set out in report circulated. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of increasing the surface water storage capacity in the excavated area of the Terminal Footprint by raising the ground levels around the water using soil or stone berms. Ms. McLaverty explained in detail the difficulties involved, which were noted by the Committee.

6. Updates: Roadworks/Transportation

Mr. P. Mahon indicated no major change – haulage of materials to the site continues.

Bord na Mona

Mr. McDonagh outlined the position as set out in report circulated. The Chairman requested that future reports prepared by Bord na Mona would confirm or otherwise if everything is in compliance.

6. Court Cases

Mr. Nolan informed the meeting that a Court Hearing in relation to the onshore pipeline proceedings took place last week. Additional information was requested from Shell E & P two days before this Hearing. However, as there was not sufficient time to prepare further information, the Hearing was adjourned until January 2007.

8. Local issues

Mr. McDonnell raised the following issues:

- The necessity to restore Mayo County Council sign indicating Erris Water Works at Barnatra, which was defaced recently.

- The inclusion of cold venting of gas in the Environmental Impact Statement in respect of the SEPIL application for an Integration Pollution Prevention Control Licence. Ms. McLaverty clarified the position regarding the cold venting of gas indicating that it involved the operational release of gas at certain times during operation. She also indicated that the application for the IPPCL had been submitted some time ago and the decision is at Preliminary Determination Stage.
- Mr. McDonnell conveyed the appreciation of the Bellanaboy Residents to the Chairman for offering to meet them – they will to revert to Chairman when meeting is required.
- In relation to Bangor Angling Club Plan, Mr. McDonnell indicated that the Club is awaiting a submission from Mr. R. McKeever and Mr. G Egan of the DMNR who met with members of the Club on site recently.

The Chairman requested that the Angling Club Plan be circulated as soon as it is available.

- On behalf of the community, Mr. McDonnell welcomed the announcement that Mercury Engineering will provide 15 apprenticeships on the Corrib Gas development.
- Community Initiatives:
Mr. Nolan outlined details of two Open Evenings which will be held in Belmullet later this month at which all issues in relation to the project, including community initiatives, will be addressed.

Mr. Hynes indicated that the €100,000 paid on foot of condition no. 42 of the planning permission for the rollout of community initiatives is available. However, it was agreed to defer further consideration of disbursement to a later date.

10. Any other business

Ms. McLaverty referred to recent Shell to Sea statement issued regarding the development of the Corrib Field which called for the establishment of a Commission of Public Enquiry to investigate the optimum development concept for the Corrib Gas Project. Ms. McLaverty indicated that this was unrealistic from Shell's point of view.

It was agreed, subject to the availability of Mr. Ó hObáin, Chairman of the EMG, that the next meeting of the PMC will take place on 6th December 2006 at 11.30am in Castlebar.

This concluded the business of the meeting.