



Pat Swords <pat.swords.chemeng@gmail.com>

irish Times

Pat Swords <pat.swords.chemeng@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 22, 2010 at 10:50 PM

To: andy storey <andy.storey@ucd.ie>

Cc: president@ucd.ie, info@ucd.ie, foi@ucd.ie, ccdamian.mooney@ucd.ie, aine.gibbons@ucd.ie, sinead.dolan@ucd.ie, mary.staunton@ucd.ie

My request related to:

(a) On the 24 February 2010 in the Letters section of the Irish Times it was stated by UCD "a dangerous onshore pipeline" with regard to the Corrib pipeline in Co. Mayo. Safety in the EU is regulated by Directive 89/391/EC and its daughter directives and further guidance on major accident hazards can be found in Directive 96/82/EC (as amended) and associated guidance from the EU. Directive 2003/4/EC is clear in Article 2 (1) that the safety of such an installation is environmental information for the purpose of the regulations. I am therefore requesting the full technical file developed by UCD, which clearly outlines according to the above legislation why the pipeline concerned is dangerous.

The below does not answer this and as is my right under S.I. No. 133 of 2007 I am requesting an internal review, which has to be completed by a more senior person within UCD.

To clarify to all individuals concerned in no uncertain terms, there are hundreds of thousands of kilometers of high pressure gas pipelines worldwide with the same risk profiles as the Corrib pipeline, some indeed running up the streets of Dublin to the Poolbeg power plants. The engineering safety review of the Corrib pipeline completed on behalf of the Irish Government concluded that there were no unacceptable risk levels with locating this 70 m from the dwellings. As a compromise for political and not technical reasons it was agreed to relocate the pipeline to a further distance from the dwellings. After an incredible long regulatory process that included 19 days of an oral hearing and over four months of deliberation, An Bord Pleanála did make the statements below about potential risk. However, as everybody experienced in the technical issues of these matters will point out, such as what is contained in the attached, An Bord Pleanála is a political organisation that for a long time has acted outside the legislative basis. For instance in total disregard to the legislation they had no basis established for land use planning and risk in advance of the oral hearing. This matter is now one of the issues being addressed in the complaint being processed by the EU Commission on my behalf that I attached on Friday. Furthermore following their statement of potentially unacceptable risk as a reason for not granting permission it turns out now that the criteria is that a 25 mm thick pipe of 500 mm diameter that can contain 500 atmospheres of pressure can split completely in two and the risk of a fatality should be less than one in a million. It's not rocket science, a pipe like that is a gun barrel, we would be interested to know what An Bord Pleanála and Andy Storey of UCD would see as being the mechanism to cause that to happen.

So as regards something like the Corrib pipeline being 'an acceptable risk' or even being 'dangerous', to make a statement like that and publish it one really has to be (a) a chartered engineer with several years relevant experience and (b) have a technical file available for inspection on request to back up the statement. I expect this to be forthcoming from UCD. I would also add the obvious that seems to have escaped individuals, there are not only enormous costs but peoples livelihoods involved in delivering complex projects like Corrib, some of those also happen to be UCD graduates. These people are entitled to respect and in particular given the sensitivities of this project that care and attention be given to statements that are made in public.

UCD has now one month under the legislation to complete this internal review. If there is no such technical file available to support the statements made I and others will under the circumstances take a very, very dim view, as this is dissemination of false information on the environment to the Irish Public and is a breach of Directive 2003/4/EC.

On Mon, Mar 22, 2010 at 3:07 PM, andy storey <andy.storey@ucd.ie> wrote:

| Dear Mr Swords,

Correspondence you sent to the President of UCD and other senior staff has recently been brought to my attention regarding a letter I wrote to the *Irish Times* on 24th February 2010 on the subject of the Corrib Gas dispute.

In that letter I referred to the fact that An Bord Pleanála had found over half the proposed on-shore gas pipeline route to pose a potentially "unacceptable risk to the public". That judgement is the basis for my use of the word 'dangerous' to describe the proposed pipeline.

My letter identified me as a member of UCD staff (I lecture in the School of Politics and International Relations) but this did not infer that I was speaking *on behalf* of UCD. I was merely identifying my academic role as it was of some relevance to the issue at hand (I have researched and written on resource extraction disputes, including the one in Mayo).

I hope this answers your queries.

Best regards,

Andy Storey



Clarifications related to An Bord Pleanála Appeal to the Commissioner for Environmental Information 17-2-2010.pdf

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