April, 2014

Mr Ben Browne
Commission for Energy Regulation
The Exchange
Belgard Square North
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Re: Shell E&P Ireland Limited Production Safety Permit Application (SP01)

Dear Mr Browne

I refer to your letter dated 14th March 2014 in connection with the above application.

In regards to the environmental assessment of the Corrib gasfield project, in July, 2001, the then Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources requested the Marine Licence Vetting Committee (MLVC)\(^1\) to examine all environmental aspects of the Corrib Gasfield development proposed by the Operator.

The MLVC considered the environmental implications of the proposed development in the light of the applications for statutory permissions relevant to the then Department of the Marine and Natural Resources (i.e. applications for Foreshore Licence, Approval of the Plan of Development and Pipeline Consent) all of which entailed publication, for public consultation, of a two part Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covering both the marine and land based elements of the project including potential impacts under the Habitats Directive. The MLVC considered the EIS, the submissions received on foot of its publication, the responses by the developer to the submissions, the developer’s responses to queries raised by the Committee and reports by both the Department’s consultants (ERM) and the MLVC’s own consultants (Posford Haskoning) on all environmental impacts. On the basis of its consideration of all the above the MLVC recommended that the project be given the relevant statutory permissions subject to a number of conditions.

The report of the MLVC was published in April 2002. The report can be downloaded from the Department’s website at the following link:


Furthermore, in May 2010, Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPIL) submitted a new application to the then Minister under Section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960 with supporting EIS in respect of a modified route for the onshore pipeline and an application for an

\(^1\) The Marine Licence Vetting Committee (MLVC) was established to advise the Minister in relation to the environmental impacts that may arise from proposed developments on the foreshore and recommend appropriate conditions in the event of approval.

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Petroleum Affairs Division
29 - 31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2 Ireland

Telephone +353 1 6782000
LoCall 1890 44 99 00
Fax +353 1 6782619
Email: padadmin@dcenr.ie
www.pad.ie

An Rannóg Gnóthaí Peitirlíom
29 - 31 Bóthar Adelaide
Baile Átha Cliath 2 Éire
Addendum to the Plan of Development which included modification to the route of the onshore pipeline, the incorporation of the Landfall Valve installation at Glengad, Co Mayo and the use of spare cores in the service umbilical for the discharge of treated produced water at the Corrib sub-sea manifold. It should be noted that the EIS included potential impacts in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

As part of the application process, a public consultation was conducted from 30 June to 30 July, 2010. Following the assessment of the application and accompanying EIS, the then Minister having first satisfied himself that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of any sites protected under the EC Habitats or Birds Directives and then having regard to the strategic benefit of the Corrib Gas Project decided, in exercise of the powers vested in him under section 13 of the Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960, to approve the Addendum to the Plan of Development, subject to the conditions set out in the Letter of Consent, dated 25 February 2011. A copy of this letter can also be downloaded from the Department’s website at the following link:


Yours Sincerely,

Michael Purcell
Orla Ryan
Petroleum Affairs Division
From: John Dunphy [mailto:John.Dunphy@dcenr.gov.ie]
Sent: 31 July 2014 10:24
To: Roisin Cullinan <rcullinan@cer.ie>
Cc: Orla Ryan <Orla.Ryan@dcenr.gov.ie>
Subject: Corrib AA

Dear Roisin,

Under section 40 of the Gas Acts 1976 as amended SEPIL must submit an application for Consent to Operate i.e. bring the Corrib development into production. I can confirm that no such application has been received to date. Upon receipt of such an application an Appropriate Assessment Screening (Gap Analysis) will be conducted and we will notify you in this regard at that point, as discussed with Orla Ryan this morning.

Kind Regards,

John Dunphy.

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Regulating Water, Energy and Energy Safety in the Public Interest

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