

Project Overview

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My name is Ciarán Butler and I am the RPS Project Manager with the Corrib Onshore Pipeline project including the selection of a modified route.

The nature and extent of the proposed development is detailed in the Statutory Notice published in respect of this application.

1.0 Project Description

1.1 In summary, the proposed development primarily consists of the following elements:- (**Slide No. 1**)

- A 9.2km (approximately) upstream gas pipeline with associated services (umbilicals, including produced water, fibre optic cable signal cable, and a water outfall pipeline) extending from chainage 83.4 adjacent to the landfall at Glengad / Dooncarton to the permitted Gas Terminal at Bellanaboy Bridge. (The gas pipeline and associated service umbilicals (including the produced water) continue to the subsea manifold in the Corrib Field, some 84 km offshore while the water outfall pipeline continues to a previously agreed discharge location some 12.7 km from the landfall);
- A Landfall Valve Installation (LVI) located approximately 50m inland from the landfall in the townland of Glengad / Dooncarton (**Slide No. 2**); and
- Deposition of approximately 75,000m³ of peat at the existing Bord na Móna Srahmore Peat Deposition Site. This peat will be excavated during the construction of the onshore pipeline (**Slide No. 3**).

1.2 These elements are outlined in summary detail below, and are described in detail in Volume 1 - Chapter 4, and Volume 3 of the EIS accompanying this application.

2.0 The Onshore Gas Pipeline

2.1 The proposed onshore route (**Slide No. 4**) starts at the landfall, extending eastwards across an area of grassland in an area known as Glengad/ Dooncarton. While for convenience the route is termed the “*onshore pipeline*”, it crosses under the western end of Sruwaddacon Bay (a crossing of approximately 430m) before heading in a south/south-easterly direction for approximately 1.1km along the northern side of the Bay through an area of agricultural grassland. The route then turns north and crosses a local road at Rossport. North of this road, the route turns in an easterly direction for approximately 2.6km through an area of blanket bog and commonage. Along this portion of the route the pipeline crosses two local roads. The route then

turns to the south, crossing back under the Bay (a crossing of approximately 900m). On the southern side of the Bay, it turns in a south easterly direction across blanket bog and through an area of forested bog, before turning to the south, and extending to enter the lands of the Bellanaboy Gas Terminal

- 2.2 The gas pipeline (**Slide No. 5**), together with services and outfall pipeline, will be laid underground at the same time within the same trench. During construction of the pipeline, a temporary construction area (the 'Construction Spread') will be required to facilitate the works. This construction spread will typically be 40m wide. Upon completion of construction, a generally 14m wide permanent wayleave will be required to remain in place for the lifetime of the pipeline. A 20m wide permanent wayleave will be required in areas of blanket bog, on account of the construction methodology proposed.
- 2.3 While an indicative line of the proposed pipeline is identified on the application drawings, it is proposed to route the pipeline within an identified corridor of a general width of between 40m and 100m.

3.0 Outfall Pipeline

- 3.1 This 254mm (10 inch) diameter pipeline carries treated surface water run-off from the Gas Terminal to a previously approved discharge location approximately 12.7km from the landfall. It will be installed in the same trench as the onshore gas pipeline and services umbilical.

4.0 Landfall Valve Installation (LVI)

(Slide No. 6)

- 4.1 The purpose of the LVI is to limit the pressure in the onshore pipeline to a maximum of 144 bar in accordance with the recommendations of the Advantica Report. The LVI is located approximately 50m inland from the landfall at Glengad, on lands within the ownership of the Applicant. It will consist of valves, pipework, instrumentation and supporting equipment. It also includes an associated surface water outfall.
- 4.2 The main elements of the LVI (isolation valves, pressure limiting system and associated pipe work) will be below ground. Valve actuators (used to open and close the valves) will be above ground. Instrumentation/control cabinets will also be located above ground. All of these elements will be within a fenced compound. The design of the facility has been set in a 'dished' area approximately 3m below existing ground level in order to minimise potential visual impact.
- 4.3 Necessary permanent vehicular access to the valve installation will be provided via an existing approximately 3.5m wide access road extending off the existing public road (L1202) at Glengad / Dooncarton.

5.0 Peat Deposition at Srahmore

(Slide No. 7)

- 5.1 Approximately 75,000m³ of peat from areas of blanket bog along the route will be extracted. This peat will be transferred to the existing Bord na Móna Srahmore Peat Deposition site located approximately 11km south of the proposed route, approximately 1km north-west of Bangor Erris.
- 5.2 The development of the Srahmore Peat Deposition site was previously permitted by An Bord Pleanála as part of the Permitted development of the Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal, granted in 2004. Access between the onshore pipeline site and Srahmore Peat Deposition Site is via an identified haul route.

6.0 Associated Works

- 6.1 A temporary minor junction improvement at the L52453-0 and L52453-25 intersection in Rosssport is proposed to facilitate construction traffic.
- 6.2 The proposed development also includes associated temporary site construction compounds, and other associated and ancillary site development works.

7.0 Other Elements of the Proposed Development

- 7.1 The proposed development will require the removal from use of two houses on a land holding within Rosssport as the proposed route crosses this land holding. The Applicant owns this land holding and can ensure that these dwellings remain out of use for the duration of the operation of the pipeline. No third party is affected by this requirement.
- 7.2 In accordance with the provisions of the Strategic Infrastructure Act, the Applicant has concurrently applied to An Bord Pleanála for a Compulsory Acquisition Order to facilitate construction and operation of the pipeline on lands outside its ownership or control. A permanent right is sought over lands with an identified width of 14m or 20m consistent with the permanent wayleave of the pipeline as previously described. In addition, deviation limits are proposed to facilitate local deviation if required, and ancillary and associated works and activities.

8.0 Conclusion

(Slide 8)

- 8.1 Inspector, this is a comprehensive application before An Bord Pleanála for a pipeline project whose strategic need and planning context will be demonstrated during the course of this hearing. The project has been configured based on

sound technical and environmental grounds, which will be demonstrated by expert evidence.