

**Our Ref:** 16.GA0004 & 16.DA0004  
**Your Ref:** SEPIL

Mr. Des Cox,  
RPS Planning and Environment,  
Westpier Business Campus,  
Dun Laoghaire,  
County Dublin.

29<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

**Re: Onshore upstream gas pipeline facility relating to the Corrib Gas Field Project, County Mayo.**

Dear Mr. Cox,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to reply to your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 concerning the above project as follows:

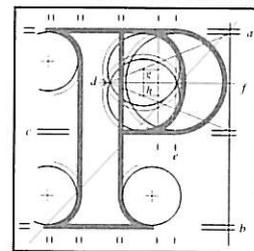
Without prejudice to the consideration by the Board of all the issues of this case,

1. The Board's specific concern is that the undertaker should provide sufficient information and design detail to enable the assessment of whether or not the revised proposed development would give rise to an unacceptable risk to the public, having regard to the very high pressures involved, the site conditions through which the pipeline traverses and the hazards associated with the transport of untreated wet gas. It is a matter for the undertaker to provide sufficient information to enable the Board to assess the proposed development.
2. The UK HSE risk thresholds which are contained in paragraph (a) of the Board's letter relate to individual risk of receiving a dangerous dose of thermal radiation.

It is the Board's understanding that the UK HSE framework for Tolerability of Risk uses  $10^{-5}$ , for gas pipelines, as the boundary between "tolerable [ALARP]" and "intolerable" risk levels. The Board in paragraph (a) (at top of page 2 of the Board's letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009) have set out the standard against which the proposed development will be assessed. In the event that individual risk of  $10^{-6}$  or higher applies then the undertaker will have to demonstrate ALARP.

3. In paragraph (b) (at top of page 2 of the Board's letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009) the intent of the Board is to ensure that persons standing beside the

An Bord Pleanála



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dwellings will not receive a dangerous dose of thermal radiation in the worst case scenario of a "full bore rupture" of the pipeline at maximum pressure.

4. In respect of the pipeline at Glengad the undertaker is asked to provide full justification for the design proposed and the undertaker is asked to provide details of a design examination and safety evaluation of the use of an alternate layout at Glengad which would consist of a pipeline without a loop i.e. the alternative gas pipeline configuration should be considered to consist of a straight pipe at Glengad.

In the interests of clarity the term straight pipe should be construed to mean a pipe without a loop and does not preclude the normal longitudinal profile from curvature and geometrical pipe layout with gradual bends to match the requirements of ground profile and other local requirements (streams etc).

The Board does not consider it necessary to arrange a meeting at this particular stage of the planning process.

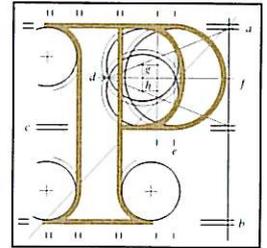
It is to be understood that this response does not alter the Board's view concerning the route of the pipeline as expressed in its letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009.

Any other matters can be dealt with in the course of the normal procedure for dealing with this application.

Yours sincerely,

  
Alan McArdle,  
Executive Officer.

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