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Corrib Onshore Gas Pipeline Community Update

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Route Selection Process – Progress Update

Since short-listing three indicative route corridors (Corridors A, B & C) in September, RPS has continued to consult with the community, landowners and statutory bodies and to conduct environmental and technical surveys on the short-listed corridors.

Information from these surveys and consultation has led us to expand the scope of our detailed study of the three short-listed corridors (Corridors A, B & C) to include the wider core area around the three short-listed corridors and possible variations of Corridors A, B and C.

As we said in our brochure last September, further technical studies could lead to potential variations of the corridors. This is a normal part of any pipeline route development process.

More information will become available as we continue to consult with the community, landowners and statutory bodies, in addition to conducting further environmental and technical studies and assessments of the corridors and their potential variations.

We are also currently seeking permission through the District Court under Section 26 of the Gas Act, to access the wider commonage areas that Corridor A goes through. Access is being sought to conduct walk over surveys on the commonage which will provide information on the vegetation, fauna, hydrology and archaeology of the area.

All of these surveys, assessments and ongoing consultation will help to inform our team when selecting a final pipeline route. As further information becomes available we will update the community on our progress.



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Current Site Investigations

RPS has employed a contractor to carry out land based site investigations north and south of Sruwaddacon Bay as part of the ongoing assessment of the short-listed corridors. These site investigations are being overseen by RPS.

This work, which involves the drilling of a number of boreholes, began on 24th September following agreement with the landowners concerned and is expected to continue until the end of November.

This work entails the use of a rotary core machine that drills 4.5 inch wide boreholes down to and into the rock. Samples of the soil will be taken at specified depths as the hole is drilled. When the drilling extends into the bedrock, rock cores will be extracted and sent to a laboratory for analysis.

Information gathered will be used to determine the characteristics of soil and underlying bedrock along Sruwaddacon Bay, and will assist in determining the final pipeline route.

Landowner Consultation

Since short-listing the three indicative route corridor options, and whilst community consultation has been ongoing, RPS has also continued active consultation with landowners.

On the 13th September, RPS sent letters to landowners advising that they were located on or adjacent to one of the short-listed corridors prior to the public announcement of the short-list on 18th September. Landowners were invited to view a public display of the corridors in the RPS Project Office in Seafield House, from September 17th onwards and to contact RPS to discuss the project further if they wished.

The list of those who received these letters was primarily based on Irish Land Registry records. However, RPS realise that the Land Registry database may not be fully up-to-date and that some people who own land on the short-listed corridors could have been missed. Landowners in these areas who feel they should have received a letter can contact Lorraine Herity in the RPS Project Office on (097) 20720.

Further Consultation Opportunities

Landowner and community consultation will continue until a final route is selected and right through the statutory approvals and construction phases.

RPS continues to welcome input from landowners and the community in relation to the short-listed corridors and on any aspect of the onshore gas pipeline.

- RPS encourages landowners and the community to view the short-listed corridors, which are on public display in the RPS Project Office, during office hours (10am–5pm, Monday-Friday). Please note that we can only accommodate small groups due to the limited size of our Project Office.
- RPS are also hosting a ‘Focus Week’ from Monday 12th November until Friday 16th November, whereby members of the RPS project team (Environmental, Planning, Technical, Consultation) will be available to discuss details of the project with landowners and the community. These ‘Focus Weeks’ will continue on a monthly basis until a final pipeline route is chosen. Please make an appointment to meet the team, by contacting Lorraine Herity in the RPS Project Office on (097) 20720.
- The recently launched Corrib gas pipeline website also contains up-to-date information in relation to the modification of the onshore pipeline. Please log on to www.corribgaspipeline.ie for more information. You can also send us any queries or questions you may have through the ‘Tell Us Your Views’ link on the website homepage.
- You can also contact Lorraine Herity directly in our Project Office on (097) 20720 to obtain project information or to discuss any concerns or queries you may have in relation to the onshore gas pipeline.

What's Next?

The next stage of the route selection process will involve the following steps:

- Continued consultation with landowners and the local community through our full time RPS staff in our Project Office in Seafield House, Belmullet.
- Further technical and environmental studies of the core area surrounding Corridors A, B and C and their possible variations. These will be carried out by specialists such as ecologists, archaeologists, pipeline engineers etc.
- Further assessment of technical and construction related issues around the core area of the three short-listed corridors and their possible variations.
- Continued consultation with statutory and other bodies (such as the National Parks and Wildlife Services, the North Western Regional Fisheries Board etc.).
- Further updates on our progress in the route selection process.
- It is expected that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the final route will be finalised in the coming months and will then be submitted with the relevant applications for statutory approvals to An Bord Pleanála, and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Once the applications have been submitted there will be a statutory period of at least six weeks where the public can make submissions.

If you require any further information in relation to the content of this brochure, or on the Corrib Onshore Gas Pipeline, please do not hesitate to contact Lorraine Herity, RPS Consultation Team Manager or log on to www.corribgaspipeline.ie



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