

Geo-Technical Works in Sruwaddacon Bay

Overview

As part of the detailed construction methodology being prepared for the Corrib onshore pipeline a **Geo-technical survey** will be carried out in Sruwaddacon Bay.

The purpose of the Geo-technical survey is to obtain detailed information on the characteristics of the underlying soils in the bay. In order to obtain this information approximately fifteen boreholes will be drilled and the soil samples analysed. This work will take place between late April and August 2008.

This work will be carried out in compliance with the foreshore licence that was granted to Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPIL) by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in February 2008. This licence was granted following a 30 day public consultation process in the summer of 2007. The works will be managed by RPS consultants with guidance from environmental advisors and. All work will be carried out in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). SEPIL's Fisheries Liaison Officer has met with local pier users and provided them with details of how the pier will be used to ensure that any impact of these operations on pier users is minimised.

Description of the Works

A jack-up platform (see figure 1) will be assembled at Ballyglass pier and the necessary equipment, including two drilling rigs (see figure 2) will be loaded onto the platform. The jack up platform will then be moved from Ballyglass pier to Sruwaddacon Bay to commence the geo-technical works. Each borehole will be approximately 100mm in diameter with a depth of up to 35metres. On completion of the geo-technical works (approximately four months) the jack up platform will return to Ballyglass pier for de-mobilization. A number of support vessels, including an emergency boat, will be involved in the operations.



Figure 1 Jack-up Platform



Figure 2 Drilling Rig

For further details please contact RPS at Seafeld House, Belmullet or call 097 20720.