

# Pierce Brosnan objects to proposed gas terminal site

ANNE LUCEY

ACTOR PIERCE Brosnan has written to Kerry County Council to express his reservations about the country's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal proposed for a land bank alongside Tarbert on the Shannon Estuary.

The €500 million terminal proposal by a subsidiary of the US Hess corporation was granted permission in March, and an oral hearing into a pipeline to link the facility with the national gas network near Foynes in Co Limerick was held in Listowel last week.

Both parts were deemed strategic infrastructure and went straight to An Bord Pleanála for

consideration. Brosnan, who has objected to a similar proposal in California, was born in Navan, Co Meath, and has links with Kerry.

He said he and his wife Keely were supporting the Safety Before LNG campaign against the proposed Shannon LNG terminal.

The LNG proposal had been "fast-tracked and 'piecemealed'" by separating the terminal itself from its associated pipeline and "no coherent assessment of the serious and significant risks to public health and safety has been undertaken", he claimed.

Brosnan and his wife were supporting the challenge to permission to Kerry County Council on the basis that the project had been split, he said.

The couple had participated in the review of an LNG terminal proposal for offshore California proposed by the largest mining company in the world, BHP Billiton.

"What we found was a massive, industrial facility that would have polluted our community in violation of existing air-quality laws and that posed serious long-term risks to public safety and security.

"We strongly support Safety Before LNG's request that the planning department find that this project and its associated pipeline must be thoroughly reviewed for the serious cumulative risks it poses for the local population and the environment," the Brosnans wrote.

## News in brief

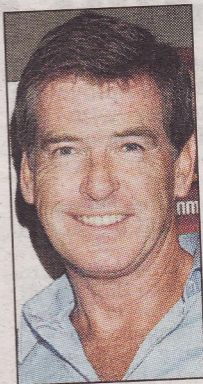
# BROSNAN BLASTS GAS FACILITY PLAN

SCREEN hunk Pierce Brosnan has written to Kerry County Council to object against plans for a huge gas terminal.

The €500 million facility near Tarbert got the go-ahead from Bord Pleanala in March.

A planning hearing into a gas pipeline to the terminal was held last week.

Brosnan, whose father lived in Kerry for years, has objected to a similar gas terminal proposal in California.



OPPONENT: Pierce



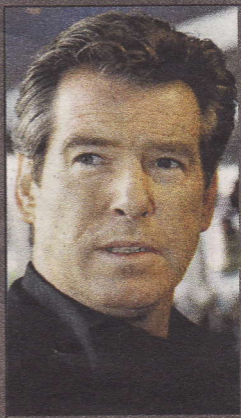
# Quantum of solace for LNG protesters?

**Protesters** against the Shannon LNG gas terminal have issued a fresh planning challenge this week, following a letter of support from the jet-setting agent 007.

By CHRISTINE ALLEN

James Bond star Pierce Brosnan has given encouragement to the group Safety Before LNG this week, after he wrote to Kerry County Council slamming the planning process for the LNG project. The letter, a copy of which was distributed this week by a representative from the Safety Before LNG Group, says that Brosnan and his wife Keely were instrumental in quashing the plans for a similar terminal in their home state of California.

Both the €500m Shannon Estuary terminal and the 26km pipeline to transport the gas were deemed strategic infrastructure and went straight to An Bord Pleanála for consideration. However, Brosnan told Kerry County Council planning officials that he believed the proposal had been "fast-tracked and piecemealed by separating the terminal from its associated pipeline". He said that he had



Pierce Brosnan

taken part in the review of an offshore LNG terminal in California, which resulted in four years of hearings and testimonies. The final plans for the facility were terminated, when state Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it as unacceptable. Safety Before LNG is now seeking a declaration from Kerry County Council on the dividing up of the terminal and pipeline in the original planning process.

"We strongly support Safety Before LNG's request that the planning department find that this project and its pipeline must be thoroughly reviewed for serious cumulative risks it possesses for the local population and environment," Brosnan said in his letter to the council.



Lineau Leader  
13/12/08

# Former Bond backs campaign against pipeline

**Anne Sheridan**

FORMER James Bond star Pierce Brosnan has lent his support to residents in Limerick and Kerry who are opposed to a proposed underground gas pipeline which could run between the two counties.

The actor has written to Kerry County Council to express his reservations about the country's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal, which is estimated to cost in the region of €500m. An Bord Pleanála is due to come to a decision on the controversial pipeline by February 18 next year, having already approved a terminal for the works.

the way," said Mr McElligott.

Under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the group has requested a formal declaration from Kerry County Council on whether or not splitting such a large project into smaller parts invalidates the original planning permission.

He said as the planning application is only being dealt with by An Bord Pleanála - rather than first going through a local authority - "the process also lacks a democratic basis as people have only one shot of objecting."

Mr Brosnan and his wife Keely, who have links with Kerry, said they strongly

The Listowel-based Safety Before LNG campaign, who are opposed to the plans, are now hoping to recruit the support of Al Gore, the former vice president of the United States, and well-known environmentalist to support their cause.

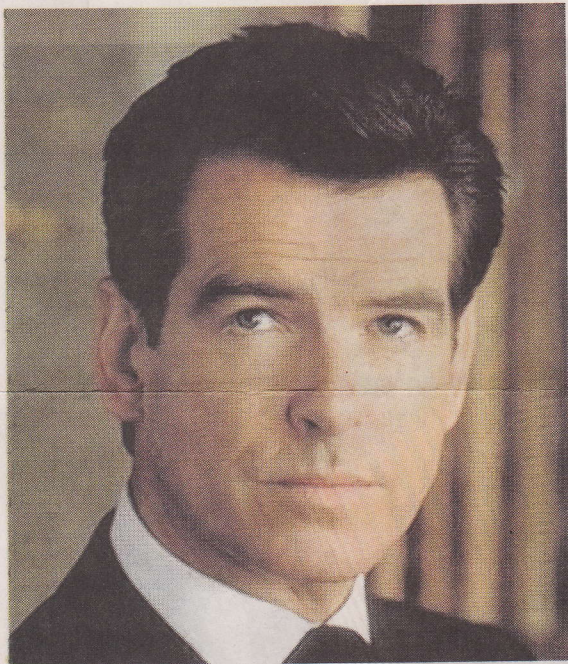
Johnny McElligott, Safety Before LNG, said the group wrote to Mr Brosnan, who is well-briefed on such issues, and found he was very willing to make a submission to their local authority.

"It was great that Pierce, who has actual knowledge of this area, has supported us. We're not radicals, we're not nutters or eco-warriors, but everything in this country is developer-led. How can you push something like this through [the planning process] in 18 weeks. The whole application should be dealt with together, rather than giving permission for bits and bobs along

support Safety Before LNG's request that this project and its associated pipeline must be "thoroughly reviewed for the serious cumulative risks it poses for the local population and the environment."

They state in the letter that the "proposal has been fast-tracked and piecemealed by separating the terminal itself from its associated pipeline." They further claim that no coherent assessment of the serious risks to public health and safety has been undertaken. The decision to approve and construct an LNG terminal is a gravely serious matter that demands the utmost scrutiny and review," they said.

The couple were also opposed to an terminal proposal for off-shore California, which was eventually refused after four years of hearings and testimony.



**Pierce Brosnan: opposing plans for a gas pipeline**