Overview - Corrib Gasfield project
The Corrib gasfield was discovered in 1996 by Enterprise Energy Ireland Ltd., which was subsequently acquired by Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPIL). Statoil (Exploration) Ireland Ltd. and Vermilion Energy Ireland Ltd. are also shareholders in the venture. SEPIL is developing the project on behalf of the three shareholders (the “Corrib Gas Partners”).

A Petroleum Lease was granted under Section 13.1 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development, Act, 1960 to the Corrib Gas Partners on 15 November, 2001. The Lease was granted for a term of 30 years and may be extended after the initial term has expired.

Corrib Gasfield construction – statutory consents

2001 - 2004
In April 2001 an application to the then Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources for consent under Section 5 of the Continental Shelf Act 1968, as amended, to develop the offshore gasfield facilities, was submitted. An Authorisation under the Act was granted on 15 April 2002.

In April, 2001 planning permission for the onshore gas terminal at Bellanaboy, accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement, was sought from Mayo County Council and its decision to grant permission was subsequently appealed to An Bord Pleanála. The Bord refused the application on the basis of issues around the stability of large amounts of peat stored on site. A subsequent application for the gas terminal and associated peat deposition site was lodged in 2003 and planning permission was granted on appeal by An Bord Pleanála on 22 October 2004.

An application to the then Minister for Marine and Natural Resources for a Foreshore Licence under section 3 of the Foreshore Act 1933, as amended, was submitted by the Corrib Gas Partners in respect of the nearshore construction works for the gas pipeline, umbilical line and outfall pipe. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement. The Foreshore Licence was granted by the then Minister on 17 May, 2002.

In November 2001, an application was submitted to the then Minister for Marine and Natural Resources for approval of a draft Plan of Development pursuant to the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960 and the Corrib Petroleum Lease. The then Minister granted consent to the Plan of Development on 15 April 2002.

An application to the then Minister for Marine and Natural Resources for consent to construct a pipeline pursuant to section 40 of the Gas Act 1976, as amended was also submitted in November 2001. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement, the then Minister granted the Pipeline Authorisation to the Corrib Developers under Section 40 of the Gas Act, 1976 on 15 April, 2002.
Construction activities associated with the onshore pipeline commenced in early 2005. However, due to local opposition to the construction works, partly because of concerns for the safety of people living nearby, the Corrib Gas Partners agreed to suspend the works in August, 2005, pending the outcome of an independent safety review. The review, conducted by Advantica, was published in January 2006 and concluded that the pipeline design and proposed route should be accepted as meeting or exceeding international standards in terms of acceptability of risk provided certain recommendations were followed.

In the meantime, a mediator appointed by the then Minister in November 2005, engaged in a lengthy consultation process with the community and SEPIL. While unable to reach an agreement between the parties, the mediator made a series of recommendations one of which was that the route of the pipeline in the vicinity of Rossport be modified to address community concerns regarding proximity to housing. This was agreed to by the Corrib Gas Partners and following a route selection process, a proposed new route was selected between landfall and the gas terminal and, as a consequence, an application for a new Pipeline Authorisation and an amended Plan of Development, each of which was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement, were submitted to the Minister in April, 2008.

A simultaneous application for a strategic gas infrastructure consent was also submitted to An Bord Pleanála, under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2007 and a Foreshore Licence application was submitted to the then Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

In 2007, an application for an Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Licence in respect of emissions form the Bellanaboy gas terminal was made to the Environmental Protection Agency. The IPPC Licence was granted by the EPA in November 2007. A revised application, seeking approval to move the discharge point for treated water in Broadhaven Bay, was submitted to the EPA in March, 2010. The EPA issued the revised Licence in July 2013. However, that decision was appealed to the High Court and the decision to grant the Licence was quashed in October 2013. A revised application was submitted to the EPA in February 2014 and an Industrial Emissions Licence (formerly the Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control Licence) was granted in October, 2015.

All three applications, submitted in April, 2008 (referred to above) were subsequently withdrawn by the Corrib Gas Partners and revised applications in respect of the onshore pipeline construction works were submitted to the respective statutory authorities in February, 2009. An Environmental Impact Statement was included with each application.

In November, 2009 An Bord Pleanála advised the Corrib Gas Partners that the revised application under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2007 did not adequately demonstrate that the pipeline would not pose an unacceptable risk to the public and invited the Company to modify the pipeline route. Subsequently, SEPIL, on behalf of the Partners, submitted a new application to An Bord Pleanála in May, 2010 which provided for the routing of the onshore pipeline underneath Sruwaddacon Bay. An Bord Pleanála Letter of Consent was issued on 19th January, 2011.
A revised application for a new **Pipeline Authorisation and an amended Plan of Development**, with accompanying EIA’s, were also submitted to the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources. Following an assessment of the application under Section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960 and Section 40 of the Gas Act, 1976 the approval of the Minister, subject to some 47 conditions, was conveyed to the Corrib Gas Partners on 25 February, 2011.

A revised Foreshore Licence, dated 22 July 2011, was granted by the then Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

**2015**

A Safety Permit was issued by the Commission for Energy Regulation in June, 2015, under Section 13P of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended, in respect of the carrying on of certain designated petroleum activities related to production under or in connection with the Corrib Petroleum Lease granted pursuant to section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act 1960, as amended, dated 15 November 2001; the consent granted pursuant to section 5 of the Continental Shelf Act 1968, as amended, dated 15 April 2002; and the consent granted pursuant to section 40 of the Gas Act 1976, as amended, dated 25 February 2011.

END

**Petroleum Affairs Division**  
**Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources**