

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

In 2001, the Corrib Field Development (Offshore Field to Terminal) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (“the 2001 Offshore EIS”) was prepared for the offshore and onshore elements of the pipeline between the Corrib gas field and the terminal. The EIS accompanied an application for the entire upstream pipeline submitted to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) (at that time the Department of Marine and Natural Resources). The upstream pipeline received ministerial consent under Section 40 of the Gas Act 1976 (as amended) in April 2002.

New approvals are now required following re-evaluation of the routing of the onshore section of the upstream pipeline as addressed in the Onshore Pipeline EIS (RPS, 2010) and as such this document aims to update the information provided in the 2001 Offshore EIS.

This Supplementary Update Report (Rev 03) provides these updates, taking into account new baseline information that has become available since 2001 including additional environmental monitoring data that was collated during 2008 and 2009 as well as modifications to the project description, construction activities (taking into account works that have taken place) and construction schedule that have evolved since 2001.

It is noted that the offshore facilities associated within the Corrib field are not changing and will be constructed in accordance with the existing consents granted.

## 1.2 Report Structure

This Supplementary Update Report generally follows the same section structure as adopted in the 2001 Offshore EIS. However, it focuses specifically on the offshore components of the development including the rock placement works associated with the offshore pipeline and the installation of the umbilical. The section of pipeline between the landfall (including a new landfall valve installation (LVI)) and the terminal are described in the RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010. Information that was presented in the 2001 Offshore EIS and that remains unchanged has not been repeated in this Supplementary Update Report.

It is acknowledged that the 2001 Offshore EIS was written prior to the release of the EPA “Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements” published in March 2002.

## 1.3 Summary of Updates

### 1.3.1 Remaining Project Elements

The primary remaining elements of offshore pipeline construction that are yet to be completed are limited to completion of rock placement works over the offshore pipeline (and potentially the umbilical) the installation of the umbilical from the landfall to the offshore gas field, the tie-in of the offshore pipeline and umbilical to the subsea manifold at the Corrib field and associated commissioning works. The construction methods for these remaining project components are discussed in detail in Sections 2 and 3.

Table 1-1 provides a summary of the updates that are presented in this report.

**Table 1-1: Summary of Updates**

Updated Information Presented	Section
<p><b>Project Description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of construction activities undertaken to date.</li> <li>• Minor design changes, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The section of the offshore pipeline between KP 80 and KP 81.5 will have a berm of rock armour protection deposited to prevent scour, avoid potential free-spanning caused by the presence of a bedrock outcrop along the route and aid stability of the pipeline bundle</li> <li>○ Wall thickness of the gas pipeline will vary from 21 to 27mm (compared with 25mm as stated in the 2001 Offshore EIS)</li> <li>○ From the LVI to the terminal, the design pressure has been limited to 144 bar</li> <li>○ Control umbilical will be approximately 5 inches in diameter (compared with 6 inches as stated in the 2001 Offshore EIS)</li> <li>○ Discharge point of the water discharge pipeline is located approximately 12.7km from the pipeline landfall (compared with 7km as stated in the 2001 Offshore EIS) and will be used for discharge of treated surface water run-off only</li> <li>○ Treated produced water will be discharged via the umbilical, with the discharge point located within the Corrib Field</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<p><b>Construction Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction schedule – updated indicative schedule provided</li> <li>• Installation methods – additional details of typical methods provided on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rock replacement</li> <li>○ Umbilical installation</li> <li>○ Completion of the pipeline tie –in to the Corrib Field Manifold</li> <li>○ Offshore pipeline commissioning activities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional mitigation measures if required</li> </ul>	3
<p><b>Alternatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2006, a review of the options for landfalls was commenced by SEPIL – details of that review are summarised</li> </ul>	4
<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference made to RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010 for updates to relevant planning policy and impacts of the overall development on planning policy</li> <li>• Reassessment of impacts on land use</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>Human Beings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference made to RPS Onshore Pipeline EIS 2010 for updates on current status of human receiving environment</li> <li>• Reassessment of impacts on human beings due to increased duration of construction works</li> <li>• Reference to social investment programme included in mitigation</li> </ul>	6

Updated Information Presented	Section
<p><b>Flora &amp; Fauna</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of new survey data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Benthic communities: grab sampling and photography in Broadhaven Bay in 2002 and 2008, intertidal sampling at the landfall in 2005 and 2008, benthic sampling and seabed photographic survey performed in 2007 along the offshore pipeline route (nearshore sections in 2002 and 2008), and benthic sampling and seabed photographic survey performed in 2007 and during 2008 at the offshore well locations</li> <li>○ Note: Whilst post construction monitoring commenced in 2009 these results are not yet available but will be reported in due course</li> <li>○ Fisheries and aquaculture: survey data from the Central and North Western Regional Fisheries Board, and Marine Institute, Galway; fish landings data from the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority; aquaculture site information from Aquaculture licensing team, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF)</li> <li>○ Seabirds: a desktop literature review to update information regarding seabird diversity and abundance along the proposed pipeline route including 2008 bird survey results</li> <li>○ Cetaceans: monitoring data from Broadhaven Bay surveys carried out by the Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (CMRC) in 2001–2002, summer 2005, continuous monitoring since 2008, including the periods of construction during 2008 and 2009; sightings and strandings data from the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group; marine mammal observer data from 2007, 2008, and 2009 and data from offshore surveys reported in the literature</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reassessment of impacts on flora and fauna: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Impacts from blasting no longer relevant</li> <li>○ Impacts to fish in Broadhaven Bay reduced from minor to negligible because of the change in trench construction methods</li> <li>○ Impacts to Little Terns reduced from minor to negligible as these birds no longer breed in the area due to loss of habitat due to natural wave erosion</li> <li>○ Impacts of increased construction duration on Sand Martins and Brent Geese</li> <li>○ Impacts resulting from increased size of project footprint due to the rock-placed berm in Broadhaven Bay</li> <li>○ Overall impact assessment on marine and terrestrial flora and fauna due to increased duration of construction programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Requirements for ongoing mitigation and monitoring measures updated</li> </ul>	7
<p><b>Geology &amp; Sediments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of new survey data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grab sampling of soft surface sediment (for grain size and chemical analysis), and photography along the proposed offshore pipeline route in 2002, 2007 and 2008</li> <li>○ Core sampling along the route of the pipeline through the intertidal and on an adjacent transect in 2005 and 2008</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reassessment of impacts on geology – taking into account rock placement works as well as the fact that blasting has not been required</li> </ul>	8
<p><b>Water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of new survey data including:</li> </ul>	9

Updated Information Presented	Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vertical profiles of temperature and salinity in the vicinity of the surface water run-off discharge pipe diffuser in 2005, 2007 and 2008</li> <li>○ Analysis of various organic and inorganic substances in water samples collected in the vicinity of the surface water run-off discharge pipe diffuser in 2007 and 2008</li> <li>○ Analysis of various organic and inorganic substances in water samples collected in the vicinity of the produced water discharge pipe diffuser in 2008</li> <li>○ Review of impacts associated with new discharge location at the offshore manifold location</li> <li>● Reassessment of impacts on water quality due to increased disturbance and duration of works</li> <li>● Monitoring – reference made to the IPPC licence for terminal operations</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Air Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reassessment of impacts of emissions to the atmosphere due to increased duration of construction</li> </ul>	10
<p><b>Noise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Requirements for ongoing mitigation and monitoring</li> <li>● Reassessment of noise impacts reflecting the increased duration of construction works, the fact that no blasting was required, and the additional placement of rock protection on the pipeline in the near shore waters of Broadhaven Bay</li> <li>● Noise impacts associated with pre-commissioning activities of the offshore pipeline</li> </ul>	11
<p><b>Landscape &amp; Visual</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reassessment of landscape and visual impacts reflecting increased duration of construction</li> </ul>	12
<p><b>Climate Change and Sustainable Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reassessment of impacts on climate change due to the increased duration of construction</li> <li>● The addition of a section on sustainable development</li> </ul>	13
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legislation updated</li> <li>● Results of archaeological monitoring undertaken during 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2009 presented (nothing of any archaeological significance found)</li> <li>● Requirements for ongoing monitoring and mitigation</li> </ul>	14
<p><b>Material Assets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Waste legislation updated</li> <li>● Reassessment of impacts on the local environment from solid wastes</li> <li>● Description of fishing activity in offshore and near shore areas updated</li> <li>● Description of local road network updated based on the Traffic Management Plan for landfall activities produced by TOBIN Consulting Engineers</li> <li>● Additional mitigation details presented</li> <li>● Reassessment of traffic impacts</li> </ul>	15

<b>Updated Information Presented</b>	<b>Section</b>
<b>Environmental Effects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summary of the potential environmental effects, proposed mitigation measures or residual impacts that differ from 2001</li></ul>	16
<b>Cumulative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated assessment of the cumulative impacts that may arise during construction and operation of the development as a whole</li></ul>	17
<b>Environmental Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated environmental management arrangements</li></ul>	18