

Submission on Kerry Draft Development Plan

Friends of the Irish Environment have a long-standing opposition to the construction of a terminal for Liquefied Natural Gas [LNG] on the Shannon Estuary. It is not necessary to elaborate these objections in this submission at this stage as any support for this project now undermines national policy and cannot be maintained.

Kerry County Development Plan 2022-28 objective 12-3 States:

Facilitate the expansion of the gas network, including the facilitation of a gas importation facility in the Tarbert/Ballylongford Landbank, and the expansion of the network to the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle settlements of Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin.

In section 2.3.8 the Draft outlines the council's commitment to government policy on climate, as per the current program for government. However, the Development Plan's position on the Shannon LNG as outlined above is in direct contravention of this government policy, which includes a policy against the importation of LNG on climate grounds.

The Programme for Government 2020 states:

"As Ireland moves towards carbon neutrality, we do not believe that it makes sense to develop LNG gas import terminals importing fracked gas, accordingly we shall withdraw the Shannon LNG terminal from the EU Projects of Common Interest list in 2021."

Further, on May 18th, 2021, the Irish Government published a policy statement on the importation of fracked gas:

"In order to implement the Programme for Government commitment that it does not support the importation of fracked gas, the Government has approved that: • pending the outcome of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems, it would not be appropriate for the development of any LNG terminals in Ireland to be permitted or proceeded with".

Further, the Government has commissioned a major review into the security and sustainability of Ireland's energy supply which is not due until later in 2022.

The Policy Statement on the importation of Fracked Gas, updated on 21 July 2021 makes this clear:

'Pending the outcome of a review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems being carried out by DECC, it would not be appropriate for the development of any LNG terminals in Ireland to be permitted or proceeded with.'

For all these reasons, The Kerry County Council Development plan is restricted from taking any position on the development of Ireland's gas infrastructure at this time.

Yours, etc.,

Tony Lowes

On behalf of Friends of the Irish Environment

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