

ABP Ref PL16.GA0004

Response by Ian Malcolm to a question by Mr Wright on the applicability of subsea well isolation systems for pressure protection - 8th September 2010.

1. Best practise is for the design pressure of a pipeline to be higher than the closed in tubing head pressure of the wells, which is the case for the offshore section of the Corrib Pipeline.
2. Due to the requirement to limit the pressure of the offshore pipeline to maintain hazard distances the MAOP has been set at 150 barg as detailed in App Q4.5 Section 2.1.
3. Although the type of design of the Subsea Wells Isolation System as previously submitted has been proven in use to be reliable, to ensure the highest reliability possible, modifications are proposed to the Subsea Well Isolation System to enhance its reliability by venting hydraulic fluid pressure at the Gas Terminal as detailed in Appendix Q4.5 Section 2.3.
4. This methodology to isolate subsea wells is in accordance with Norwegian Petroleum Directorate Guidance No 70 – Application of IEC 61508 and IEC 61511 in the Norwegian Petroleum Industry.