

SUMMARY OF CLOSING REMARKS

An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearing, September 2010

Terence Conway & (320) Others

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

An Bord Pleanála has ruled that the main body of our group's submission – the collection of CDs and DVDs supplied by us - is not relevant to the hearing, and has made reference to a “missed opportunity” in other submissions.

We contend that the Board has missed an opportunity, and that our information is relevant as the discs help to show the social impact of the project on us, the receiving community, and to show the contempt for human rights and the environment by the applicant.

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Mayo County Council stated that if consent is granted it will police (or oversee) the project as it has done on the refinery site, which means actions such as turning a blind eye to the aluminium pollution of the drinking water supply will continue unchecked.

DCENR stated the rusting and pitting of the pipe sections in storage is actually good for the integrity of the pipes, but the Board is well aware from the 2009 oral hearing - from the photographs, video and whistleblower letter supplied by us – the true extent of Shell's contempt for even basic maintenance procedures.

Equally, the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government have in the past totally ignored our concerns when they were brought to their attention, as the CD “Broadhaven Bay – Shell/Statoil's Dumping Ground” from 2008 shows. The developer's activities in 2009 were even worse, where thousands of tons of excavated material were allowed to wash into Broadhaven and Sruwaddacon Bays.

PIPE INTEGRITY

The developer has not demonstrated to this hearing any documentary proof of the current integrity of the pipe sections in storage. It could well be the case that they are not receiving the appropriate care by third parties such as Barrier and Mercury, who did not present at this hearing. The condition of the pipes to be welded into this proposed pipeline is vital in ensuring future corrosion is kept within the limits as described.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The mitigation measures as proposed by the developers are in reality totally irrelevant. They may sound good or look good in the EIS but when it comes to putting them into practice SEPIL really does not intend to comply. And - as demonstrated – the regulators will not hold them accountable.

AN GARDA SIOCHANA

At the protests at Bellanaboy they had no interest in the rule of law. What they considered the rule of law was assaulting men and women, regardless of age or health, as the DVD “Pipe Down” clearly shows.

BLACK MONDAY

SEPIL and the Gardai joined forces to attack local people who were helping the McGrath family to protect their property rights. In that instance they used an excavator as an assault tank, some of which was shown previously at these hearings.

ATTEMPTED MURDER

Evidence was also offered to this hearing (but rejected) on law-breaking by Shell/Statoil and their agents. The DVD "Pipe Down" also includes footage of an attempted murder using a dredger as a weapon. Gardai arrested the victim and let the perpetrator continue to operate the equipment in close proximity to people.

Should the Board decide to approve the proposed development, it would in effect be granting permission to Shell to do what they liked, up to and including murder, because the authorities here are willing to assist in the cover-up.

SECURITY

Shell and Statoil's security worked as partners with the Gardai. Illegal security operatives were allowed to carry on intimidating local people, such as videoing children bathing on the beach, and putting people under surveillance in their own homes. Despite the local community seeking that action be taken, the Gardai consistently ignored our requests for protection.

When the issue of illegal security was raised with senior Gardai, thirteen people were arrested for doing so, including a grandfather who had previously lodged complaints of his grandchildren being videoed by those same security.

BOLIVIA

The unfortunate Tipperary man Michael Dwyer - who was shot and killed by the Bolivian State security forces in 2009 - met his untimely death as a direct result of his involvement with Shell/Statoil's Corrib project. He was unfortunate in that he came to Mayo to work for IRMS, who hired people with paramilitary backgrounds and dubious character, such as self-professed Neo-Nazi Tibor Revesz. Both Shell and IRMS seemed not to care whether these individuals were licensed as security guards (a legal requirement in this jurisdiction). Mr Dwyer was also unfortunate in that the Gardai refused to do their sworn duty and uphold the law of the land, otherwise these mercenaries would not have been allowed to work in Ireland.

The result is the Corrib gas project has become a recruiting ground for international terrorism.

It is worth noting that RTE's Primetime did a pretty good job of exposing these mercenary activities in Bolivia (on the DVD "Corrib Stories") but a follow-up story would be needed to show the full extent of how several people connected with Corrib travelled to South America apparently on an assassination mission.

We must also say we support the Dwyer family in their request for a full investigation into the truth surrounding these events, both in Ireland and Bolivia.

To finish, we wish to quote from Article 45 of the Irish Constitution, "Directive Principles of Social Policy".

“1 The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the whole people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice and charity shall inform all the institutions of the national life.

“2 (3) That, especially, the operation of free competition shall not be allowed so to develop as to result in the concentration of the ownership or control of essential commodities in a few individuals to the common detriment.

“3 (2) The State shall endeavour to secure that private enterprise shall be so conducted as to ensure reasonable efficiency in the production and distribution of goods and as to protect the public against unjust exploitation.”

END OF SUBMISSION

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APPENDIX A

SUBMISSION MATERIAL: ABP ORAL HEARING CD/DVD LIST

- 1 CORRIB STORIES – DVD
- 2 COMMUNITY INFORMATION - DVD
- 3 SHELL SECURITY (NO TAX) - DVD
- 4 BROADHAVEN BAY (DUMPING GROUND) - CD
- 5 DIESEL SPILL - DVD
- 6 PMC FARCE - DVD
- 7 SAC DRILLING (SHADOW OVER ERRIS) - CD
- 8 PIPE DOWN - DVD
- 9 THIRTEEN ARRESTS - CD
- 10 THOSE WHO DANCE - DVD
- 11 MINISTERS AT INVER - DVD
- 12 PANORAMA “BP IN DEEP WATER” – DVD

NOTE: Priority list
1, 7, 11