

ORAL HEARING

PROPOSED LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) REGASIFICATION  
TERMINAL LOCATED ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE  
OF THE SHANNON ESTUARY IN THE TOWNLANDS  
OF RALAPPANE AND KILCOLGAN LOWER, CO. KERRY

HEARD BEFORE THE INSPECTOR,

MR. ANDREW BOYLE

ON MONDAY, 21ST JANUARY, 2008

AT THE BRANDON HOTEL, TRALEE, CO. KERRY - DAY 1

I hereby certify the  
following to be a true  
and accurate  
transcript  
of recordings of the  
evidence in the  
above-named action.

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1

## APPEARANCES

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL:

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FOR THE APPLICANT  
(SHANNON LNG):

MR. HUGH O'NEILL SC  
MR. JARLATH FITZSIMONS BL

INSTRUCTED BY:

NICOLA DUNLEAVY  
SOLICITOR  
MATHESON ORMSBY PRENTICE

OBJECTORS:

MR. J. McCELLIGOTT  
MS. GRIFFIN  
MR. NOEL LYNCH  
MS. JOAN MURPHY  
MR. DONNCHA FINUCANE  
MS. EILEEN O'CONNOR  
MR. E. McCELLIGOTT  
MRS. LILY O'MAHONY  
MR. RAYMOND O'MAHONY  
MR. TIM MAHONY  
MR. THOMAS O'DONOVAN  
MR. MICHAEL FINUCANE  
MR. RICHARD O'SULLIVAN  
MR. DES BRANIGAN

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1 THE HEARING COMMENCED AS FOLLOWS ON MONDAY, 21ST  
2 JANUARY, 2008

3  
4 INSPECTOR: Good morning everybody. My  
5 name is Andrew Boyle, I am 11: 30  
6 a Senior Inspector with An Bord Pleanála. Before we  
7 start the oral hearing I am going to allow the press  
8 photographer and, also, the television cameras to take  
9 some photographs. That should take about five or ten  
10 minute and then we will get on with the proceedings. 11: 30  
11 So, if we can just all smile. Thank you.

12  
13 SHORT ADJOURNMENT

14  
15 THE HEARING RESUMED, AS FOLLOWS, AFTER A SHORT 11: 37  
16 ADJOURNMENT

17  
18 INSPECTOR: Good morning again  
19 everybody. My name is  
20 still Andrew Boyle. I am a Senior Planning Inspector 11: 42  
21 with An Bord Pleanála. I have been appointed by the  
22 Board to conduct this oral hearing in relation to a  
23 proposed Liquefied natural gas or LNG Regasification  
24 Terminal Located on the southern shore of the Shannon  
25 Estuary in the townlands of Ralappane and Kilcolgan 11: 42  
26 Lower. I have with me at the table Leonard Mangan, he  
27 will act as my administrative assistant. Later during  
28 the hearing, specifically next Monday, I will be joined  
29 by John Brophy of Ecological Consultancy Services, who

1 will act as a consultant in relation to the ecological  
2 aspects of the proposed development and he will assist  
3 me in cross-examination in relation to submissions in  
4 this regard.

5  
6 Now, I visited the site and viewed it from various  
7 viewing points, both north and south of the Shannon  
8 Estuary. I have also visited the LNG Storage and  
9 Regasification facility in Zeebrugge.

10  
11 At the outset of the hearing I will be calling on the  
12 applicant to give an overview of the proposed  
13 development. I am thus not going to attempt to  
14 describe the project at this stage. But I would like  
15 to make just a few points in relation to the project.

16  
17 An Environmental Impact Statement is included with the  
18 application. This is a requirement of section 37E of  
19 the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended by  
20 the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure)  
21 Act, 2006, but the proposed development would, in any  
22 case, have required the submission of an Environmental  
23 Impact Statement under Schedule 5, Part 2 of the  
24 Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as an  
25 installation for the surface storage of natural gas  
26 where the storage capacity exceeds 200 tonnes.

27  
28 The development will require an Integrated Pollution  
29 Prevention and Control Licence from the Environmental

1 Protection Agency. These requirements are referred to  
2 in the public notices relating to the application.

3  
4 This means that should it decide to grant permission,  
5 An Bord Pleanála is precluded under section 37(g)(4) of 11: 44  
6 the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended by  
7 the Strategic Infrastructure Act from imposing  
8 conditions controlling emissions from the activity or  
9 controlling emissions related to or following the  
10 cessation of the operation of the activity. However, 11: 45  
11 it is open to the Board to refuse permission if it  
12 considers the development unacceptable on environmental  
13 grounds, having regard to the proper planning and  
14 sustainable development of the area.

15 11: 45  
16 As noted in the Environmental Impact Statement lodged  
17 with the application, a foreshore lease will be  
18 required from the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries  
19 and Food under the Foreshore Acts 1933 - 2005. A Fire  
20 Safety Certificate will be required from Kerry County 11: 45  
21 Council. Consent will be required from the  
22 Commissioners Of Public Works under section 47 of the  
23 Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 for the construction of the  
24 embankment of the holding pond. The operation of the  
25 LNG terminal will require a licence from the Commission 11: 45  
26 for Energy Regulation, an Integrated Pollution  
27 Prevention and Control Licence and a Greenhouse Gas  
28 Emissions Permit from the EPA, as well as the already  
29 mentioned Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control

1 Licence.

2  
3 The proposed LNG Regasification Terminal is a direct  
4 application to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of  
5 the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended by 11: 46  
6 the Planning and Development STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE  
7 Act, 2006. As under section 37B of the Act, as  
8 amended, the then prospective applicant entered into  
9 pre-application consultations with the Board. These  
10 consultations culminated in the service of a notice on 11: 46  
11 the applicant by the Board, stating that, in the  
12 opinion of the Board, the proposed development would,  
13 if carried out, constitute development which would be  
14 of strategic economic or social importance to the State  
15 or the region in which it will be situated and that it 11: 47  
16 would have a significant affect on the area of more  
17 than one planning authority. A copy of this notice was  
18 also served on the planning authority, Kerry County  
19 Council.

20 11: 47  
21 All parties to the application should have received an  
22 order of proceedings. For the benefit of those who are  
23 not existing parties or for some reason have not  
24 received an order of proceedings, and I hope there are  
25 none in second category, it is as follows: 11: 47

26  
27 It starts with the Inspector's introduction, which you  
28 are hearing now. There will then be a project overview  
29 from the applicants, which we hope would take a maximum

1 of about 40 minutes. There will then be individual  
2 third party submissions. This is a module intended  
3 primarily to facilitate those who have made short  
4 written submissions on their own behalf and who wish to  
5 make brief oral presentations. This is partly a 11: 48  
6 recognition of the fact that many of you, as local  
7 residents, may have suffered considerable inconvenience  
8 in attending at this venue. The next item will go on  
9 then to consider the project as a whole on a modular  
10 basis, and the first module will be the need for the 11: 48  
11 project, its national, regional and local context, the  
12 consideration of alternative, and that would include  
13 alternative methods. The next module, which I think  
14 will be of major interest to many of you, will be  
15 health and safety. The next module will be other 11: 48  
16 planning matters, including visual impacts, roads and  
17 traffic, noise, vibration, dust, etc., but excluding  
18 ecology. There will then be the planning authority's  
19 submission and recommended conditions. Finally, there  
20 will be the ecology module, which we think will take 11: 49  
21 place on Monday, 28th, that's this day week.

22  
23 With the exception of items 1 to 3 and 7, under each  
24 heading the following order will be observed:

25 11: 49  
26 We will have the third party submissions first. Then  
27 there will be questions to third parties from the  
28 applicants and the planning authority. There will then  
29 be the planning authority's submission. Questions to



1 the planning authority from the third parties and the  
2 applicants. There will then be the applicant's  
3 submission and questions to the applicants from the  
4 third parties and the planning authority. Depending on  
5 the length of submissions, it may on occasion be 11: 49  
6 preferable to deviate from this sequence, and I know  
7 that I expect at least one of you is going to have a  
8 lengthy submission on the health and safety issue and  
9 it may be better then that questions would take place  
10 immediately after that. 11: 50

11  
12 At the end of the hearing there will be closing  
13 submissions and these will be heard in the order,  
14 again, of third parties, followed by the planning  
15 authority, followed by the applicants. 11: 50

16  
17 Now, I would draw to your attention that having regard  
18 to the nature of the written submissions, the  
19 significant number of which are similar in form and  
20 content, it would be helpful to the conduct of the 11: 50  
21 hearing if oral submissions could be coordinated for  
22 the purpose of avoiding repetition of the issues  
23 raised. Submissions already made to the Board should  
24 be taken as read and should not be repeated. In  
25 addition, participants are requested to make available 11: 50  
26 sufficient copies of any written documentation  
27 submitted at the hearing.

28  
29 Now, this is an informal hearing, with a primary

1 purpose of eliciting additional facts to enable the  
2 Board to make a decision on the proposal in accordance  
3 with the proper planning and sustainable development of  
4 the area. However, some level of formality is  
5 necessary, in view of the number of parties, in order 11: 51  
6 to facilitate the running of the hearing and to enable  
7 parties to be heard. Any existing party will be  
8 allowed to make an oral submission.

9  
10 Now, the Board has engaged the services of a 11: 51  
11 stenographer, that is Aoife McCarthy, to keep a record  
12 of the proceedings. This is purely for the Board and  
13 will not be made available until after the Board has  
14 made its decision. The stenographer has certain  
15 requirements. She wants, first of all, when you get up 11: 51  
16 to speak to give your name clearly. There are two  
17 microphones, there is the black one and the silver one,  
18 the silver one is for the stenographer, it goes into  
19 her recording device, and so I ask that when you are  
20 speaking you speak to both microphones. She has asked 11: 52  
21 that even when you are reading from a written statement  
22 that you speak clearly and don't rush along as if it  
23 can be read afterwards. She claims that is okay.

24  
25 While I reserve the right to do so myself, no person 11: 52  
26 should be interrupted while making an oral submission.  
27 I may have to interrupt on occasion, as I will be  
28 taking an informal record of the proceedings to assist  
29 me in the conduct of the hearing. If this happens I

1 will apologise now. I ask the parties avoid  
2 unnecessary repetition of questions.

3  
4 I have circulated attendance sheets for the applicants,  
5 the planning authority and the third parties. All 11:52  
6 parties are requested to sign these sheets and if the  
7 party is making an oral submission in the course of the  
8 hearing please indicate on the sheet the names of any  
9 persons making a submission and any relevant  
10 qualifications. Now, that doesn't rule out somebody 11:53  
11 wishing to speak at a later stage, if they have not  
12 already signed their name. But it is just to give us a  
13 guideline as to who does wish to speak.

14  
15 I would also like to know at this stage if there are 11:53  
16 any public representatives here who want to make a  
17 submission on behalf of any party, and I am not talking  
18 about political parties here. So, are there any public  
19 representatives who want to speak?

20 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Kathy Sinnott will speak. 11:53

21 **INSPECTOR:** I got that. But I think if  
22 you can speak to the mics.

23 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Kathy Sinnott will speak  
24 on Monday the 28th. MEP  
25 Kathy Sinnott will speak on Monday 28th, that's the 11:54  
26 only time she is available.

27 **INSPECTOR:** Are there any other  
28 political representatives?

29 No. Okay. I think we will be able to facilitate

1 Ms. Sinnott on the Monday. Possibly first thing,  
2 before we get into the ecological module.

3  
4 Now, I ask that all mobile phones be muted and remain  
5 muted during the proceedings. Anybody who wishes to 11:54  
6 use a phone may do so outside this room.

7  
8 I just want to draw your attention to the position of  
9 the emergency exits. They are just here and here  
10 (indicating). If we are plunged into darkness, just be 11:55  
11 aware you go down the stairs and I think it goes down  
12 behind me here and out underneath somewhere. You can  
13 also go out there. I just want to draw your attention  
14 to the toilets as well, which are just out at the end  
15 of the lobby there. 11:55

16  
17 Now, it is my intention that the oral hearing will sit  
18 daily commencing at 10 a.m. and finishing at 6 p.m.,  
19 with a one hour lunch break and until the conclusion of  
20 the hearing. Now, the stenographer here has asked that 11:55  
21 there might be a brief five minute break in the middle,  
22 so we will see how that goes.

23  
24 Now, I have already read all the written submissions  
25 presented in the course of the planning application and 11:55  
26 these need not be repeated for the purposes of the oral  
27 hearing. The contents of the file should be taken as  
28 read. Likewise, there are issues raised which are  
29 common to many, if not all of the third party

1 submissions. Where these issues have already been  
2 fully elaborated on the submissions already made to the  
3 Board it is not necessary at this hearing to reiterate  
4 them and it is acceptable, if the parties wish for the  
5 record, to state their agreement with other 11:56  
6 submissions.

7  
8 Now, at this point I want to establish which of the  
9 parties who have submitted written submissions are  
10 present and if they intend to speak. Again I would say 11:56  
11 that this doesn't necessarily rule out you speaking at  
12 a later stage. So, I am just going to call a roll at  
13 this point. First of all, do we have Kathleen Kelly?  
14 The National Roads Authority? Chloe Griffin? Catriona  
15 Griffin. 11:57

16 **MS. GRIFFIN:** Yes, I intend to speak.

17 **INSPECTOR:** Patrick Griffin.

18 **MS. GRIFFIN:** No.

19 **INSPECTOR:** Adam Kearney Associates.  
20 you are taking a speaking 11:57  
21 part?

22 **MR. KEARNEY:** Yes.

23 **INSPECTOR:** Mary Kelly-Godley. Jayne  
24 Keaney. Susan Foley.

25 John C. Foley. John Fox. I think I see you here. Do 11:57  
26 you wish to speak?

27 **MR. FOX:** Yes.

28 **INSPECTOR:** DB Marine Research &  
29 Associates.

1 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes, he is coming.

2 INSPECTOR: Is he likely to speak?

3 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes.

4 INSPECTOR: Ballylongford Enterprise  
5 Associati on. Speaki ng? 11: 58

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

7 INSPECTOR: Kirby's Lanterns Hotel.  
8 Morgan Heaphy.

9 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes, but Wednesday only.  
10 or Thursday. 11: 58

11 INSPECTOR: Alan Fitzell and Margaret  
12 Fitzell. Brian Fitzell.  
13 The Tarbert-Ballylongford Working Group. Are you  
14 speaki ng?

15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes. 11: 58

16 INSPECTOR: Tina O'Connor, Eileen  
17 O'Connor, John O'Connor,  
18 who I think are represented by solici tors.

19 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: I think they are speaking  
20 as well, yeah. 11: 59

21 INSPECTOR: Tom Moore. The Tarbert  
22 Devel opment Associ ati on.

23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

24 INSPECTOR: The Department of  
25 Agri cul ture, Fi sheri es and 11: 59  
26 Food. Catheri ne Fi nucane? Friends of the Irish  
27 Envi ronment. Geral di ne Carmody. Patri ci a Angl im  
28 O' Connor.

29 MS. O' CONNOR: Present, but not speaking.

1 INSPECTOR: Kathy Sinnott. She's  
2 coming on Wednesday.  
3 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: No, on Monday.  
4 INSPECTOR: Donncha and Margaret  
5 Finucane. 12:00  
6 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes, Donncha is speaking as  
7 well.  
8 INSPECTOR: Nigel Fitzell and Rachel  
9 Smyth? C&M Safety.  
10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Will be speaking. Will be 12:00  
11 here.  
12 INSPECTOR: Scoil Náisiúnta Tarbert.  
13 The Killorgan Residents  
14 Association.  
15 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes. 12:00  
16 INSPECTOR: That's yourself. Thomas  
17 O'Donovan. The Kerry  
18 branch of An Taisce.  
19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.  
20 INSPECTOR: Are you speaking? 12:00  
21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.  
22 INSPECTOR: The Sea Energy Group. The  
23 national branch of An  
24 Taisce. That's Ian Lumley.  
25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: No. 12:01  
26 INSPECTOR: Eileen O'Connor.  
27 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: You already mentioned her.  
28 I think Eileen O'Connor  
29 will be speaking.





1 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Shannon Foynes Port  
2 Company.  
3 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Sorry, also, there is  
4 Dr. Jerry Havens will be  
5 speaking also. 12: 04  
6 INSPECTOR: That's on behalf of  
7 yourselves.  
8 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes. Well, no, actually,  
9 just as an LNG expert, on  
10 safety issues. Also, Dr. Declan Downey and Mr. David 12: 04  
11 Robi nson.  
12 MR. MICHAEL FINUCANE: Michael Finucane.  
13 Ballylongford Bay Oyster  
14 Growers Associati on.  
15 INSPECTOR: Did I not call you out 12: 05  
16 already? Okay, at this  
17 point I would just like to put on record a concern that  
18 I have in relation to the health and safety issue. I  
19 am going to require, later in the hearing, an  
20 indication as to precisely what consents are required, 12: 05  
21 and from which bodies, which have implications for  
22 health and safety. I am concerned about the  
23 transshipment of LNG in the estuary, the unloading of  
24 the LNG from the ships to the tanks on the proposed  
25 terminal and the export of gas off the site. 12: 06  
26  
27 I am particularly concerned about the area of  
28 responsibility of the Health and Safety Authority and I  
29 am glad to see, also, that the Port Authority is here,

1 because I would like to see just what the interface is.  
2 Now, in terms of this Seveso II Directive, I just want  
3 to know does the establishment include the jetties and,  
4 if so, does it extend to the unloading of the ships  
5 which are moored at the jetties. On that, I noted when 12:06  
6 I visited Zeebrugge that the ships are required to be  
7 tied very tightly to the jetty. So, I want to know  
8 what precisely is the remit of the Harbour and Port  
9 Authority in the area of health and safety? Does it  
10 include the jetties, and any activities associated with 12:07  
11 the jetties, such as the unloading of the LNG?

12  
13 I will wish to know as well are there any specific  
14 legislative provisions relating to the control of LNG  
15 vessels docking and unloading at the site? If any, do 12:07  
16 these provisions relate to health and safety issues  
17 affecting the establishment and the surrounding area?

18  
19 In coming to its conclusion and advice to the Board,  
20 does the HSA, or did the HSA take into account the risk 12:07  
21 of a dangerous accident occurring in the estuary in  
22 close proximity to the establishment which could  
23 significantly impact on the establishment and  
24 surrounding area? Did the Health and Safety Authority  
25 liaise with or have any communication with the Harbour 12:07  
26 Authority prior to submitting its advice to the Board?  
27 Now, that advice to the Board has been circulated to  
28 all of you who are parties to the appeal.

29

1 The Harbour and Port Authority has indicated that it is  
2 having an independent quantitative risk assessment  
3 carried out for the estuary. We need to know what the  
4 purpose of this quantitative risk assessment is and  
5 what decision making process it is designed to inform, 12:08  
6 should the QRA form any part of the consideration of  
7 the Health and Safety Authority in relation to the  
8 establishment.

9  
10 Now, at this point, unless anybody has any immediately 12:08  
11 pressing issues, I will now call on the applicants to  
12 commence with an overview of the project. Okay. Maybe  
13 the applicants could commence by giving us this  
14 overview of the project.

15 12:09  
16 THE APPLICANTS PRESENTED AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT, AS  
17 FOLLOWS:

18  
19 MR. O'NEILL: Good morning,  
20 Mr. Inspector, good morning 12:09  
21 Ladies and gentlemen. My name is Hugh O'Neill. I am a  
22 Senior Counsel and I am acting on behalf of the  
23 applicant, Shannon LNG, in relation to this application  
24 and this hearing.

25 12:09  
26 First of all, on behalf of Shannon LNG I would like to  
27 welcome the opportunity that we have been afforded by  
28 this public hearing to explain the proposals that the  
29 applicant has in respect of this particular facility.

1  
2 The applicant is encouraged by the significant local  
3 support that it has received in respect of this  
4 facility. It also recognises, of course, that there is  
5 some opposition and some concerns expressed by members 12: 09  
6 of the public, and, indeed, concerns that are genuine  
7 concern, we readily accept that, and concerns that must  
8 be dealt with. People have an entitlement to  
9 understood fully the scope of the scheme and to ensure  
10 them and to satisfy themselves that any risk to which 12: 10  
11 they are subjected are properly analysed and properly  
12 dealt with.

13  
14 The proposal itself has undergone rigorous  
15 investigation. The Inspector has indicated, of course, 12: 10  
16 that a comprehensive EIS has been prepared and over and  
17 above that EIS that has been prepared there has been,  
18 and you will hear from independent experts, you will  
19 hear their views and their approval in their particular  
20 categories of expertise of the various elements of the 12: 10  
21 application and the EIS. We also have the advantage of  
22 input from the regulatory statutory authorities, who  
23 will have some part to play, either at this stage or  
24 later, during the construction and/or operation of the  
25 facility, provided, of course, it obtains planning 12: 11  
26 permission.

27  
28 The applicant is satisfied that there is a need for  
29 this facility, satisfied that it accords with

1 guidelines and policies from local, regional, national  
2 and international -- EU in other words -- as I say, it  
3 complies with those guidelines and it is a facility  
4 that falls fairly and squarely within those guidelines.

12: 11

5  
6 The application has been considered in the context of  
7 environmental issues. And, again, you will hear  
8 evidence in relation to the various issues that arise  
9 and how they are dealt with. The proposal also has, I  
10 think as is recognised by many, significant benefits to 12: 11  
11 the local community.

12  
13 As I say, the entire proposal has been put together by  
14 experts, but, perhaps more importantly, vetted  
15 thereafter by independent experts and been the subject 12: 12  
16 of comment and, indeed, favourable comment, from the  
17 various statutory regulatory bodies.

18  
19 We are confident that the proposal, or the project is  
20 the right project, in the right location and at the 12: 12  
21 right time. What I am going to ask Mr. Power,  
22 Mr. Paddy Power, who is the Managing Director of  
23 Shannon LNG, I am going to ask him to present a  
24 PowerPoint presentation to you, to give you an overview  
25 of the proposal. Obviously, as the hearing progresses 12: 12  
26 we will go into more detail in relation to the various  
27 elements and we would hope at the end of the hearing to  
28 have convinced those who have concerns -- and, as I  
29 say, we accept that people have concerns and they are

1 genuine concerns, bona fides held concerns -- we feel  
2 at the end of this hearing we will have convinced, or  
3 we hope we will have convinced the members of the  
4 public that their concerns are being properly catered  
5 for in the proposal. Likewise, we hope to convince An 12: 13  
6 Bord Pleanála and the Inspector that this is an  
7 appropriate development, according with proper planning  
8 and sustainable development of the area.

9  
10 So, if I may at this stage ask Mr. Power, I am sure he 12: 13  
11 is familiar to the vast majority of people here, I am  
12 going to ask Mr. Power to approach the podium and  
13 present his PowerPoint presentation.

14  
15 **MR. PADDY POWER PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS:** 12: 13

16  
17 **MR. O'NEILL:** We have copies of the  
18 presentation, which are the  
19 PowerPoint presentation, which are being circulated to  
20 members of the public and to the Inspector. 12: 14

21 **MR. POWER:** Thank you, Hugh.  
22 Mr. Inspector, Ladies and  
23 gentlemen, my name is Paddy power. I am the Managing  
24 Director of Shannon LNG. The company was registered in  
25 2003 to promote the development of an LNG import 12: 14  
26 terminal in Ireland and thereby enhance security and  
27 diversity of natural gas supply to the island of  
28 Ireland.

1 I was educated in Tralee CBS. I hold a Degree in  
2 Experimental Physics from University College Dublin. I  
3 hold a Masters Degree in geophysics from The Imperial  
4 College in London and a Masters Degree in Business  
5 Administration from University College Cork. I am a 12: 15  
6 Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of  
7 Engineers of Ireland. I have over 35 years of work  
8 experience in the oil and gas industry. I have worked  
9 as a geo-scientist, as an engineer and as a senior  
10 manager both in Ireland and overseas, in the North Sea, 12: 15  
11 continental Europe, South America, North America and  
12 the Far East for many years.

13  
14 I was involved from the beginning of the Irish natural  
15 gas industry. I worked as a geo-scientist and engineer 12: 15  
16 for many years in both exploration of offshore Ireland  
17 and the construction, development and operation of the  
18 Kinsale Head Gas Field. I served as Production and  
19 Operations Manager of the Kinsale Head Gas Field for  
20 many years and also Drilling Manager for a number of 12: 16  
21 wells in the Celtic Sea, south of Cork. I was also the  
22 Managing Director of the Semi State Irish National  
23 Petroleum Company, previous owners of the Whitegate  
24 Refinery and the world scale Bantry Oil Terminal.

25 12: 16  
26 At the Government's request, I lead the team  
27 responsible for selling these facilities to Tosco  
28 Corporation in 2001, thereby successfully prolonging  
29 the refining operation and the jobs there for a minimum

1 additional 15 years. These facilities have an  
2 outstanding safety record, operating without a loss of  
3 time accident for many years while I was involved.  
4

5 Mr. Inspector, gas reserves are being rapidly depleted 12: 16  
6 in Ireland, in the United Kingdom, and for that matter  
7 throughout Europe. Security and diversity of supply is  
8 being becoming a major concern, especially for Ireland,  
9 as I will demonstrate in this evidence, because Ireland  
10 is at the end of the existing gas supply chain. 12: 17  
11

12 I will now provide an overview of the project, turning  
13 first to an aerial view of the site. This is an aerial  
14 view of the site, looking eastwards towards Tarbert  
15 Power Station, up here, Tarbert town, over here. The 12: 17  
16 red line shows the area that we are proposing and  
17 seeking planning permission on. This area here, which  
18 is also part of the site, is part of a designated area,  
19 we are not seeking planning permission in this area.  
20

21 This site was first put together by the IDA, I think,  
22 starting back in 1959, or thereabouts, and it is now in  
23 the ownership of Shannon Development. Shannon LNG has  
24 entered into an agreement, an option to purchase  
25 agreement, with Shannon Development on part of the 12: 18  
26 landbank for this area shown here. This is an aerial  
27 view looking westwards, back towards Ballylongford,  
28 over here, Shannon Estuary running out towards the  
29 Atlantic. Again, the special designated area, here.



1 The proposal will involve ships, LNG carriers such as  
2 this. Here is a photograph of a typical import  
3 terminal. This one is located in Lake Charles  
4 Louisiana in the United States. This terminal can  
5 accommodate two LNG tankers at the same time. Our 12: 19  
6 proposal is just for one ship at a time. You can see  
7 the tanks and the process area.

8  
9 Turning now to the agenda that I will cover in my  
10 presentation this morning. I will describe Shannon 12: 19  
11 LNG, who we are. I will discuss the project rationale,  
12 including the policy context for our application. I  
13 will address safety. The site selection process.  
14 Provide you a very brief project overview and discuss  
15 the ancillary projects involved. I will talk about 12: 19  
16 mitigation of project impacts and how they are  
17 minimised. And I will discuss and conclude with  
18 describing what I see as the project benefits for  
19 Ireland and North Kerry.

20 12: 20  
21 Turning first to who we are, Shannon LNG. Shannon LNG  
22 is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hess LNG, which is a  
23 joint venture between Poten & Partners and Hess  
24 Corporation. Poten & Partners are a global broker and  
25 advisor to LNG and transportation industries around the 12: 20  
26 world. HESS Corporation is a global integrated oil and  
27 gas company.

28  
29 I will show you here what our commitments are for this

1 project. This is a quotation from the Hess  
2 Corporation, Corporate Sustainability Report, which is  
3 available here in the room. Hess Corporation is  
4 committed to meeting the highest standards of corporate  
5 citizenship, while protecting the health and safety of 12: 21  
6 its employees, safeguarding the environment and creating  
7 a long lasting positive impact on the communities in  
8 which we do business.

9  
10 Let me turn now to a brief overview of the natural gas 12: 21  
11 industry in Ireland, and remind you of the National Gas  
12 Grid, which is shown here. This started off with the  
13 development of the Kinsale Head Gas Field back in the  
14 70's. In the late 70's the first gas was wrought  
15 ashore from the Kinsale Head Gas Field and the pipeline 12: 21  
16 offshore was built. Then it was extended initially  
17 into Cork, for power generation, over at Aghada, and  
18 then it was extended on to Dublin. That was the  
19 situation for a number of years.

20 12: 21  
21 As the Kinsale Head Gas Field began to deplete, an  
22 interconnector was built from north of Dublin over to  
23 Scotland to connect into the North Sea supply system.  
24 Since then, additional interconnectors have been added.  
25 There is an additional one linking Dublin to this part 12: 22  
26 of Scotland and one running from north of Belfast as  
27 well, over here. Then they connected into one  
28 pipeline, that connects up to the grid up at Moffat in  
29 Scotland.

1  
2 Later on the grid was extended by building a ring main  
3 around Ireland and running from Dublin over towards  
4 Galway, then down to Limerick and connecting back  
5 towards the Cork area, as shown here. Of course, 12: 22  
6 following on from the discovery of the Corrib field a  
7 pipeline was built linking Galway to Mayo. And that  
8 pipeline is now built. Also built is the  
9 interconnecting pipeline, what they call the  
10 south/north pipeline. That runs from north of Dublin 12: 23  
11 up to Belfast. This pipeline has been commissioned and  
12 there is also a gas pipeline running from Belfast over  
13 to Derry, for power generation as well, and serving  
14 Derry City.

15 12: 23  
16 The environmental issues associated with natural gas  
17 are well known. The much lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than oil  
18 and coal. It is the fuel of choice for the power  
19 generation sector today and it is seen, within the  
20 industry and world wide, as a bridge from the fossil 12: 23  
21 fuel era that we know that a sustainable energy future,  
22 that is still evolving.

23  
24 Just to remind you that the Government's National  
25 Climate Change Strategy has been published, of course, 12: 23  
26 and natural gas is seen as the primary fuel for  
27 Ireland's power generation into the future. It is the  
28 key to meeting our CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets.  
29 LNG, of course, will assist the Government's targets of

1 a 33% renewable energy by 2020.

2  
3 Turning now to the project rationale. I mentioned  
4 earlier this project is about gas, but it is also about  
5 electricity, because so much of our electricity is 12: 24  
6 generated from natural gas. But our natural gas supply  
7 today has a very high dependency on the United Kingdom.  
8 In fact, we import over 90% of the gas usage in the  
9 country today from the UK, or through the UK. But the  
10 UK itself is running out of gas and it is projected to 12: 25  
11 import up to almost 80% of its own gas requirements by  
12 2016. That's only a few years away.

13  
14 LNG, of course, can reduce our reliance on one import  
15 point for natural gas and it makes no sense to rely on 12: 25  
16 a country that itself is running out of gas. So, some  
17 of the options that are available for Ireland are shown  
18 here. We could attempt to expand imports of gas  
19 through the interconnector from the UK. We can  
20 encourage exploration and exploit domestic gas reserves 12: 25  
21 if they are found. Or we can import LNG directly. I  
22 would now like to just discuss these with you for a few  
23 moments.

24  
25 This graph shows a lot of interesting information. 12: 26  
26 What it shows here, of course, is time stretching out  
27 to 2020. On this axis here is the consumption of gas,  
28 Mr. Inspector, each day in Britain and Ireland. You  
29 can see that the demand has continues to rise and is

1 forecasted to continue to rise out to 2020. Today, at  
2 2008, we are consuming about 11 billion cubic feet of  
3 gas every day. But this colour portion here shows the  
4 production in Britain and Ireland, in the UK and  
5 Ireland, and it shows them rapidly falling and  
6 depleting. This essentially is that the gas fields  
7 that are nearby us are rapidly depleting. You can see  
8 that out by 2015, 2016 as we just said there, the UK  
9 and Ireland will be importing about 80% of its gas  
10 requirements from some place else.

12: 26

12: 27

11  
12 So, there is a very large shortfall here to be filled.  
13 That gas is going to be needed. Again, to remind you,  
14 it is the fuel of choice for power generation. It is  
15 environmentally friendly and the issue is where will  
16 that gas come from.

12: 27

17  
18 Turning first and looking just at Ireland on its own.  
19 The last graph showed UK and Ireland, just looking at  
20 Ireland on its own. Again, this is a time chart that  
21 runs from 1978, when the Kinsale Head gas field was  
22 brought on to production, on out to 2020. This chart  
23 was prepared by the Petroleum Affairs Division of the  
24 Department of Communications, Energy and Natural  
25 Resources. This here is the consumption in billion  
26 cubic feet per annum, Mr. Inspector. You can see how  
27 the production from the Kinsale Head gas field grew  
28 initially. Then fell off here, in 1986, and then grew  
29 again rapidly, out until this period, and has continued

12: 27

12: 27

1 to grow. We are out now at about 2008, we are about  
2 here now. You can see that Kinsale essentially is now  
3 rapidly depleting. And it supplies only about 10% of  
4 our gas requirements today. We are importing about 90%  
5 of our gas requirement. That's from that point down to 12: 28  
6 here.

7  
8 This shows the impact of Corrib when it comes online.  
9 This shows it coming online in 2010. But, again,  
10 Mr. Inspector, you will notice that this is the gap 12: 28  
11 that has to be filled, this is the gap that will  
12 continue to have to be filled even with Corrib online.  
13 So there is a large supply shortfall projected.

14 **INSPECTOR:** Can I interrupt you just  
15 for a moment. The one 12: 29  
16 marked Corrib, is that also including Kinsale?

17 **MR. POWER:** Yes. Yes, this production  
18 profile here includes  
19 Kinsale as Kinsale depletes. But Kinsale is  
20 continuing, you can see Kinsale in a depletion curve 12: 29  
21 here. This here was the small adjacent field called  
22 Seven Heads that was brought online and that increased  
23 indigenous production at that time.

24  
25 So, our options. We can expand the exports of gas 12: 29  
26 through the interconnector from the UK. But the UK  
27 itself now is an LNG importer itself, so that may not  
28 be the most sensible route to go. Exploration, of  
29 course, will continue. The Government is encouraging

1 it, to exploit domestic gas reserves if they have been  
2 found. But, as you will see from the previous curve,  
3 only two commercial discoveries have been made after  
4 drilling about 130 exploration wells offshore Ireland.  
5 And, of course, the alternative, which we are 12: 30  
6 proposing, that's to import LNG directly. The benefits  
7 that that provides is competition, of course, which is  
8 good for us all as consumer. Lower prices, gas storage  
9 and diversity and security of supply all at the same  
10 time. I believe that LNG is the most reliable and cost 12: 30  
11 effective option for Ireland.

12  
13 Turning now to world gas reserves. Are there  
14 sufficient world gas reserves out there so that we can  
15 import LNG? They are summarised here. The world has 12: 30  
16 sufficient gas reserves for over sixty years at current  
17 consumption rates. But Ireland, of course, is at the  
18 end of the pipeline and is not well connected to world  
19 supplies.

20 12: 31  
21 Being at the end of the pipeline, Mr. Inspector, is  
22 essentially synonymous with higher prices, because  
23 there is more transportation involved. So, Ireland  
24 needs access to multiple sources for competitive  
25 supplies and the Shannon LNG terminal will give us 12: 31  
26 direct access to this global market.

27  
28 Turning now to the policy context. The proposed  
29 terminal assists in achieving the aims and policies of

1 a number of institutions, which are listed here,  
2 include the Government, the IDA and the European Union.  
3 The Commission for Energy Regulation, and I quote from  
4 them here, have said that "*the proposed development*  
5 *will be a major commercial project, with very* 12: 32  
6 *significant strategic implications for the long term*  
7 *future of the Irish energy sector". We further develop*  
8 the policy context throughout the hearing.  
9

10  
11 Others, of course, are doing the same thing, and this 12: 32  
12 chart here shows where LNG terminals already exist in  
13 Europe. Generally, a good number of them exist down in  
14 the Iberian Peninsula because they also, like us, are  
15 at the end of the pipeline. The big sources of gas are 12: 32  
16 up here in Russia. The North Sea is rapidly depleting.  
17 Norway will shortly go over the hump and start  
18 declining as well. And then, of course, Africa and the  
19 Middle East. They already have a number of LNG  
20 terminals and these terminals have been operating 12: 33  
21 satisfactorily for many years. Some of the Killochan  
22 residents visited the Barcelona terminal with us.  
23 Terminals are in the UK and there are two new terminals  
24 being built as we speak down in Wales, the Dragon LNG  
25 and the South Hook Terminal. Our proposal, of course, 12: 33  
26 is over here, on the Shannon Estuary. The chart shows  
27 you that other terminals are also proposed.  
28

29 so, other countries are concerned about their security



1 of supply, as we are, and they are taking measures to  
2 address it, as we are.

3  
4 So LNG, what is it? It is essentially natural gas that  
5 has been cooled to a very low temperature, at which 12: 33  
6 point it just coalesces and becomes a liquid. The  
7 volume of the liquid is about 600 times less than the  
8 equivalent amount in a gaseous stage. It is stored in  
9 insulated tanks at normal atmospheric pressure, like a  
10 cold drink in a thermos flask. Or, as somebody pointed 12: 34  
11 out to me recently, as many of us that have children,  
12 it is very similar to liquid nitrogen that you see in a  
13 doctors' surgery. Although liquid nitrogen is at a  
14 colder temperature. It can be transported worldwide  
15 using ships. 12: 34

16  
17 The chain from exploration to the homes and power  
18 stations of Ireland is, essentially, successful  
19 exploration, which leads to production, many times  
20 offshore. In many parts of the world associated gas 12: 34  
21 produced with oil production is gathered and brought to  
22 a liquefaction plant. Or it may be fields in remote  
23 areas of the world where there is no market. They are  
24 brought to a liquefaction plant, where the gas is  
25 turned into a liquid at normal atmospheric pressure and 12: 35  
26 then shipped, using large double-hulled LNG carriers,  
27 to regasification terminals or import terminals like we  
28 are proposing. This is the part of the chain that we  
29 are proposing. And then, of course, into the market,

1 into the link into the BGE system here.

2  
3 The industry is in a growth phase right now, as I had  
4 explained earlier, because of the rapid depletion of  
5 reserves of gas in the North Sea and other areas near 12: 35  
6 to us. In 2006 there were about 200 LNG ships trading  
7 around the world. We expect that to be over 340 by  
8 2010. And the number of terminals to increase from  
9 about 50 to 60 in the same period.

10 12: 36  
11 Turning now to safety, which is very important for us.  
12 I should say that that this industry has an excellent,  
13 it has an outstanding safety record. For over 40 years  
14 something like 52,000 voyages have occurred without a  
15 major cargo spill. In the same period, 40 years of 12: 36  
16 outstanding safety performance at all the worldwide  
17 import terminals. Today the facilities, or the import  
18 terminals and the ship design and the site layout  
19 regulations are highly protective to people. And, of  
20 course, safety and security over site will be very 12: 36  
21 robust and intense here with us, at Shannon LNG, also.

22  
23 Turning now to the site selection, which was a very  
24 important and interesting topic. We used a very robust  
25 methodology and the optimal site was selected following 12: 37  
26 two phases: The first phase was to identify the  
27 coastal area of Ireland that was most suitable, and  
28 then, when that was done, identify the areas within  
29 that coastal zone or area that might be suitable for an

1 LNG terminal. And I will explain these. So, we had a  
2 two phase process.

3  
4 Looking first, let's say, at the zones or areas around  
5 the coast. We looked at all the obvious places, let's 12: 37  
6 say Dublin Port, Waterford Port, the Cork Port, the  
7 Shannon Estuary. We also looked at areas up in  
8 Northern Ireland, down in Southern Ireland. We  
9 considered all of these areas here in our assessment  
10 and eventually zoned in on the Shannon Estuary as being 12: 38  
11 the most suitable area. All of this is well described  
12 in the Environmental Impact Statement that we have  
13 submitted to An Bord Pleanála so I won't go through the  
14 details here with you.

15 12: 38  
16 But after zeroing in on the Shannon Estuary we then  
17 looked at a number of sites along the estuary, and  
18 these are also described at length in the Environmental  
19 Impact Statement. We looked as far up as Aughinish  
20 Island and as far west as the Shannon Development 12: 38  
21 Landbank. We will at these other sites as well, that  
22 many of you will be familiar with, or we considered  
23 them and looked at them.

24  
25 Turning now to the Shannon LNG project itself and for 12: 38  
26 me to give you a brief overview on that. The proposal  
27 is to build an import terminal here on the estuary,  
28 Mr. Inspector, and to link that then with a pipeline to  
29 the National Gas Grid, that's shown here, by installing

1 a pipeline from the site up to the National Grid up  
2 near Foynes. So, this project brings gas to North  
3 Kerry.

4  
5 This is an aerial view of the site, with the proposed 12: 39  
6 site layout superimposed on it. This is Ardmore Point  
7 here, this is Knockfinlas Point. The proposal is to  
8 build a jetty, the storage tanks, process equipment, a  
9 pond and embankment area here, and we have set aside  
10 some lay down areas that will be used during the 12: 39  
11 construction as well. The administration buildings are  
12 proposed to be located over here, in this area here.

13  
14 I will now show you two aerial views -- or two visuals  
15 of what the tanks would look like from south of the 12: 40  
16 estuary and north of the estuary. This one is from  
17 this point here, it is about a mile, mile and a half  
18 site of the south, looking northwards, and you can see  
19 the tanks here. There are four tanks there, this one  
20 is covered by the tree here. Looking northwards in 12: 40  
21 this direction here. This is moving over to Co. Clare  
22 and looking at what the development will look like from  
23 a point adjacent to the Money Point Power Station,  
24 which is shown here just behind the house. It is the  
25 coal import area here of Money Point. Then the 12: 40  
26 terminal. It shows a ship docked alongside and the  
27 tanks in the background. That's what the terminal  
28 would look like from these two views. We have  
29 presented a lot more views in the Environmental Impact

1 Statement.

2  
3 So, the overview of the scheme is that it will be  
4 imported using double-hulled LNG ships. My colleagues  
5 will discuss the technology involved in that during the 12: 41  
6 hearing. The LNG will be off loaded to the LNG storage  
7 tanks. It will be regasified by heating it and then  
8 transmitted via pipeline into the National Grid at the  
9 pressure of the National Grid. The proposed  
10 development also includes these facilities that are 12: 41  
11 listed here.

12  
13 Three ancillary construction projects are required to  
14 support the terminal. The first is an upgrade of the  
15 Coast Road from Tarbert to the terminal. This will be 12: 42  
16 managed by Kerry County Council, through a Part 8  
17 process. I am sure they will talk to that process  
18 here.

19  
20 We need electricity at the site and we have applied to 12: 42  
21 EirGrid to supply that. Of course, then we need to  
22 build a pipeline from the terminal to the gas  
23 transmission grid. We are preparing the Environmental  
24 Impact Statement on that as we speak and we hope to  
25 submit an application to An Bord Pleanála. We have 12: 42  
26 started the communications on the pre-consultation  
27 process with An Bord Pleanála on the pipeline and we  
28 hope to submit an application for the pipeline shortly.  
29

1 Consultations. The project was announced back in April  
2 2006 and since then we have had an extensive  
3 consultation process. This is a list of the bodies  
4 that we have consulted with. We have had a number of  
5 local public meetings. We have met with local  
6 residents and then the various bodies shown here. My  
7 colleague, Michael Biggane, who is the Manager of the  
8 Listowel office, will describe that process later on  
9 during the hearing.

12: 43

10  
11 Mitigation of the potential impacts is a very important  
12 subject for us. This has been studied in great detail.  
13 We have evaluated the environmental impacts associated  
14 with the project, such as the traffic; the noise;  
15 impact on air; climate; archeology; ecology; landscape  
16 and water and, again, these are all very extensively  
17 detailed in the EIS that was submitted to An Bord  
18 Pleanála.

12: 43

12: 44

19  
20 Some designated areas exist within the site, our  
21 project. We are not seeking any development approvals  
22 in these areas.

12: 44

23  
24 This is a list of the evidence that we will provide  
25 here at the oral hearing and we will be following the  
26 headings suggested by An Bord Pleanála to us. I will  
27 just cover the headline items here. The need of the  
28 project. We will also address the national regional  
29 and local context in great detail and answer any

12: 44

1 questions on that. We will discuss the alternatives,  
2 including alternative methods used. You can see some  
3 of the detail that will come in underneath that.  
4 Health and safety will be very much a part of this  
5 process for us, as it is for An Bord Pleanála. We will 12: 45  
6 also address all the other planning matters that are  
7 listed here. And, of course, the ecology items that  
8 are listed here. I won't go through the detail now,  
9 but they are all well discussed already in the  
10 Environmental Impact Statement. 12: 45

11  
12 Turning now, or concluding, to look at some of the  
13 project benefits. Of course, the project will provide  
14 direct access to multiple sources of gas around the  
15 world for the island of Ireland. We see this as an all 12: 45  
16 Ireland project, to improve security and diversity of  
17 gas supply in the country.

18  
19 It brings added competition -- this is dear to all our  
20 hearts -- benefitting all Irish electricity and gas 12: 46  
21 consumers. It will provide a new entry point to BGE's  
22 transmission network - improving system reliability.  
23 And I know that there are many of you that are aware of  
24 system reliabilities and how valuable they are to have  
25 in a country. And, of course, it will provide a 12: 46  
26 pressure maintenance point in Ireland. Today that  
27 point is primarily in Scotland. And, of course, it  
28 will provide additional gas storage capability -  
29 enhancing system reliability. It also assists

1 Ireland's Climate Change Strategy, which is in the news  
2 almost daily. It can provide strategic storage  
3 capability and support the renewable electricity goals  
4 established for the country by our Government. In  
5 conclusion, it brings jobs to North Kerry. 12: 47  
6 Very importantly, it provides a very attractive  
7 incentive for additional regional investment and  
8 development in the area.

9  
10 I believe that this is the right project, in the right 12: 47  
11 place, at the right time. Mr. Inspector, thank you  
12 very much.

13  
14 **END OF SUBMISSION BY MR. POWER**

15 12: 47  
16 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you, Mr. Power.

17  
18 (APPLAUSE)

19  
20 **MR. O'NEILL:** That concludes our project 12: 47  
21 overview in the schedule  
22 identified by you in your letter of 15th January, Sir.

23 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. I would just like to  
24 clarify two points with Mr.  
25 Power. Unfortunately, I was looking in this direction 12: 47  
26 while you were pointing and I just wanted to know about  
27 the areas of scientific interest. You said that they  
28 did not form part of the project area but do you  
29 actually own that site?



1           **MR. POWER:**                           The site today is owned by  
2           Shannon Development and Shannon LNG has entered into an  
3           option to purchase the land from Shannon Development if  
4           we acquire planning permission for the project.

5           **INSPECTOR:**                           Yes, but I am talking about 12: 48  
6   the area of scientific  
7           interest which punches into the site.

8           **MR. POWER:**                           That part is also owned by  
9   Shannon Development. That  
10           is still to be decided, whether Shannon Development 12: 48  
11           will retain that or whether we will purchase it from  
12           them. But we have an option to purchase that area as  
13           well. When we entered the agreement we weren't aware  
14           of -- this is a candidate designated area right now and  
15           these were established in the last couple of years and 12: 49  
16           they were not well established when we acquired the  
17           purchase option.

18           **INSPECTOR:**                           Okay, that clarifies that.  
19   I was under the possible  
20           impression that they were in private ownership, 12: 49  
21           alternative ownership. But that is not the case.

22           **MR. POWER:**                           No, no, they are owned by  
23   Shannon Development. All  
24           that site is owned by Shannon Development. In fact,  
25           the landbank is much greater than the area within the 12: 49  
26           red lines as we have shown. The landbank, I believe,  
27           is about 600 acres all together. We have an option to  
28           purchase about 280, or just over 280 acres. But after  
29           doing all our site evaluations we have decided that we

1 really only need about 254 acres of that area for the  
2 development and we don't need to have any of the  
3 development associated with the designated areas.

4 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. I have had a look at  
5 a number of the alternative 12: 50  
6 sites -- not alternative sites -- the existing sites in  
7 Europe and I was just wondering can you put this  
8 project in its world context? I mean, just how big is  
9 this project?

10 **MR. POWER:** This is a large -- the 12: 50  
11 proposal is that ultimately  
12 the terminal could be importing up to a billion cubic  
13 feet of gas a day. We would not start off at that  
14 rate, it would be a phased development. Initially we  
15 would start off being able to deliver about 400 million 12: 50  
16 cubic feet of gas a day. In Irish terms, that's about  
17 40% of the needs of Ireland when the terminal would  
18 come online. But if the terminal reaches the 1 billion  
19 cubic feet of gas a day it will then be, I would say, a  
20 world scale terminal. 12: 51

21 **INSPECTOR:** Biggest in the world?

22 **MR. POWER:** Oh no, no, no, not the  
23 biggest in the world.

24 Japan imports all their gas, essentially all their gas  
25 I believe, by way of LNG. Spain imports a substantial 12: 51  
26 amount of its gas through LNG, although there is a  
27 pipeline running across from North Africa as well.

28 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. McElligott, just  
29 bearing in mind that this

1 is an overview, do you have a pressing question that  
2 you want to ask at this point?

3 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Yes. Shannon Development  
4 do not own all that land  
5 inside, and you know it well. Stevie Lynch owns 1.9 12: 51  
6 acres right in the middle of where you are saying it is  
7 a special area of conservation.

8 **MR. POWER:** That's correct. In fact,  
9 there is a submission to An  
10 Bord Pleanála about an area that is approximately, I 12: 51  
11 think, about two acres, within the designated area. I  
12 don't know who owns it, Mr. Inspector, but I understand  
13 that any questions in that matter should be addressed  
14 to Shannon Development. But Shannon Development have  
15 also advised us that they don't own it. 12: 52

16 **INSPECTOR:** Right, okay.

17 **MR. POWER:** It is roughly a two acre  
18 area within the designated  
19 area.

20 **INSPECTOR:** Can you show it on the map? 12: 52

21 **MR. POWER:** I can, of course, I can  
22 show it to you here.

23 It is an area that is down in this area, down here,  
24 near the stream. It is a two acre area down here near  
25 the stream. We do not have an option on that two 12: 53  
26 acres. It is not within the area that we are proposing  
27 to do the development. It is outside the area that we  
28 are proposing to do the development. So any questions  
29 on it should be really addressed to Shannon

1 Development. But it is an area just down here, near  
2 where this stream here enters the estuary.

3 **INSPECTOR:** Can you clarify that?

4 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** I can clarify exactly where  
5 that is. It is on the 12: 53  
6 bottom right-hand corner of that area where the mouse  
7 is at the moment. Push down the mouse a little bit  
8 there. It is in that rectangular area there.

9 **MR. POWER:** It is down in here?

10 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** No, no, down further. I 12: 53  
11 think it is in that  
12 rectangular area there that's completely cut out. Do  
13 you see where there is the wetlands? Just to the  
14 right-hand side of those wetlands, where it is  
15 inexplicably coming up at an angle. 12: 54

16 **MR. POWER:** Mr. Inspector, if you look  
17 behind here. It is not  
18 within the area that we are seeking development on, it  
19 is within this area here. It is down in this area. It  
20 is shown in greater detail in the Environmental Impact 12: 54  
21 Statement.

22 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. Sorry, do we have  
23 another question? Could  
24 you give your name please?

25 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** My name is Richard 12: 54  
26 O' Sullivan, Shannon  
27 Development. Just to clarify, Mr. Inspector.

28 **INSPECTOR:** Could you hold on until we  
29 get a mic to you.

1           **MR. O' SULLIVAN:**                   My name is Richard  
2           O' Sullivan, Shannon Development. Just to clarify,  
3           Mr. Inspector. The land optioned by Shannon  
4           Development to Shannon LNG is owned by Shannon  
5           Development. Thank you. 12: 55

6           **INSPECTOR:**                    That's fine, thank you.  
7    Okay, at this point I think  
8           we will break for lunch. But before we do that, I just  
9           want to point out that I am leaving the application and  
10          the Environmental Impact Statement here on the desk. I 12: 55  
11          would also ask the applicants if they could leave on  
12          the table there any additional documentation that you  
13          may have, in particular the Quantitative Risk  
14          Assessment, if that's available. And, also, in the  
15          Environmental Impact Statement you refer to additional 12: 56  
16          ecological surveys which were not available at the time  
17          you submitted the EIS, and if they are available now  
18          perhaps they could be left on the table as well.

19          **MR. O' NEILL:**                   We will make those  
20    available as soon as 12: 56  
21          possible, Sir.

22          **INSPECTOR:**                    But not now?  
23          **MR. O' NEILL:**                    I am not sure if they are  
24    physically in the room at  
25          the moment, but we will bring them down, Sir. 12: 56

26          **INSPECTOR:**                    Fair enough. This room  
27    will be open for anybody  
28          who wishes to see these documents and anything that the  
29          applicants choose to put on the table throughout

1 lunchtime. It is now 12:55. I would ask that people  
2 be back at 2 o'clock. Thank you for your attention.

3  
4 LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

5  
6  
7 THE HEARING RESUMED AS FOLLOWS AFTER THE LUNCHEON  
8 ADJOURNMENT

9  
10  
11 THE HEARING RESUMED, AS FOLLOWS, AFTER THE LUNCHEON  
12 ADJOURNMENT

13  
14 INSPECTOR: Good afternoon everybody.  
15 I wonder if people could  
16 resume their seats now please. 14:05

17  
18 This afternoon I was hoping to give it to people who  
19 have made fairly brief submissions, written  
20 submissions, and to allow them to speak, hopefully, in 14:06  
21 a reasonably brief fashion, too, in order that, if they  
22 wish, they may go on home afterwards. And, as I say,  
23 it is in recognition that this venue may be rather  
24 awkward for some local residents to have come to in the  
25 first place. 14:06

26  
27 So, just going through the list of people that were  
28 present this morning and who seem to have made brief  
29 submissions, I would like to start with Catriona

1 Griffi n.

2  
3 MS. CATRIONA GRIFFIN PRESENTED HER SUBMISSION, AS  
4 FOLLOWS:

5  
6 MS. GRIFFIN: Hello. My name is Catriona  
7 Griffi n and I live

8 approximately 800 metres from where the LNG storage  
9 tanks are proposed to be. I just wanted to emphasise  
10 that the area in which we live in, Kilcolgan, is just  
11 not a landbank, but there is a thriving close knit  
12 communi ty there. In fact, the population of the area  
13 has gone up significantly in the last ten years.

14 Approximately by 50%. In 1998 there were only 37  
15 people living in the immediate area. There are now 57  
16 people.

17  
18 I also want to outline that we don't think that a lot  
19 of the main areas of concern about safety have been  
20 addressed. The other thing I was concerned about is  
21 that in other terminals worldwide there seemed to be  
22 procedures in place for emergency evacuation and, so  
23 far, we have not been told anything about emergency  
24 evacuation in our area in case of an accident. One  
25 final point is I want to know why the in-ground storage  
26 tanks and underground storage tanks haven't been looked  
27 into. Thank you.

28  
29 END OF SUBMISSION

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**INSPECTOR:** Thank you. In general I am just going to allow people speak, unless you feel that there is a pressing need to counteract something.

14:08

**MR. O'NEILL:** Yes, a lot of these matters have been raised in the written submissions and, obviously, we recognise the rights of the residents to raise them. I think it may be a better equalisation of the time if we deal with those when a particular expert is giving his or her evidence. Thank you, Sir.

14:08

**INSPECTOR:** Okay. The next person on my list is Mr. John Fox. Is he present at the moment?

14:08

**UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** He is not here at the moment, for about an hour and a half.

**INSPECTOR:** The next on the list is the Ballylongford Enterprise Association.

14:08

**MR. NOEL LYNCH PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS,**

**MR. LYNCH:** My name is Noel Lynch, I am Chairman of the Ballylongford Enterprise Association, an organisation that has been in place for the last 50 years or more, and at least for 25 of those years we have been

14:08



1 campaigning for the development of this Landbank.

2  
3 A brief history of the Landbank tells us that the first  
4 of it was brought in 1959. Following on from that, in  
5 1978, the late for Minister for Commerce George Colley, 14:09  
6 turned the sod for zinc smelter. A few years later a  
7 Greek by the name of John Latsus, proposed to build an  
8 oil refinery. In 1988, the predecessors to the Shannon  
9 Development, the IDA, proposed to sell off 500 of the  
10 600 acres to the local farmers again, but a campaign 14:10  
11 was mounted by Ballylongford and Tarbert and this was  
12 overturned. The land was never sold.

13  
14 Over the years many proposals have come and gone.  
15 These included smelters, incinerators, a freedom ship, 14:10  
16 a transshipment centre and a leisure project. In  
17 relation to leisure, the Government has ruled out  
18 anything to do with leisure on this site as they have  
19 informed us that the land was bought specifically for  
20 heavy marine related industry and nothing else would be 14:10  
21 allowed go there.

22  
23 We have met with Government Ministers, a Tánaiste, we  
24 even met the Ministers from Iran on the site, who  
25 wanted to build an oil refinery. We, of course, have 14:10  
26 had several dealings with Shannon Development and  
27 discussions with them in relation to same. Concerning  
28 the proposal before us today, that is the LNG terminal,  
29 which was first propose in 2006. When this was

1 announced we formed a working group with Tarbert  
2 Development Association, under the chairmanship of  
3 Shannon Development. We have visited different sites  
4 in Europe, spoke with consultants and from what we have  
5 seen and heard we believe that this proposal would be a 14: 11  
6 very positive and welcome development for our area.

7  
8 Compared to other industries which might have come,  
9 such as the zinc smelter, a hydrochloric acid plant, an  
10 incinerator, we believe that the LNG proposal will be a 14: 11  
11 much cleaner and safer development. It will bring many  
12 badly needed jobs to an area where unemployment is  
13 high. Many small businesses in our village have closed  
14 down over the years and between the years 1991 and 2002  
15 the population of the Ballylongford area has declined 14: 11  
16 by 14%.

17  
18 In relation to the safety and environmental aspects of  
19 the proposal, we believe that in the first instance  
20 Shannon Development have checked out this proposal and 14: 12  
21 otherwise, if it was not safe, they would not have  
22 entertained it. We rely on the Health and Safety  
23 Authorities and the other regulatory bodies to ensure  
24 that all up to date safety procedures, work practice  
25 and security methods are put in place. 14: 12  
26

27 We believe that the village of Ballylongford will be  
28 greatly affected by increased traffic, primarily during  
29 construction. All construction traffic coming from the

1 Listowel, Tralee, Ballybunion side of the site will try  
2 and come via Ballylongford. Proper infrastructure  
3 needs to be put in place to accommodate this.

4 Particularly, the main bridge in Ballylongford is of  
5 particular concern to us, as it is only 5.5 metres wide 14: 12  
6 and children going to school are in great danger at  
7 this particular location. They are in danger as it is,  
8 but when heavy construction traffic tries to come  
9 through we believe that the danger will increase  
10 considerably. We have proposed previously to Kerry 14: 13  
11 County Council that a pedestrian walk-way be located  
12 adjacent to this particular bridge.

13  
14 Kerry County Council, if this proposal goes through,  
15 will collect over 8 million in levies and we believe 14: 13  
16 that some of this money should be spent in doing these  
17 upgrades in Ballylongford village. In the future  
18 economic development of our area a gas spur line should  
19 also be carried from this site to all the villages and  
20 towns in the general area. 14: 13

21  
22 In relation to a community game proposed by Kerry  
23 County Council, we request that any committee being  
24 formed to administer this should include reps from the  
25 Ballylongford Tarbert Development Association. Thank 14: 13  
26 you very much.

27  
28 **END OF SUBMISSION**

29



1 opinion from? Secondly, he mentioned that Shannon  
2 Developments said if the project was not safe they  
3 wouldn't even entertain it, I wanted to know what  
4 safety investigations Shannon Development undertook.

5 **MR. LYNCH:** I cannot speak for Shannon 14: 15  
6 Development, but I do know  
7 that they do research and projects that are earmarked  
8 for that particular site, as we have discussed with  
9 them previously in relation to other different  
10 projects. 14: 15

11  
12 In relation to whom we have discussed independently, we  
13 have spoken with Marico Marine, who are Marine and Risk  
14 Consultants Limited, from London, in relation to the  
15 project. Thank you. 14: 15

16 **MS. GRIFFIN:** Marico Marine, from my  
17 understanding, is going to  
18 undertake the marine risk assessment. I had understood  
19 that that was being dealt with separately than the land  
20 risk assessment, so I just wonder if they had spoken to 14: 16  
21 anybody in relation to the land risk assessment?

22 **MR. LYNCH:** No, we have relied upon the  
23 reports already submitted  
24 with the LNG proposal. Also, in relation to the land  
25 safety assessment, we have visited sites in, 14: 16  
26 particularly, Zeebrugge, and in Barcelona, and from  
27 what we have seen there we are quite happy with the way  
28 these plans are run and the environment around the, how  
29 safe it is.

1 MS. GRIFFIN: I just wondering, when you  
2 visited the plants abroad  
3 did you speak to anybody other than people working for  
4 the LNG plant? Did you speak to locals?  
5 MR. LYNCH: No, this was a fact finding 14:16  
6 mission by ourselves.  
7 MS. GRIFFIN: So you didn't speak to any  
8 local people, to get their  
9 opinion?  
10 MR. LYNCH: No. In the case of 14:16  
11 Barcelona, the site was  
12 located practically in the middle of a city, with  
13 apartments and houses and shops within a quarter mile  
14 of the site. We didn't think it was necessary to  
15 discuss it with any locals. 14:17  
16 MS. GRIFFIN: But surely the locals would  
17 be the people to speak to,  
18 because they are living with it day in and day out. I  
19 mean, obviously, people working in an LNG plant will  
20 give you a positive answer, because they are employed 14:17  
21 by the people.  
22 MR. LYNCH: I just told you what we  
23 did. If you speak to  
24 different people you get different opinions. We found  
25 our own opinion. 14:17  
26 MS. GRIFFIN: Was the trip financed by  
27 yourselves or was it  
28 financed by Shannon LNG?  
29 MR. LYNCH: Could you repeat the

1 question please?  
2 **MS. GRIFFIN:** The trip to Barcelona, was  
3 it financed by  
4 Ballylongford Enterprise or was it financed by Shannon  
5 LNG? 14: 17  
6 **MR. LYNCH:** Ballylongford Enterprises  
7 did not finance it, it was  
8 organised by Shannon Development.  
9 **MS. GRIFFIN:** Was it paid for by Shannon  
10 Development? 14: 18  
11 **MR. LYNCH:** I don't know. When we  
12 formed our working group we  
13 requested that we would need to visit sites abroad and  
14 we told that to Shannon Development and they said they  
15 would facilitate that. 14: 18  
16 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Is it true that they put  
17 you up in a five star hotel  
18 and you were singing on the tables, saying "next stop  
19 Hawaii"?  
20 **MR. LYNCH:** I heard that mentioned on 14: 18  
21 the radio this morning. I  
22 would just like the speaker to let me know where he got  
23 his information from.  
24 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** It was a question. Answer  
25 the question? 14: 18  
26 **MR. LYNCH:** Certainly I can't dance on  
27 a floor, never mind up on a  
28 table.  
29 **INSPECTOR:** I think we have heard

1 enough along those lines.  
2 Can we pass on to the next person? Okay, the next one  
3 on the list is Morgan Heaphy.  
4 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** He's not here today. He  
5 will be here on Wednesday. 14: 18  
6 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. The next one then is  
7 the Tarbert Ballylongford  
8 Working Group.  
9  
10 **MS. JOAN MURPHY PRESENTED HER SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS:** 14: 19  
11  
12 **MS. MURPHY:** My name is Joan Murphy and  
13 I am part of the Tarbert  
14 Ballylongford Working Group. As Noel has already  
15 mentioned, this group was set up when LNG first 14: 19  
16 proposed this project. Shannon Development suggested  
17 that rather than having two separate groups that we  
18 would form one working group, which would meet with  
19 Shannon LNG and with Shannon Development. And this we  
20 did. We have had a number of meetings with them, not 14: 19  
21 as many as some people might suggest. I think, maybe,  
22 one every six months. We have been involved in  
23 ensuring that the open days were held, one in Tarbert  
24 and one in Ballylongford. Personally, I have been  
25 involved in ensuring that any information that I had in 14: 20  
26 relation to Shannon LNG would be put in the Tarbert  
27 Notes and the Kerry Man so as to make people aware of  
28 what the situation was at any given time. So, we have  
29 really acted more as facilitators for the project at



1 this point. That's about all I have to say. Thank  
2 you.

3  
4 **END OF SUBMISSION**

5  
6 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you. The next on the  
7 list is the Tarbert  
8 Development Association.

14: 20

9  
10 **MS. JOAN MURPHY PRESENTED HER SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS:**

14: 20

11  
12 **MR. MURPHY:** Joan Murphy, I am the  
13 current chairperson of  
14 Tarbert Development Association and have been in that  
15 position for the last two years. We do have an AGM,  
16 where people are democratically elected to our  
17 association, because it has been suggested that we are  
18 not. Tarbert Development Association would have  
19 somewhat similar concerns to Ballylongford Development  
20 Association in relation to the project. In principle  
21 we welcome it, subject to proper planning procedures.  
22 We hope that every possible safety precaution which is  
23 necessary to ensure a safe and secure project would be  
24 put in place before this would at all commence.

14: 20

14: 21

25  
26 The main areas of concern that we would have, just like  
27 Ballylongford, is traffic management through Tarbert.  
28 I think the Kerry County Council are probably going to  
29 talk about that later. But we certainly would have

14: 21

1 some concerns there. We have concerns in relation to  
2 the traffic that would be passing two schools, one is  
3 the national school in Tarbert and the other is the  
4 comprehensive. Now, the comprehensive school is on the  
5 route to the site and I think the company have stated 14: 21  
6 in their EIS that they are prepared to monitor the  
7 truck traffic along that road to ensure that no trucks  
8 pass the school 20 minutes before and 10 minutes after  
9 school opening time. I would like to think that the  
10 same facility would be put in place for the national 14: 22  
11 school, which is on the Listowel/Tarbert route, and  
12 that the school opening and closing times would be  
13 facilitated by not allowing heavy traffic to pass at  
14 those times.

15  
16 The other areas that we would like to see put in place  
17 is that when the gas line does go in place, if planning  
18 permission is given for it, that there would be spurs  
19 left for places to connect to afterwards, Listowel,  
20 Tralee, Tarbert, Ballylongford of course. The other 14: 22  
21 thing we would like to see happening is -- and I think  
22 we have mentioned it in our submission anyway -- is the  
23 ESB lines. I believe it will take two 110 volt lines  
24 to bring power to the plants. We would like to see  
25 those going underground from the point at which they 14: 22  
26 now have the pylons, which is approximately three  
27 quarters of a mile from Tarbert, that the remainder of  
28 the lines would be put underground. Thank you.

29

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END OF SUBMISSION

INSPECTOR: Thank you. Do we have  
Donncha and Margaret  
Finucane.

14: 23

MR. DONNCHA FINUCANE PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION, AS

FOLLOWS:

14: 23

MR. FINUCANE: My name is Donncha  
Finucane and I live  
adjacent to the site in Kilcolgan. I am farming there  
at the moment. I have just been asked by my neighbours  
to speak a little bit about the property values of the  
area. There are a number of houses for sale in the  
area and they have not been sold because of the  
proposed gas factory. Also, I have had property myself  
that I have had almost sold but when the LNG was  
proposed the sale of that fell through as well. That's  
all I have to say.

14: 23

14: 23

END OF SUBMISSION

14: 24

INSPECTOR: Thank you. C & M Safety  
Limited.

MS. MURPHY: They won't be here until  
tomorrow.

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INSPECTOR: Eileen O' Connor.

MS. EILEEN O' CONNOR PRESENTED HER SUBMISSION AS  
FOLLOWS:

MS. O' CONNOR: Hello. My name is Eileen O' Connor and I am speaking on my own behalf and on behalf of Steven Lynch. If this application is granted as proposed, Steven Lynch's 1.88 acres will be landlocked, which I believe is illegal. The development as proposed also denies access to legitimate users and occupiers of the land, namely farmer John O' Connor, myself, his wife and our children. We hereby formally ask An Bord Pleanála to address this issue.

14: 24  
14: 24  
14: 25

Also, my second point is that the applicant proposes to dam up the stream which supplies water to the cattle and other animals on this 1.88 acres, and they claim this will not reduce the flow, which I think is a physical impossibility. In rough weather, at high tide and with high seas, saltwater backs up the stream and salt is deposited. This is counteracted by a good flow of fresh water during times of heavy rain. I assert that the applicant has not taken this aspect of flow, this balance of nature, into account. It is not good enough to say merely that there will always be some water in the stream. Any reduction in water supply to our land is not acceptable to us and is probably

14: 25  
14: 25

1 illegal and is certainly detrimental.

2  
3 Again, we do not have sufficient funds to go to court  
4 on this and we are now asking An Bord Pleanála to  
5 safeguard our rights. If the development goes ahead 14: 26  
6 and there is not sufficient water what will we do? Go  
7 to court against the company that has assets of 500  
8 million or more? We ask An Bord Pleanála not to allow  
9 the damming of the stream. Thank you.

10  
11 **END OF SUBMISSION**

12  
13 **INSPECTOR:** Ms. O'Connor, can I just  
14 clarify. Yourself and  
15 Steven Lynch together own this is 1.88 acres? 14: 26

16 **MS. O'CONNOR:** Steven Lynch owns the 1.88  
17 acres and my husband is his  
18 nephew, and Steven Lynch is retired and my husband now  
19 farms that land.

20 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you. Next on my list 14: 27  
21 is Eamonn McElligott,

22  
23 **MR. E. McELLI GOTT PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION, AS FOLLOWS:**

24  
25 **MR. E. McELLI GOTT:** I am Eamonn McElligott, I 14: 27  
26 own a quarry in the parish  
27 of Ballylongford. I employ 21 people in this quarry.  
28 The road proposed by Kerry County Council to bring the  
29 construction traffic into Tarbert into this site is

1 through Tarbert town, which has a major traffic problem  
2 at present due to the ferry and other traffic. I  
3 propose that some of this traffic be brought through  
4 the town of Ballylongford. This would reduce the  
5 construction traffic by half. 14: 28

6  
7 If it is allowed through Ballylongford, I have  
8 submitted a map showing the direction that I propose.  
9 This map would reduce the traffic by half and would  
10 also help the environment by reducing that traffic down 14: 28  
11 to half the amount of loads to draw the same amount of  
12 stuff in the same period. This needs to be looked at.

13  
14 Now, the Tarbert Development Association were worried  
15 about the schools in the area. If this map was looked 14: 28  
16 at, there is no school on this route. It would not  
17 affect the bridge in Ballylongford, as they will come  
18 in from the Liselton side. It is a straight pass  
19 through the town. We already have drawn loads and  
20 built a road on this site for the construction of a 14: 28  
21 road, it is already there. There was no problem with  
22 this traffic. That was done last summer.

23  
24 So, I would seriously look at taking a few steps to  
25 bring the traffic that way by Kerry County Council. 14: 28  
26 That is what I propose.

27  
28 **END OF SUBMISSION**  
29



1  
2 MS. LILY O' MAHONY PRESENTED HER SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

3  
4 MS. O' MAHONY: My name is Lily O' Mahony.  
5 unfortunately I have no 14: 33  
6 qualifications. I am in Tarbert, in Kilcolgan, 36  
7 years. My husband's name is John. He was born and  
8 reared in Kilcolgan. In 1981 we had to sell our home  
9 to Shannon Development by a Compulsory Purchase Order.  
10 We had no choice in that matter. We were one of the 14: 33  
11 last people to leave. We lost all our neighbours and  
12 friends back then, and the only time we meet them now  
13 is when we are going to their funerals. We are the  
14 only family who stayed in Kilcolgan, as we bought a  
15 site is off Shannon Development, across the road, and 14: 33  
16 built our house there. We are now surrounded by  
17 Shannon Development land. We are afraid now that we  
18 will have to leave again. Will we have any choice?

19  
20 I am also worried that people in the area are not 14: 33  
21 qualified or educated enough to do any of the jobs  
22 already advertised as they are looking for ten years  
23 experience.

24  
25 We have six grandchildren, all under the age of eight, 14: 34  
26 all living in the area, and we see them every day. Now  
27 when they go out to play all we have to do is to close  
28 our gate and we know that they are safe. With the  
29 volume of traffic and people that it is proposed to



1 come to the area we, as grandparents, think that this  
2 would not be a safe place for them anymore. It is  
3 proposed that 88 lorries would cross the road every  
4 day. If they go out they have got to go back past our  
5 house again. That's equalling 176 lorries per day. 30 14: 34  
6 vans for the workers. That equals 60. If they go out  
7 they have got to go back. That's not counting the  
8 amount of office people and the cars that they would  
9 have. There are four school buses passing our house  
10 morning and evening, five days a week. How do we 14: 35  
11 ensure the safety to all those children, as children,  
12 you know, like to play around while they are waiting  
13 for the bus? How will that affect them? Is this what  
14 we have to put up with in our final years? Thank you.

15  
16 **END OF SUBMISSION**

17  
18 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you, Mrs. O' Mahony.  
19 The next on the list or  
20 Raymond and Margaret O' Mahony. 14: 35

21  
22 **MR. RAYMOND O' MAHONY PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS**  
23 **FOLLOWS:**

24  
25 **MR. RAYMOND O' MAHONY:** My name is Raymond 14: 35  
26 O' Mahony. I was born and  
27 reared in Kilcolgan. I live too close to the proposed  
28 LNG terminal. I am the width of the road from it. Why  
29 should we have to represent ourselves here today? Is

1 it because people are afraid to ask questions which  
2 involve people's way of life?

3  
4 When studies were done on the landbank of the birds,  
5 the fish, the foxes etc., did they forget to turn 14: 36  
6 around and observe the local people? Or were we being  
7 ignored? I have a wife and three young children and I  
8 am worried about them and my home.

9  
10 My first point. I have a fireplace with photos on the 14: 36  
11 mantle, when lorries and tractors go up the hill at the  
12 side of my home, which is about 150 metres from my  
13 house, it will vibrate what is on top of the mantle. I  
14 am worried that when blasting rock on the proposed site  
15 will it damage my home? When I was building my house 14: 36  
16 the engineer told me that the foundation was built on  
17 the same line as rock from my house to the shoreline.

18  
19 My second point. When I queried my home insurance  
20 company it took ten weeks to give me an answer 14: 37  
21 concerning the proposed LNG terminal. The answer I got  
22 back was that my insurance company would not cover any  
23 damages during blasting or construction at an LNG  
24 terminal and that LNG would have to submit their  
25 insurance to me to give to my insurance company. When 14: 37  
26 we ask questions concerning the LNG terminal people  
27 think they can laugh at us.

28  
29 My third point. I am not happy with the main entrance

1 straight across from my home. When highlighted to LNG  
2 at a meeting in the Lanterns they tried to sort it out.  
3 When speaking to an LNG representative, one of them  
4 said to me "I didn't think your house was that close to  
5 the entrance". What else do they not know about us? 14: 37

6  
7 My fourth point. Does Shannon LNG expect my family and  
8 neighbours to be awake 24-hours a day during  
9 construction, when we are used to a quiet, peaceful  
10 life? This is not acceptable, that locals have to put 14: 38  
11 up with this for the rest of their lives. Thank you.

12  
13 **END OF SUBMISSION**

14  
15 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you Mr. O' Mahony. 14: 38  
16 That concludes the list  
17 that I have. Is there anybody else that I have not  
18 called who wishes to make a short submission?

19  
20 **MR. TIM MAHONEY PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION, AS FOLLOWS:** 14: 38

21  
22 **MR. TIM MAHONEY:** My name is Ted Mahoney,  
23 from Killorgan Residents  
24 Association. I have a booklet here which was drafted  
25 by the company of LNG that shows my old house, which I 14: 39  
26 was born in. Now it is going to be demolished. When  
27 the IDA purchased the land in 1981 I would not give the  
28 rights to my mother to sell the house so they gave me a  
29 site across the road to my mother, which I said I would

1 put up and keep her in until she passed away. Which I  
2 did.

3  
4 Now, in 1999 I had another problem. They wanted to  
5 plant trees in front of me, a shelter belt they called 14: 40  
6 it, to block the view of the Shannon, which I  
7 appreciated. Luckily enough I was able to stop that  
8 from Shannon Development. Now, they are coming and  
9 they are blocking my view again with a road which is  
10 going to be roughly 50 metres from my boundary wall and 14: 40  
11 they are putting up a fence, like we see in Longesh (as  
12 heard) during the troubles, which is going to be 2.9  
13 metres high. They are going to put in an embankment to  
14 cover up the car park that's going to block my view of  
15 the Shannon. I tried to solve problems with LNG for 14: 40  
16 the last six months but they have come to no agreement  
17 with me regarding that. They have said all right that  
18 they will move the fence back further than that. I  
19 have drawings there of the fence and the distance it  
20 will be from my house and other houses in the area. 14: 41  
21 This is my main concern. I think all the other  
22 concerns have already been pointed out, which I worry  
23 also about, road traffic and so forth like that. Thank  
24 you very much.

25  
26 END OF SUBMISSION

27  
28 INSPECTOR: Thank you Mr. Mahoney. We  
29 have a gentleman at the

1 back, can we get a microphone over to him.

2  
3  
4 MR. THOMAS O' DONOVAN PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS  
5 FOLLOWS:

14: 41

6  
7 MR. O' DONOVAN: Good afternoon everybody.  
8 My name is Thomas O' Donovan  
9 and I did put in a short submission, mainly on safety  
10 and environmental grounds and mainly on the necessity 14: 41  
11 or not of this proposed LNG plant. I had a couple of  
12 questions to ask but I will just defer them to a little  
13 later.

14  
15 A couple of years ago there was a proposed wind farm to 14: 42  
16 be erected close by to Tarbert and there was several  
17 people went around objecting to it, and some of the  
18 people objected on visual grounds. I feel that if  
19 these proposed tanks go up it will be a lot worse than  
20 the wind turbines. But I also ask on the necessity of 14: 42  
21 this thing and do we need a huge, you know,  
22 conglomerate like this to come in to supply LNG to a  
23 small country like this?

24  
25 I have it from a reliable source that this gas would be 14: 43  
26 to supply other parts of Europe. So it is not just for  
27 Ireland alone. Basically, I do believe that any leaks,  
28 and which have been established, that there would be a  
29 100 million gallons of chlorinated water going back

1 into the River Shannon. The salmon, they are a shore  
2 fish and it is one of the few places left that salmon  
3 can freely come up to supply other rivers and to spawn  
4 and everything else. And the dolphins and wildlife in  
5 general. So, my main concerns would be environmental 14: 43  
6 and wildlife. And is it really necessary? Thank you.  
7

8 **END OF SUBMISSION**

9  
10 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you Mr. O'Donovan. 14: 44  
11 Anybody else? I see a hand  
12 up there.  
13

14 **MR. MICHAEL FINUCANE PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS**  
15 **FOLLOWS:** 14: 44

16  
17 **MR. M. FINUCANE:** Hello, my name is Michael  
18 Finucane, Chairman of  
19 Ballylongford Bay Oyster Growing Association and, also,  
20 past Chairman of the Irish Shellfish Association and I 14: 44  
21 would like just to comment on the submission by Johnny  
22 McElligott, regarding the detrimental affect that this  
23 proposed LNG terminal would have on the oysters.

24  
25 We have been growing oysters there for the last 30 14: 44  
26 years and we have found that they are completely  
27 compatible with aluminium. Money Point, Tarbert Island  
28 and also the ships that come up and down the river, we  
29 have never found any trouble regarding pollution or

1 regarding background aluminium levels. They are tested  
2 every month by the Department of Marine and we have  
3 never had any problems or we can't see any foreseeable  
4 problem with this proposed LNG terminal. So, as  
5 regards the oyster growers, we welcome this development 14: 45  
6 to the estuary. Thank you.

7 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you. You have some  
8 questions, Mr. McElligott.

9 **END OF SUBMISSION**

10 14: 45  
11 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** May I ask some questions.  
12 How many oyster growers  
13 does he represent? And have all the oyster growers  
14 raised the same concerns or non-concerns as him?

15 Considering that there are going to be 108 million 14: 45  
16 gallons of water, chlorinated and discharged into the  
17 Shannon daily?

18 **MR. FINUCANE:** I represent what oyster  
19 growers are in the bay. We  
20 produce 60 tonnes per annum. It is tonnage we go by. 14: 45

21 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay. So they have no  
22 environmental assessment on  
23 the exact affects on oysters; is that correct?

24 **MR. FINUCANE:** We did studies with BIM,  
25 and state fisheries board, 14: 46  
26 and we did seminars and we went to different management  
27 lectures on how to handle the oysters, and we can get a  
28 print out, if you like, of the readings of the test  
29 every month. There are not detrimental affects

1           whatsoever on the oysters. I have never seen  
2           Mr. McElligott down in that bay in my life and I can't  
3           see how he can speak for the oyster growers. I have  
4           never seen Mr. McElligott until about two months ago  
5           anyway, so I couldn't hardly see him there in the last 14: 46  
6           30 years.

7           **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**           I am not speaking for the  
8   oyster growers, I just want  
9           to know did they do a specific test or environmental  
10          assessment impact on the oysters from this particular 14: 46  
11          project?

12          **MR. FINUCANE:**           They did not on this, but  
13   they are done regularly by  
14          the Department of the Marine every month for background  
15          aluminium readings due to the proximity to Alkan. And 14: 47  
16          we have not found any increase in the aluminium.  
17          That's an existing facility. This facility hasn't come  
18          at all yet, so we can't do an impact when it isn't  
19          there. Thank you.

20          **INSPECTOR:**           Can I just ask you do the 14: 47  
21   outfalls from Money Point  
22          and Tarbert have a similar affect?

23          **MR. FINUCANE:**           They have no detrimental  
24   affect whatsoever. In  
25          fact, if the water temperature increases the oysters 14: 47  
26          grow better. Because they are Pacific oyster and they  
27          are indigenous to the Pacific Ocean. They are not the  
28          native oysters we are farming at all.

29          **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**           What if the water



1 temperature decreases?  
2 MR. FINUCANE: If it increases they  
3 will grow better.  
4 MR. J. MCELLIGOTT: And if it decreases what  
5 happens? 14: 47  
6 MR. FINUCANE: It decreases in winter  
7 naturally.  
8 INSPECTOR: Are your oyster beds  
9 downstream of Money Point and Tarbert?  
10 MR. FINUCANE: Down stream, yes. To the 14: 48  
11 west of all those  
12 facilities.  
13 INSPECTOR: Right. Okay, thank you.  
14 The other gentleman here.  
15 14: 48  
16 MR RICHARD O' SULLIVAN PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS  
17 FOLLOWS:  
18  
19 MR. O' SULLIVAN: Mr. Inspector, my name is  
20 Richard O' Sullivan, I am 14: 48  
21 with Shannon Development Company. I would like to read  
22 a Shannon Development statement on the proposed Shannon  
23 LNG proposal. Copies of the statement will be  
24 available immediately afterwards.  
25 14: 48  
26 Set up in 1959 by the Irish Government to promote  
27 Shannon International Airport in the post jet era,  
28 Shannon Development is today Ireland's only dedicated  
29 regional economic development company. Shannon

1 Developments shareholder is the Government and the  
2 company reports to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade  
3 and Employment.

4  
5 The company's brief is to drive regional economic 14: 49  
6 development in the wider Shannon area, known as the  
7 Shannon Region. This is covers an area of some 10,000  
8 square kilometres, spanning counties Clare, Limerick,  
9 North Tipperary, South Offaly and North Kerry, which  
10 collectively have a population of over 450,000 people. 14: 49

11  
12 Shannon Development's role is to lead and drive the  
13 broader regional economic development of the Shannon  
14 Region across all areas of economic activity, working  
15 in partnership with the people of the Shannon Region, 14: 49  
16 Government, other public bodies and the private sector.  
17 The company uses its extensive property portfolio  
18 throughout the region to enable economic development by  
19 delivering property solutions for indigenous and  
20 overseas enterprises. The company is also the tourism 14: 50  
21 authority for the Shannon region.

22  
23 One of the company's key goals is to ensure that the  
24 potential of the less developed areas of the Shannon  
25 Region is realised. To deliver on its mission and 14: 50  
26 goals Shannon Development concentrates on the four key  
27 results areas of flagship initiatives, tourism, Shannon  
28 Free Zone and property.

29

1 Shannon Development is committed to leveraging its  
2 property portfolio to ensure the provision of leading  
3 edge enterprise infrastructure and to drive the  
4 delivery of key projects in the region. Within this  
5 context, the development of Kerry Deep water Zone KDZ, 14: 51  
6 Shannon Developments six hundred acre Landbank with  
7 deep water access to the Shannon Estuary, is a key  
8 flagship initiative for the company.  
9

10 Shannon Development has retained its lands at KDZ for 14: 51  
11 suitable large scale maritime industry related projects  
12 which can utilise the key attribute of the lands, i.e.  
13 their close proximity to deep navigable, sheltered  
14 waters in the Shannon Estuary. Shannon Development has  
15 strongly promoted the potential of the site to relevant 14: 51  
16 international industry sectors over many years. Over  
17 those years there have been several project inquiries  
18 for potential projects at KDZ, none of which came to  
19 fruition.

20 14: 52  
21 Part of the process of finding suitable projects for  
22 KDZ involves a public call for expressions of interest.  
23 This public process exposes the lands to the  
24 marketplace and invites interest from all interested  
25 parties. Public transparency is necessary to ensure 14: 52  
26 that proper procedures and governance are applied in  
27 relation to the potential sale of a public asset.  
28

29 In 2004, Shannon Development again advertised for

1 expressions of interest in respect of its lands at KDZ.  
2 Responses were received and business plans were sought  
3 from those who responded. The Shannon LNG project  
4 emerged through that process. An economic appraisal of  
5 the Shannon LNG project was subsequently carried out by 14: 52  
6 Shannon Development.

7  
8 Shannon Development undertook a detailed appraisal of  
9 the business plan proposed by Shannon LNG, which  
10 included determining consistency with national policy 14: 53  
11 in relation to regional development and energy. That  
12 appraisal included:

- 13
- 14 - Independent certification of compliance with  
15 procurement procedures. 14: 53
- 16 - Obtaining the views of both the Department of  
17 Communications, Energy, and Natural Resources and  
18 for Commissioner of Energy Regulation.
- 19 - Analysis of the business plan and project finance
- 20 - A review of the parent companies of Shannon LNG 14: 53
- 21 - Analysis of economic impact of the proposed project.
- 22

23 From the Shannon Development perspective the project  
24 has a number of benefits, including: -

- 25 14: 54
- 26 - A regional solution to the national energy issue
- 27 - Significant improvement in national diversity and  
28 security of energy supply.
- 29 - Private sector investment in Ireland's energy

- 1 infrastructure, including strategic gas reserve,  
2 which otherwise might require state funding in the  
3 future.
- 4 - The strength and successful track record of the  
5 parent companies. 14: 54
  - 6 - No state subsidies or incentives were sought.
  - 7 - There was a significant capital investment  
8 involved.
  - 9 - Substantial number of jobs in construction, and up  
10 to 50 permanent jobs. 14: 54
  - 11 - Knock on benefits to remaining Shannon Development  
12 lands at KDZ
  - 13 - A anchor tenant for KDZ.
  - 14 - The increase in shipping and port charges.
  - 15 - Economic benefits for the local community and for 14: 55  
16 Kerry County Council.
  - 17 - Alternative supply of gas to existing electric power  
18 stations.
  - 19 - Local purchase of goods and services.
  - 20 - The availability of competitively priced, high 14: 55  
21 volume clean energy could itself attract other  
22 industries to the Shannon Region.
  - 23 - Potential supply of natural gas to the remaining KDZ  
24 lands, and
  - 25 - A successful planning history on the site would 14: 55  
26 facilitate future projects.

27  
28 The appraisal also identified potential risks,  
29 including: -

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29

- If a planning application fails then there could be a negative planning history for KDZ, which might adversely affect future businesses.
- secondly, that the overall project might not proceed. 14: 56
- The negative implications, if the planning application fails, for the future development of a national strategic asset, i.e. the Tarbert Ballylongford Landbank, KDZ. 14: 56

The outcome of Shannon Development's economic appraisal and negotiations with the promoters is that Shannon Development fully supports the proposed project going forward through the planning processes. 14: 56

In March 2006, Shannon Development approved the offer of a purchase option to Shannon LNG. Detailed negotiations were concluded between Shannon Development and the promoters to move the project forward. The reason for granting a purchase option, rather than concluding a land sale, was to allow the space and time for the detailed design and technical appraisal of the proposed project and for full consultation with the relevant authorities and the local community. This was the first time Shannon Development offered a purchase option on any of its lands at KDZ. 14: 57

Shannon Development carried out its appraisal of the

1 Shannon LNG proposal and fully supports this proposal  
2 in its capacity as owner of a national strategic site  
3 and as the regional development authority.

4  
5 Shannon Development has no responsibility for the 14: 57  
6 granting approval for this project in terms of planning  
7 or health and safety, which are matters for the  
8 relevant authorities.

9  
10 The Shannon LNG project is an excellent fit with the 14: 58  
11 natural attributes of this important national strategic  
12 site adjoining sheltered deep water. In granting an  
13 option on the site Shannon Development believes this  
14 project has the potential to make a real difference to  
15 long term energy costs, as well as to deliver 14: 58  
16 significant environmental and employment benefits. It  
17 also has the potential to secure Ireland's long-term  
18 supply of natural gas and provide an important economic  
19 boost in North Kerry. Shannon Development fully  
20 supports this project. Thank you. 14: 58

21  
22 END OF SUBMISSION

23  
24 INSPECTOR: Thank you Mr. O'Sullivan.

25 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Can we have some questions 14: 58  
26 please?

27 INSPECTOR: Mr. McElligott has a  
28 question.

29 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: Yes, one question is about

1    there was a planning  
2        application going through An Bord Pleanála, at the  
3        pre-consultation stage, for the petroleum storage  
4        facility. Now, the company's name was Sem Euro and Sem  
5        Euro's sister company, Sem Logistics has an exact 14:59  
6        equivalent petroleum storage facility next to the LNG  
7        terminal in Milford Haven in Wales. We have tried to  
8        get information about how many tanks of petroleum  
9        bi-products they were planning to put on the site. It  
10      is just adjacent to the LNG terminal here in the 14:59  
11      landbank. Could he answer that please?  
12      **INSPECTOR:**                    Can you answer that,  
13    Mr. O'Sullivan?  
14      **MR. O'SULLIVAN:**                Mr. Inspector, discussions  
15    are ongoing and no decision 14:59  
16      has been taken by Shannon Development in relation to  
17      that proposal.  
18      **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**            Because there would be  
19    strong environmental  
20      consequences. For example, a petroleum storage 14:59  
21      facility in Whiddy Island in 1979 blew up and killed 50  
22      people, Lord have mercy on them, and this would have  
23      serious cascading affects for an equivalent project  
24      here.  
25      **INSPECTOR:**                    We are dealing with an LNG 15:00  
26    project at the moment.  
27      **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**            The second question is:  
28    Noel Lynch said that the  
29      trips to Barcelona and Zeebrugge and Milford Haven were



1 sponsored by Shannon Development; is that true?  
2 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. O'Sullivan?  
3 **MR. O'SULLIVAN:** No, Mr. Inspector.  
4 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay. €1200 was paid for  
5 the Ballylongford GAA hall, 15:00  
6 that was rented for a few hours, which is normally only  
7 about €50 or something, did Shannon Development pay for  
8 that?  
9 **MR. O'SULLIVAN:** No, Mr. Inspector.  
10 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Is the Feasibility Study 15:00  
11 grant aided? Or is there  
12 going to be any tax deductions for this development,  
13 according to Shannon Development?  
14 **MR. O'SULLIVAN:** No, Mr. Inspector.  
15 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Finally, there was a mooted 15:01  
16 transshipment facility, why  
17 did they not proceed with that? Or what do you know  
18 about the transshipment facility that was mooted at  
19 much the same time as the Shannon LNG proposal?  
20 **MR. O'SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, over the 15:01  
21 years there have been many  
22 potential projects, none of which came to fruition.  
23 This is the first time that Shannon Development has  
24 entered into a purchase option agreement for the  
25 Shannon LNG project, which it fully supports. 15:01  
26 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** What happened to the  
27 transshipment facility in  
28 more detail, please?  
29 **INSPECTOR:** This is just one of a

1 number of proposals that  
2 may or may not have occurred. If they didn't make any  
3 great further progress I don't know that there is much  
4 point in pursuing it at this stage.

5 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** That would be a question 15:01  
6 for the promoters of that  
7 project.

8 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Somebody else will raise  
9 this question later. One final question. Did they do  
10 any risk assessments of this development? 15:02

11 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. O'Sullivan, a risk  
12 assessment?

13 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Shannon Development did an  
14 extensive analysis of the  
15 project, but Shannon Development is not the competent 15:02  
16 authority in relation to technical matters on health  
17 and safety. The Shannon Development analysis focussed  
18 primarily on economic merits of the project. But  
19 naturally, if Shannon development had concerns that the  
20 project was unsafe or unsound then they would not have 15:02  
21 granted the purchase option.

22 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** You did not consider  
23 engaging any consultants to  
24 do a brief risk assessment?

25 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, what Shannon 15:02  
26 Development did do was it  
27 granted a purchase option, which is subject to  
28 conditions, one of which is the securing of planning  
29 permission. So, Shannon Development merely provided

1 the space and time for the detailed technical  
2 assessments to go forward.

3 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** One final point. If it  
4 turns out that there is an  
5 exclusion zone to be put around that Shannon LNG 15: 03  
6 development, which would stop the development of the  
7 rest of the Landbank, would you be happy with that,  
8 since your goals were to encourage industrial  
9 development in the Landbank? And there is only going  
10 to be 50 jobs maximum at the end and there is going to 15: 03  
11 be an exclusion zone stopping any other development,  
12 does that not mean that you are not achieving your own  
13 goals and, therefore, contradicting your stated aims?

14 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. O'Sullivan?

15 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** That's a hypothetical 15: 03  
16 question. I am not sure  
17 that any exclusion zones are imposed at this time.

18 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** If it, as a top tier Seveso  
19 2 site, has an exclusion  
20 zone around it, if that happens would you be unhappy 15: 04  
21 that the rest of the Landbank would not be developed?

22 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Again, that's a  
23 hypothetical question.  
24 There is no exclusion zone.

25 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** No, no, it is a question. 15: 04  
26 If? You know, most top  
27 tier Seveso II sites have some exclusion zone, so if,  
28 which is highly likely, it is not hypothetical. It,  
29 which is highly likely, that there is going to be an

1 exclusion zone preventing other industrial development  
2 of the Landbank would that be not going against the  
3 stated aims of Shannon Development for that Landbank,  
4 considering so many people had to leave in a Compulsory  
5 Purchase Order for the development of this industrial 15: 04  
6 area?

7 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, by contrast,  
8 the provision of LNG to the  
9 adjoining lands, which will remain in Shannon  
10 Development ownership, would enhance their value as a 15: 05  
11 location of future development and future businesses.

12 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** If it happens that they do  
13 not enhance it what would  
14 your reaction be then? If it sterilises the rest of  
15 the Landbank what would your reaction be? 15: 05

16 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** That's a hypothetical  
17 question. We don't believe  
18 it will happen.

19 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Most Seveso II sites, top  
20 tier sites, have exclusion 15: 05  
21 zones up to 2 kilometres, so it is not hypothetical,  
22 given the major accidents and hazards regulations. And  
23 this is the top tier Seveso II site, so it is a  
24 dangerous chemical installation. So, if it does not  
25 allow other industrial development that would create 15: 05  
26 jobs, for example the Sea Energy Group have mooted with  
27 you the possibility of creating a wave generating  
28 power, which would create 6% of electricity around the  
29 coast, they said they could not develop it if the LNG

1 terminal comes along. So, it is not hypothetical.  
2 They have already stated that if the LNG terminal is  
3 built that they would not be able to continue with you  
4 developing the waive energy next to an LNG terminal.  
5 So, that would bring more jobs than an LNG terminal. 15:06  
6 So, it is not hypothetical so could you just answer the  
7 question, please?

8 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. O'Sullivan?

9 **MR. O'SULLIVAN:** There are no exclusion  
10 zones. The imposition of 15:06  
11 such exclusion zones would be a matter for the  
12 competent authority. Shannon Development would deal  
13 with it and get on with it.

14 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** If it turns out that there  
15 is an exclusion zone, what 15:07  
16 would Shannon Developments action be if the rest of the  
17 landbank, for which many people have suffered, they  
18 made internal refugees of people, forcing them to leave  
19 the landbank, and if at the end of the day you are only  
20 going to create 50 long term jobs for a gas terminal do 15:07  
21 you not understand that maybe you are not living up to  
22 your obligations, in which these people left under  
23 false presences then? So, you have a responsibility to  
24 answer the question: If the rest of the landbank is  
25 sterilised for this top tier Seveso II dangerous 15:07  
26 chemical, which some LNG experts state nobody should be  
27 living within three miles of it. And LNG tanker coming  
28 up as the explosion capacity of 50 Hiroshima bombs with  
29 the amount of energy in it. So, if there is an

1 exclusion zone, have you not thought of how the rest of  
2 the Landbank would not be developed and the  
3 consequences on your stated aims, when you bought that  
4 land and forced people out, that this Landbank is not  
5 being developed? Now, that is not a hypothetical  
6 question if you understand English? 15: 08

7 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, Shannon  
8 Development has taken into  
9 account the potential impact of this development on its  
10 remaining lands at Kerry Deep Water Zone. A 15: 08  
11 contingency in relation to those lands is included in  
12 the purchase option agreement. So, Shannon Development  
13 is fully cognizant of its responsibility in relation to  
14 all its Shannon Development lands at Kerry Deep Water  
15 Zone. 15: 08

16 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay. So, if the option  
17 agreement is just not an  
18 option to purchase, subject to planning permission, but  
19 does the option agreement also include the proviso that  
20 the rest of the Landbank can be developed? 15: 08

21 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** The option agreement is a  
22 commercial agreement,  
23 details of which are commercially sensitive and people  
24 may, if they wish, apply under freedom of legislation  
25 in relation to that document. 15: 09

26 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** We already applied for a  
27 Freedom of Information,  
28 which you refused to give. We just want to know if the  
29 rest of the Landbank cannot be developed how would

1 Shannon Development, under its own stated aims for the  
2 landbank -- because I have to point out that, whether  
3 it is written down or not, you bought that landbank and  
4 forced people out under the understanding that that  
5 would create jobs and other industrial development on 15:09  
6 that landbank. Now, if it turns out that you cannot  
7 develop the rest of the landbank have you not broken  
8 your own rules and, therefore, invalidated your option  
9 to purchase agreement with Shannon LNG?

10 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Again, Mr. Inspector, 15:09  
11 the purchase option  
12 agreement is a lengthy document. It has many clauses.  
13 It took quite some time to put in place. But Shannon  
14 Development's responsibilities in relation to all its  
15 lands at Kerry Deep Water Zone are taken into account 15:10  
16 in the process of evaluation, which Shannon Development  
17 did on this proposal, and these are reflected in the  
18 binding agreement with Shannon LNG.

19 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay. Under the EIA  
20 directive the general 15:10  
21 public are entitled to all the environmental  
22 information and environmental impact information before  
23 the planning process finishes. So we should have a  
24 right to that information. I am hereby asking you to  
25 determine if the rest of the landbank cannot be 15:10  
26 developed how will that affect the rest of the landbank  
27 and how will Shannon Development react in function to  
28 that? He has not answered the question. If the  
29 landbank cannot be developed, where does that leave it?

1 Shannon Development bought this land under -- it is not  
2 Shannon Development land, it is land held for the  
3 people of the North Kerry and for the development of  
4 the North Kerry region. That was very specifically  
5 stated, either written or orally submitted to people, 15: 11  
6 that this was going to create jobs and it was going to  
7 be the jump start for the rest of the North Kerry area.  
8 If you cannot develop the rest of the landbank have you  
9 not broken your own agreement with the North Kerry  
10 people? 15: 11

11 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** No, Mr. Inspector. Shannon  
12 Development has applied its  
13 processes to all the lands at Kerry Deep Water Zone.

14 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** You have an obligation to 15: 11  
15 the people of North Kerry.  
16 You said you were going to develop the landbank for the  
17 people of North Kerry. If it turns out that it is only  
18 going to give 50 jobs for gas that is not going to go  
19 to Kerry, as Paddy Power said, because the gas is going  
20 east to Limerick, if it cannot bring any industrial 15: 12  
21 development to North Kerry have you not broken your own  
22 rules? I mean, this is very specific, it is not  
23 hypothetical. You would have taken the land under a  
24 false pretext if your aim was to just sell it off to a  
25 multinational, who has absolutely no commitment to the 15: 12  
26 area. It is not a strategic development because it is  
27 in the hands of a multinational, like we saw with  
28 Shannon Airport, where, you know, business is business.  
29 Now, if the rest of the landbank cannot be developed



1 can have you not broken a tacit agreement with the  
2 people of North Kerry?

3 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Our expectation,  
4 Mr. Inspector, is that the  
5 LNG project will in fact enhance the remaining Shannon 15: 12  
6 Development Lands at Kerry Deep Water Zone for future  
7 businesses.

8 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** That's very good, yeah. So  
9 if it does not enhance the  
10 rest of the port? I mean, I am sorry to be going on 15: 13  
11 about this, but this is an extremely important  
12 question. If the whole landbank was only bought for  
13 one industry, which is going to exclude all other  
14 industries, then you have broken your agreement. It is  
15 not a legally binding agreement. The people of North 15: 13  
16 Kerry, they had to get out of that place. Many people  
17 did not want to leave. They were told when they were  
18 leaving 'you better just put up with it, it is for the  
19 greater good'. So, if the greater good is just one  
20 multinational, to the exclusion of the rest of the 15: 13  
21 area, and no other jobs coming in, then have you not  
22 broken your agreement, if that is the case? You say  
23 that it will enhance the area. What if it does not  
24 enhance the rest of the landbank, what will your  
25 reaction be then? You have not answered that question. 15: 13

26 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, our  
27 expectation is that it will  
28 enhance the remaining lands.

29 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. McElligott, what is

1 your point here?

2 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** My point is --

3 **INSPECTOR:** Is it your point that he is

4 in breach of his terms by

5 making this agreement, purchase option? 15: 14

6 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Exactly, yes.

7 **INSPECTOR:** That that offer could be

8 void. Is that what you are suggesting?

9 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Yes. We are of the opinion

10 that if this development 15: 14

11 goes ahead with just one company, Shannon LNG,

12 developing on that landbank, to the collusion of the

13 rest of the landbank, creating a sterilising affect,

14 then that is a void agreement. Because that landbank

15 was specifically bought to develop the North Kerry 15: 14

16 area. So, they can say they can get planning

17 permission, but if there is an exclusion zone for the

18 rest of the landbank then they have broken their

19 agreement, and it can be challenged and will be

20 challenged. If we could afford it, of course. 15: 14

21 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, the contrary

22 in fact is the situation,

23 in that we have seen further inquiries in relation to

24 our remaining lands. In fact, Shannon Development is

25 on record, in relation to one of those proposals, 15: 15

26 stating that discussions are at an early stage.

27 **INSPECTOR:** Discussions with

28 yourself?

29 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** With ourselves, yes.

1           **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**                   That's Sem Euro.

2           **INSPECTOR:**                             So, without naming the  
3   names, are you aware of a  
4           number of projects which appear to consider themselves  
5           to be viable beside this proposed LNG plant?   15: 15

6           **MR. O' SULLI VAN:**                   Mr. Inspector, Shannon  
7   Development had a second  
8           call for expressions of interests after the  
9           announcement of the Shannon LNG project and this was a  
10           call for expressions of interest in the remaining   15: 15  
11           Shannon Development Lands. That process has been in  
12           place. There has been a Shannon Development press  
13           release in relation to one potential client for that  
14           project.

15           **INSPECTOR:**                             So you have one potential   15: 16  
16   client who is well aware of  
17           the LNG proposal and feels that their proposal would  
18           not be adversely affected?

19           **MR. O' SULLI VAN:**                   Correct, Mr. Inspector.

20           **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**                   And that company is Sem   15: 16  
21   Euro, which is for another  
22           Seveso site. It is a petroleum storage industry. No  
23           jobs.

24           **MR. O' SULLI VAN:**                   I have not indicated the  
25   number of inquiries.   15: 16

26           **INSPECTOR:**                             You said there was just one  
27   inquiry, now you are saying  
28           there is loads of inquiries.

29           **MR. O' SULLI VAN:**                   No, there is one that

1 Shannon Development has  
2 confirmed in the media that Shannon Development is in  
3 discussions with.

4 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Sem Euro, isn't it?  
5 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** That's correct. 15: 17

6 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Sem Euro is a petroleum  
7 storage facility. No jobs.  
8 When Whiddy blew up it killed 50 people, Lord have  
9 mercy on them. Having an LNG terminal next to it, you  
10 won't have the two, except if the precedent of the UK 15: 17  
11 is going to be followed.

12  
13 The other one was the Sea Energy Group, who made an  
14 expression of interest for a clean sustainable tidal  
15 electricity generating system, kinetic energy. But if 15: 17  
16 the rest of the landbank cannot be -- you are not going  
17 to get Sem Euro and the LNG terminal together, you are  
18 only going to get one of them. So, if the rest of the  
19 landbank cannot be developed have you not broke your  
20 agreement to the people of North Kerry? 15: 17

21  
22 You do not own this land, it was transferred over from  
23 the IDA. You held it on trust for the people. So, if  
24 this landbank is going to be just for one company. I  
25 mean, it is extremely important, because at the end of 15: 17  
26 the day there is a huge push to get this thing through,  
27 and that is fine, but people would have left those  
28 homes under the false pretext that it was going to  
29 develop the whole of the Shannon Estuary. And if that

1 cannot be developed then they have broken their  
2 agreement, and they are not allowed to do that.

3 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Mr. Inspector, Shannon  
4 Development hasn't broken  
5 any agreement. Shannon Development has entered into 15: 18  
6 one purchase option agreement and it is Shannon  
7 Development's view that the Shannon LNG project would  
8 enhance the remaining lands for further projects.  
9 Plural .

10 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay, that's your view. 15: 18  
11 But if you have not taken a  
12 risk assessment. You have no independent risk  
13 assessment done on this project so you either have the  
14 view or you don't. Do you have some view that -- did  
15 you do a risk assessment that we do not know about? 15: 18

16 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** No, Mr. Inspector.

17 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Right. So you are making  
18 an assumption of, you know,  
19 a very extremely dangerous product. So you are already  
20 preempting the result. But if it turns out the result 15: 19  
21 says that the rest of the Landbank has to be  
22 sterilised, -- I mean I keep asking the question. This  
23 is my one chance to get this answer, because they will  
24 not answer under the Freedom of Information, they will  
25 not answer under Statutory Instrument 133. They will 15: 19  
26 not answer to the general public. They just go on with  
27 the same mantra that is on the front page of the  
28 Shannon LNG brochure.

29

1 But if the rest of the Landbank cannot be developed how  
2 do you think the rest of the people who have left the  
3 area will feel about that? Do you not agree that  
4 Shannon Development always said that this land was for  
5 the development of jobs? They did say jobs. And 50 15: 19  
6 jobs. In Listowel you have 45 people working inside  
7 one nightclub. This is for 50 jobs. A Tesco  
8 Supermarket will bring 100 jobs. This is for 50  
9 long-term jobs. So your stated aim all along in the  
10 media, all over the years since I was a child, was you 15: 19  
11 were going to bring jobs to this place.

12  
13 Mr. Inspector, I would like you to just get him to  
14 answer the question because we will never get him in  
15 front of us again, this guy from Shannon Development. 15: 20  
16 They just want to wet (sic.) the assets and get rid of  
17 them. We don't know how much they are selling them  
18 for, what is the agreement, because none of us are  
19 party to it. And they are going to sell our best  
20 resource in North Kerry for a song and a prayer. If he 15: 20  
21 cannot answer the question -- if it turns out that the  
22 rest of the Landbank cannot be developed he must answer  
23 that question, at least give us the dignity of an  
24 answer. By saying it is a hypothetical, he cannot say  
25 that. If the rest of the Landbank cannot be developed 15: 20  
26 what is Shannon Developments' position on that then?  
27 Very clear.

28 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. O'Sullivan, do you want  
29 to go further on this?

1                   **MR. O' SULLIVAN:**                                 Again, Mr. Inspector, any  
2   potential negative impact  
3                   on the remaining Shannon Development lands is a matter  
4                   that has been considered by Shannon Development in its  
5                   appraisal of the project. Shannon Development fully                   15: 21  
6                   supports this project, having completed its appraisal,  
7                   its economic appraisal of the project.

8                   **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**                                     Could he give us more  
9   details of the economic  
10                   appraisal of this project exactly? How did they figure                   15: 21  
11                   it was going to bring jobs into North Kerry? I mean,  
12                   you own the land, you sold it, you held it in trust for  
13                   the people. If it is only going to bring 50 jobs for a  
14                   multinational, who is an offshore based company, or  
15                   whatever. What is your economic appraisal that you                   15: 21  
16                   have undertaken? You have obviously take no risk  
17                   assessment. So, let's just take about the economic  
18                   appraisal. Have you done an overall economic appraisal  
19                   on a regional impact as well on the Shannon Estuary?  
20                   Because if that comes in other stuff goes out. Have                   15: 21  
21                   you done that economic appraisal?

22                   **MR. O' SULLIVAN:**                                     Mr. Inspector, the Shannon  
23   Development process of  
24                   appraising business proposals is a matter for Shannon  
25                   Development and it would be inappropriate to put into                   15: 22  
26                   the public domain the mechanism whereby projects are  
27                   appraised.

28                   **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:**                                     Could you give us more  
29   details of that appraisal

1 you did exactly, please?

2 **MR. O' SULLIVAN:** Indeed. Shannon  
3 Development would see the  
4 proposed project as being a regional solution to the  
5 national energy issue, significant improvement in the 15: 22  
6 national diversity and security of energy supply.  
7 Shannon Development would see it as being a private  
8 sector investment in Ireland's energy infrastructure,  
9 including a strategic gas reserve, which otherwise  
10 might require State funding in the future. Our 15: 22  
11 analysis included the strength and successful track  
12 record of the parent companies. We included that there  
13 would be no State subsidies or incentives involved. A  
14 significant capital investment in North Kerry was taken  
15 into account. The substantial numbers of jobs in 15: 23  
16 construction, and up to 50 permanent jobs was included.  
17 The knock on benefit to remaining Shannon Developments  
18 lands at KDZ was included. As was the provision of an  
19 anchored tenant for KDZ.

20 15: 23  
21 The economic benefits include increase in shipping and  
22 port charges. Benefits for the local community and for  
23 Kerry County Council. Alternative supply of gas to  
24 existing electric power stations in Ireland. Local  
25 purchase of goods and services. The availability of 15: 23  
26 competitively priced, high volume clean energy could  
27 itself attract other industries to the Shannon Region.  
28 The potential supply of natural gas to the remaining  
29 KDZ lands, and a successful planning history on the



1 site would facilitate future projects.

2 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay, Mr. Inspector,  
3 that is a lot of national  
4 interest, but they have this land in the trust for the  
5 people of North Kerry. He has talked about a lot of 15: 24  
6 economic benefits for the country as a whole, and they  
7 are very questionable anyway, those examples he gave  
8 there. But for the specific interest of North Kerry,  
9 as opposed to any other region, he has not outlined how  
10 we can benefit. 15: 24

11 **INSPECTOR:** I think he has indicated  
12 that there is a potential  
13 client for the adjoining part of the Landbank and I  
14 don't think you are going to get any further in this  
15 line of questioning. 15: 24

16 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Yes. But if it turns out  
17 that... (INTERJECTION)

18 **INSPECTOR:** It may come up again on the  
19 health and safety module  
20 and the actual sterilisation or security zone may be 15: 24  
21 clarified at that point. And you will be bringing your  
22 own expert in on that point.

23 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Yes. But if it turns out  
24 that there is an exclusion  
25 zone, he is putting the assumption that that's an 15: 25  
26 anchor tenant, that will allow the development of the  
27 rest of the Landbank. But the question I asked has not  
28 been answered. If the rest of the Landbank cannot be  
29 developed have they not broken an agreement? You see

1 what I am getting at there, don't you?

2 **INSPECTOR:** I do, and I think Mr.  
3 O'Sullivan probably does  
4 too, but he has a different view point. He is saying  
5 that there is a potential client. 15: 25

6 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** He cannot determine that.  
7 So, if he cannot determine  
8 the exclusion zone, because that's not his remit, I  
9 just said if the consequences of this planning  
10 application is an advice that the rest of the Landbank 15: 25  
11 should not be developed I have asked him we will suffer  
12 from that, that will be our consequence, what we will  
13 suffer.

14 **INSPECTOR:** I think we will hear more  
15 about that under the health 15: 25  
16 and safety module, and we may well hear from the  
17 applicants themselves on that. So I think we will  
18 leave it at that for the moment.

19 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay, thank you, Inspector.

20 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. Did I see Mr. Fox 15: 26  
21 make an entrance. Do you  
22 wish to speak at the moment?

23 **MR. FOX:** I will leave it until  
24 later, thank you,  
25 Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much, and I am sorry I 15: 26  
26 was late.

27 **INSPECTOR:** Fair enough. Sorry, we  
28 have got a gentleman here.  
29

1  
2 **MR. BRANIGAN PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS:**  
3  
4

5 **MR. BRANIGAN:** My name is Desmond 15: 26  
6 Branigan. It is 50 years  
7 or more since I wrote my first articles on the capacity  
8 of the Shannon Estuary. In view of the developments in  
9 shipping that have taken place in recent years, both  
10 container traffic and larger craft, I got in touch with 15: 27  
11 Shannon Development and I must say that I was always  
12 dealt with courteously and without any delay  
13 whatsoever.

14  
15 I raised a query: Who owns the land? Or what land is 15: 27  
16 there available for development? And they told me  
17 that, and I have it in writing from them, that it was  
18 in order to hope to use it to develop a major marine  
19 development on that. And that is fair enough.

20 15: 27  
21 Now, a great deal of research was carried out by a  
22 gentleman that is here, Captain Kevin Given, and he  
23 produced a superb plan about what could be done with  
24 that site. I brought that particular plan to the  
25 attention of the Department, and I brought it to the 15: 27  
26 attention of others as well. The result of that was  
27 that I went to two international conferences, with the  
28 consent of the Department, with the knowledge of the  
29 last General Manager of Shannon Foynes. He accompanied

1 me to two international conferences, in Brussels and in  
2 Germany, and at each we were asked to produce plans of  
3 what could happen there and gave them our  
4 documentation.

15: 28

5  
6 Now, the one point that was made by Shannon Development  
7 to me, and it was actually in this matter, is that they  
8 would welcome if we could find somebody who would be  
9 interested in developing that particular site. I have  
10 that carefully on record.

15: 28

11  
12 As a result of the two conferences, ultimately I was  
13 approached by the leading international development  
14 authority, or company as it is, on port development.  
15 They asked me many questions, including: Who owns that  
16 land? Is it for sale? I said, look, I can't answer  
17 questions like that, it is nothing to do with me  
18 whatsoever. I came back and I reported exactly what  
19 had happened. I had further correspondence with this  
20 international man and I reported it to the Chief  
21 Executive of Foynes Harbour.

15: 29

15: 29

22  
23 He went to London. Unfortunately I got ill and I  
24 wasn't able to go there. Now, he was handling the  
25 situation up to the time of his departure -- it is the  
26 nicest word I could use -- from Foynes Harbour. He was  
27 handling the situation and I have no idea what has been  
28 happening since. But I was directly involved on the  
29 whole question of the usage of that land, as a result

15: 29

1 of my life long interest in, and with the late Dr. John  
2 DeCourcy, any marine development, but particularly of  
3 the Shannon Estuary. As I say, I was not advised as to  
4 what transpired when Brian went, the Chief Executive of  
5 Shannon Foynes, when he went to London. I didn't get 15: 30  
6 anymore detail of it. But it is extremely important.

7  
8 There is just one point I would like to make sir. It  
9 would, in my opinion, be much wiser for Shannon  
10 Development to say we can offer you an option to 15: 30  
11 purchase conditional to your getting the planning  
12 permission. In fairness to the Chairman of Shannon  
13 Developments, he laid down three or four points which  
14 he said would have to be rectified. But it would have  
15 been better, in my view, to withhold the right to 15: 31  
16 purchase until such time as those points have been met.

17  
18 I just want to make the point that there has been an  
19 ongoing effort at high level to get people interested  
20 in that land, and I did that with the consent of 15: 31  
21 Shannon Development, with the Department and with  
22 Shannon Foynes. Thank you, Sir.

23 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you. This is your  
24 document, is it?

25 **MR. BRANIGAN:** That's for tomorrow. 15: 31  
26 That's a matter for your  
27 decision, sir.

28 **INSPECTOR:** I haven't even opened it,  
29 so I am not aware of what's

1 in it at present so that's why I asked the question.

2 MR. BRANIGAN: Thank you, sir.

3

4 END OF SUBMISSION

5

15: 31

6 INSPECTOR: Do we have anybody else who  
7 wishes to make a short  
8 submission? Okay. Are you satisfied with that at this  
9 point? You don't wish to ask any questions.

10 MR. O'NEILL: No, I don't, Sir. Thank you. 15: 32

11  
12 INSPECTOR: How about the planning  
13 authority, any questions at  
14 this stage? No. Okay. Do we want to take a five  
15 minute break? Yes. We will take a five minute break. 15: 32

16

17 SHORT ADJOURNMENT

18

19

20 THE HEARING RESUMED, AS FOLLOWS, AFTER A SHORT 15: 37  
21 ADJOURNMENT

22

23 INSPECTOR: Okay, can I ask people to  
24 return to their seats  
25 please. Maybe we could begin. 15: 42

26

27 Before we go on to the next module, I just want to say  
28 that I had time to give it a few moments thought and I  
29 think Mr. McElligott has raised an important point

1 here, so I want to put Shannon Development,  
2 Mr. O'Sullivan, and, also, the applicant's on notice  
3 that the issue of the potential sterilisation of the  
4 remainder of the landbank is likely to be an issue of  
5 major importance for the Appeals Board, in terms of the 15: 44  
6 proper planning and sustainable development of the  
7 area. So, when we come to the health and safety module  
8 possibly you could come back and address that. You may  
9 need to think a bit more about it. So, I will leave it  
10 at that at this time and we will go on to the next 15: 45  
11 module, which is the need for the project, its national  
12 and regional and local context, the consideration of  
13 alternatives, and that includes alternative methods. I  
14 have certain people marked down here who may wish to  
15 speak on these issues. So, I would ask, first of all, 15: 45  
16 if Catriona Griffin wishes to speak, or if she is,  
17 indeed, present.

18 **MS. GRIFFIN:** No, I don't have anything  
19 to say on that.

20 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. Mr. Fox, you are 15: 45  
21 reserving your position, do  
22 you wish to speak on this issue?

23 **MR. FOX:** Not at this point.

24 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. Do we have DB Marine  
25 Research & Associates? Do 15: 46  
26 you want to speak on the issue of alternatives?

27 **MR. BRANIGAN:** It is part of that  
28 document, sir.

29 **INSPECTOR:** Well, we can only take this

1 document on board if you  
2 actually speak to it. You don't necessarily have to  
3 read the whole thing out, because it is quite a lengthy  
4 document.

5 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Oh no, I wouldn't expect 15:46  
6 that you would even permit  
7 that, sir. I can summarise parts of the whole thing  
8 quite briefly, in order to leave room for plenty of  
9 discussion.

10 **INSPECTOR:** Can I just clarify 15:46  
11 something then. Do the  
12 applicants have a copy of this document?

13 **MR. O'NEILL:** I don't think so, Sir, no.  
14 I haven't seen one.

15 **INSPECTOR:** Well, we can make this one 15:46  
16 available to them now. Can  
17 you make copies available to the applicants and the  
18 planning authority?

19 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Copies is a plural that I  
20 can't afford. 15:46

21 **INSPECTOR:** Copies is a plural. Well,  
22 I have one that I can make  
23 available to you.

24 **MR. O'NEILL:** If we are given a copy we  
25 can make copies. I will 15:47  
26 take a couple of minutes I imagine.

27 **INSPECTOR:** Can you get on with one for  
28 the moment? Or do other  
29 people insist on having a copy at this stage?



1 MR. BRANIGAN: Well, I can provide some  
2 copies, Sir.

3 INSPECTOR: How many copies do you  
4 have just at this moment?

5 MR. BRANIGAN: I think I have about eight 15: 47  
6 all together.

7 INSPECTOR: Can you make one of those  
8 eight available to the applicants?

9 MR. BRANIGAN: Of course.

10 INSPECTOR: And to the planning  
11 authority.

12 MR. BRANIGAN: But they are in another  
13 part of the building. This  
14 is only my own copy here I have. Do you think they  
15 should have it now? 15: 47

16 INSPECTOR: Well, I think they should.

17 MR. O'NEILL: I wonder, perhaps to save  
18 time, if we allow this  
19 witness come back to this issue and deal with another  
20 witness in the meantime. 15: 47

21 INSPECTOR: Well, in the meantime I can  
22 give you this copy and if  
23 you want to get copies.

24 MR. O'NEILL: If there are copies  
25 available it may be easier 15: 47  
26 to use the available copies. We will certainly make  
27 copies, but it will take some time before any volume of  
28 copy are made.

29 INSPECTOR: Okay, as do have this

1 copy I will give it to you  
2 and you can use it for the moment and otherwise copy  
3 it.

4 MR. BRANIGAN: Am I speaking about  
5 alternatives? 15: 48

6 INSPECTOR: Sorry?

7 MR. BRANIGAN: Is that the question, sir,  
8 alternatives?

9 INSPECTOR: Yes.

10

11 MR. BRANIGAN PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION ON THE  
12 ALTERNATIVES, AS FOLLOWS:

13

14 MR. BRANIGAN: The alternative is very  
15 simple and much more 15: 48  
16 economical than what is being proposed. Now, what they  
17 propose to do -- now, I don't want to get involved in  
18 all this chitchat about assisting the economy and  
19 helping Ireland and so forth. What they propose to do  
20 is to erect this facility ashore and pump LNG, Liquid 15: 48  
21 Natural Gas, into it. Ultimately there will be four  
22 tanks there. From the tanks they are regassed to their  
23 original state and put into thing.

24

25 Now, the danger in this whole thing, and that is 15: 49  
26 developed in this particular document, but there is a  
27 way in which the vast amount of very, very dangerous  
28 material can be very safely stored. The alternatives  
29 are quite simple. You don't need tankers, such as

1 this, to come in and pump all that LNG into tanks and  
2 then reconvert it, there is no necessity for it  
3 whatsoever. I am speaking as a marine man. I spent a  
4 good deal of my life in tankers. I brought fish oil  
5 from Iceland and much more material to the Turkish 15: 49  
6 Government for aviation spirit, etc. I know a good  
7 deal about that particular background.

8  
9 What is actually required is that we acquire -- and  
10 this is political, it is a matter for the Government to 15: 50  
11 decide -- we acquire, something that we and my  
12 colleagues have fought for 70 years to bring about,  
13 that we would have ships that would handle any part of  
14 the essential services of our country. Now, I have a  
15 statement in here from the late Sean Lemass, in which 15: 50  
16 he said "never again should we allow Ireland to be put  
17 in the position that we are in at the outbreak of the  
18 last war", when we had six tankers within 24-hours that  
19 were transferred to the British, they were on our  
20 register, transferred to the British register and other 15: 51  
21 cross channel ships as well, and we were left without  
22 any whatsoever. Ultimately, we had to buy wrecks of  
23 ships and I was a member of the first crew of the first  
24 ship that Irish Shipping bought.

25 15: 51  
26 As I say, the answer is very, very simple. I could  
27 tomorrow charter a tanker. No question about that.  
28 And tomorrow I could buy the necessary LNG, with some  
29 agreement, say, with Norway or someone like that, and

1 bring that down, but on board the modern tankers. This  
2 is a thing that dismisses completely the arguments  
3 being used in favour of that facility being put on the  
4 shore. No great difficulty at all about chartering and  
5 get the material. But aboard the modern ships, and I 15: 52  
6 can, if ever called upon, provide [inaudible], there is  
7 a regasification arrangement, whereby they can convert  
8 the LNG into natural gas, that the big facility that is  
9 being proposed for the land mass at Ballyshannon,  
10 convert it aboard the ship and pump it into -- and this 15: 52  
11 is in the Green Paper, it is in my own recommendations  
12 as asked for by the Government and it has also been  
13 said by the Joint Committee on Energy, that we should  
14 use the facilities that are available at Kinsale and  
15 elsewhere around the coast to store. Not in dangerous 15: 52  
16 tanks ashore, where they could be subject to -- I don't  
17 want to raise any -- I hope there is no people present  
18 who are to talk about the danger and security, that's  
19 another matter all together. But the tanker can be  
20 got. The fuel can be got. It can be brought down and 15: 53  
21 it can be pumped into Kinsale and other facilities that  
22 would be available. In that way it would be completely  
23 cheap, it would be absolutely cheap, absolutely safe  
24 and a source of supply could be absolutely guaranteed.

25 15: 53

26 There is a good deal that can be said by way of that  
27 kind of an alternative. But it is a simple thing. We  
28 want to buy the ships that brings the dam stuff into  
29 it. We have advocated for years the ships to carry our

1 own goods. The essential of trade, we have advocated  
2 it for years. Now, there is an opportunity for the  
3 Government, and the Northern Ireland Government, each  
4 to buy a tanker, buy the fuel from Norway, which is a  
5 handy place up the North Atlantic, take it down on 15: 54  
6 board these new tankers that can convert the LNG into  
7 gas aboard ship, without ever going near the land, and  
8 pump it into -- and that is in the Green Paper as  
9 well -- pump it into the Kinsale fields.

10  
11 That's the alternative, Sir, and I am prepared to  
12 answer any questions about it.

13  
14 **END OF SUBMISSION**

15  
16 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. Branigan, that is a  
17 very brief synopsis of what  
18 is in this document.

19 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Oh no, there is more than  
20 that in it, sir. But if 15: 54  
21 that should do it. That, I am afraid, does not answer  
22 the questions at all, you see. I spent too many years  
23 at this not to know that there is a great deal more  
24 involved here. No, Sir, there is a great deal more.

25 **INSPECTOR:** There is a great deal more, 15: 55  
26 but basically that is what  
27 is in there.

28 **MR. BRANIGAN:** That's the alternatives.  
29 The alternatives is only

1 one thing.

2 **INSPECTOR:** This module is about the  
3 alternatives. You say  
4 there is more to it than that?

5 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Of course. 15: 55

6 **INSPECTOR:** Right. Okay, we will take  
7 it at this stage and we  
8 will see what else is in it and at that point we will  
9 decide whether we can accept it or not.

10 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Do you mean to start on 15: 55  
11 this now.

12 **INSPECTOR:** No, that's as much as you  
13 want to say on the issue of  
14 alternatives, is that right?

15 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Yes, that's it. But there 15: 55  
16 are other very serious  
17 questions as well.

18 **INSPECTOR:** Well, we will allow people  
19 to have a look at this, I  
20 think, and then we will consider it further. 15: 55

21 **MR. BRANIGAN:** Thank you, Sir.

22 **INSPECTOR:** Okay, thank you.  
23 Mr. McElligott, do you wish  
24 to say anything on the issue of alternatives and the  
25 need for the project, its national, regional, local 15: 56  
26 context.

27 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Yes, but I think I would  
28 like to do it in video  
29 presentation form. Maybe do the video presentation and

1 explain at the same time.

2 INSPECTOR: Okay, that's fine. Do you  
3 want to do that now then?  
4

5 MR. J. MCELLIGOTT PRESENTED HIS SUBMISSION AS FOLLOWS: 15:59  
6

7 MR. J. MCELLIGOTT: Mr. Inspector, hello.  
8 Ladies and gentlemen. My  
9 name is Johnny McElligott and I am speaking on behalf  
10 of the Kilcolgan Residents Association. First of all, 16:00  
11 I just say have to state that we object that full  
12 disclosure of all environmental information concerning  
13 this application has not been made available to the  
14 general public in a timely manner and are, therefore,  
15 only participating in this oral hearing under protest, 16:00  
16 and on the clear understanding that it is our opinion  
17 that we should still be allowed participate in the  
18 decision make progress when this information becomes  
19 available.

20 16:00

21 For example, we asked the Health and Safety Authority  
22 to provide us with specific information on the  
23 specified areas subject to a major accident planning  
24 regulations under the Seveso II Directive. We asked  
25 for that under Statutory Instrument 133 of the Planning 16:01  
26 Regulations. Basically, what we wanted was to know the  
27 area that was going to be affected by an emergency plan  
28 in the event of this planning application being  
29 successful. Now, the rules kind of state that it is

1 only up to the applicant to deal with the emergency  
2 plans that would take place after they get planning  
3 permission. However, that's only for the land use  
4 planning criteria of the Health and Safety Authority.  
5 But since we are dealing with a lot of very serious 16:01  
6 safety issues, the general public should know, for  
7 example under the Seveso II, a major accidents and  
8 hazards regulations, a top tier Seveso II site has to  
9 have an evacuation plan, for instance, of an area that  
10 would be affected under a worst case scenario accident. 16:02  
11 That would involve evacuation plans etc., and that  
12 should be tested at least once every three years. So,  
13 if the people of Ballylongford, Tarbert, Glin, Moyvane,  
14 knew that they were within an area that would be  
15 affected by a serious incident then maybe they would 16:02  
16 react more differently than they have done up to  
17 present.

18  
19 So, that was one of the bits information, that  
20 everything has been split up into different Government 16:02  
21 Departments and nobody really sees the overall impact  
22 of this project until planning permission is given.  
23 And that is specifically prohibited by the EIA  
24 directive and the Seveso II Directive.

25 16:02  
26 The Department of Agriculture and the Department of  
27 Environment have requested more information on  
28 environmental impacts of, for example, entrainment fish  
29 species in the massive pumps they are thinking of



1 building. They have requested a reply from the  
2 applicant and further works on the EIS and we, the  
3 general public, will not know what the results of that  
4 request will be. So, having an oral hearing, we think,  
5 is very premature and it is about ticking off the boxes 16:03  
6 and stopping us from participating at a later stage.  
7 Okay, you might say that it is just an information  
8 gathering exercise, but we would like to be able to  
9 participate at a later stage as well.

10 **INSPECTOR:** You are going a bit fast  
11 now.

12 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** Do you want me to go back  
13 again?

14 **INSPECTOR:** Could you go back a little  
15 bit. Have you got a script 16:03  
16 you are reading from? No, it is just notes. I can  
17 have a script ready in about two days time, if you  
18 would like.

19 **INSPECTOR:** Is that acceptable?

20 **MR. O'NEILL:** It is acceptable if it is 16:03  
21 confined to the evidence  
22 that Mr. McElligott is giving, rather than expanding on  
23 it and I won't have an opportunity of dealing with  
24 that.

25 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay, so I will touch on 16:03  
26 all the issues I am going  
27 to expand on in writing. I will expand on all the  
28 issues orally and I will just give you a written.

29 **MR. O'NEILL:** Indeed. I understand, in

1 fact, what is being offered  
2 to you, Mr. Inspector, is effectively a précis of what  
3 Mr. McElligott is saying. I would like to see that  
4 documentation, I am concerned. I am not suggesting any  
5 mala fides on the part of Mr. McElligott, but matters 16:04  
6 may occur to him which he may not have dealt with in  
7 his oral submission.

8 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** I will highlight those  
9 specifically then, other issues, if I raise them, I can  
10 note that. 16:04

11 **INSPECTOR:** Sorry, I can't hear what  
12 you are saying.

13 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Sorry.

14 **INSPECTOR:** And particularly our  
15 stenographer. 16:04

16 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** So what do you want?

17 **INSPECTOR:** Clearly, slowly, please.

18 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay. First of all, we are  
19 objecting that we have to  
20 participate in this process at this stage, because we 16:04  
21 do not have all the environmental information we  
22 require. One of the environmental bits of information  
23 that we are requesting is the type of emergency plan  
24 that would be put in place. The Health and Safety  
25 Authority say that, that is only done after planning 16:05  
26 permission is given. But since it will have an affect  
27 on people, and that is environmental information as is  
28 defined in the Seveso II Directive.

29

1 Now, at Cove Point LNG terminal in Calvert County they  
2 do have such an emergency plan, where, for instance,  
3 people have to dial up a certain telephone number and  
4 they are logged into a system so that if ever there is  
5 an accident there is a mass telephone call of every 16:05  
6 number on that database. There are sirens, there is an  
7 evacuation plan and there is the media, you know  
8 television and radio. And that has been put into  
9 practice. So, if people in North Kerry knew that they  
10 would have to live with this evacuation plan now, 16:06  
11 rather than waiting until planning permission is given,  
12 then they might react differently.

13  
14 Now, equally the Department of Agriculture, in their  
15 submissions to An Bord Pleanála, and the Department of 16:06  
16 the Environment have asked for more environmental  
17 information. Specifically to do with, for example,  
18 fish entrainment into the massive pumps that are being  
19 put into the Shannon Estuary. The Department of  
20 Environment also asked for information on an ancient 16:06  
21 pre-historic bog underneath the water, which was not  
22 highlighted by Shannon LNG but by a previous submission  
23 made by Boland. So, really, we should know what the  
24 outcome of that environmental information is before we  
25 can participate completely. So, all this information 16:06  
26 and the oral hearing is happening so quickly that we  
27 are not being entitled to do so and that's why I  
28 protest.

29

1 Thirdly, we asked for information on the Sem Euro  
2 application and it was not forthcoming. That is at the  
3 pre-consultation stage at An Bord Pleanála, like we  
4 discussed earlier. We are also awaiting the results of  
5 the Marine Risk Assessment that is being carried out by 16:07  
6 Shannon and Foynes Port Company. Really, people should  
7 know what the outcome of that Marine Risk Assessment  
8 would be before any judgment could be made and to allow  
9 people a timely fashion to participate in the planning  
10 process. So that's why we are objecting there. 16:07  
11

12 The second point is that safety is our main priority.  
13 You know, we are covering all the other issues only for  
14 completeness. But the real problem is the safety.  
15 Now, our problem is that the HSA are using a very 16:07  
16 limited criteria to give its okay to the planning  
17 application, to say that they are not objecting against  
18 the planning application. They are saying that the  
19 probability of an accident is low, or whatever, and  
20 they base their exclusion zones according to this 16:08  
21 probability. But this probability is highly  
22 speculative and it is done by the applicant themselves.  
23 So, nobody has independently assessed this probability.  
24

25 However, as Dr. Jerry Havens says, world renowned LNG 16:08  
26 expert, who is coming from the States tomorrow morning  
27 just to deal with this point, is that the consequences  
28 of the accident are so serious that in the land use  
29 planning criteria that has been applied by the HSA they

1 should take the consequences of an accident as well  
2 into consideration.

3  
4 Now, the Health and Safety Authority had given us until  
5 last Friday to put in a submission to them. On 16:09  
6 Thursday we sent in our submission, 6,000 words with  
7 input from three world renowned LNG experts. We got a  
8 letter from An Bord Pleanála on Friday saying, oh, they  
9 had already submitted their okay of the project on  
10 Wednesday. Immediately An Bord Pleanála sent that 16:09  
11 ruling by the HSA, if you call it that, to every single  
12 applicant, but they didn't send the submissions of  
13 everybody else to all the applicants, they just cherry  
14 picked the ones they wanted to send to put it in a good  
15 light. We resent that, because we think it is already 16:09  
16 the planning authority, An Bord Pleanála, having too  
17 close a relationship to the applicant.

18  
19 Now, like I said, Dr. Jerry Havens is going to arrive  
20 tomorrow morning from America and he is, hopefully, 16:10  
21 going to be able to speak on Wednesday and I would like  
22 if the Health and Safety authority and if the Shannon  
23 Foynes Port Company could be present, because he  
24 highlights the issues that a risk assessment must take  
25 into account, both the affects on land and an LNG spill 16:10  
26 on water. Since the company that undertook the risk  
27 assessment, QRA, for Shannon LNG ERN, they outsourced  
28 that to a Dr. Andrew Franks and from my limited  
29 research into Dr. Andrew Franks I could find no LNG

1 experience. He is experienced in risk assessment but  
2 not LNG.

3  
4 So, I think a lot of words have been said about the  
5 dangers of LNG, etc. and people are saying, oh, but you 16:10  
6 are just searching this on the internet. But on  
7 Wednesday we will have the expert that can talk  
8 authoritatively on that subject.

9  
10 Now, I have got four bits of videos to show you. The 16:11  
11 first one is a short one on the Shannon Estuary, it  
12 shows the context that we are in. It is a video clip  
13 of the Shannon dolphins courtesy of the BBC 1 coast  
14 programme. It is going to show Dr. Simon Berrow and  
15 the dolphins in the Shannon Estuary. There are two 16:11  
16 points I would like to bring up on this. One is that  
17 Dr. Simon Berrow, who undertook the impact on the  
18 dolphins in the Shannon Estuary for Shannon LNG, he did  
19 no test... (INTERJECTION)

20 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. McElligott, can you 16:11  
21 speak to module. You are  
22 turning very much on to health and safety.

23 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Which do you want me to do  
24 so? Which module?

25 **INSPECTOR:** Well, this part of the 16:11  
26 module is on the need for  
27 the project, its national and regional and local  
28 context.

29 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** And alternatives.

1 INSPECTOR: Consideration of  
2 alternatives, including  
3 alternative methods. I thought you had something to  
4 say on that in your original submission.

5 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: I have, okay. Right, okay, 16:12  
6 Alternatives. We realise  
7 that when we were looking at this planning application  
8 and when we are asking for the rejection of the  
9 planning application one of the things that have to be  
10 looked at is whether there are other alternative sites 16:12  
11 that can do exactly the same thing. As far as we are  
12 concerned, there are other alternative sites that can  
13 do it extremely safely.

14  
15 One of these alternative methods is an offshore 16:12  
16 floating storage and regasification unit. Now, Shannon  
17 LNG has said that there is no example of a floating  
18 storage facility that would hold tanks that exist  
19 today, and none are under construction. However, this  
20 has changed in the last few months. There was Golar 16:12  
21 LNG, who have, I think, bought up a couple of ships to  
22 convert them from LNG carriers into LNG storage  
23 facilities. There is also ExxonMobil, who have now put  
24 in an application to build an offshore floating storage  
25 facility 20 miles off the coast of New York, or New 16:13  
26 Jersey. This floating storage facility to will do  
27 exactly the same thing as what they propose down in  
28 Tarbert.

29

1 What this will do is it will store LNG 20 miles  
2 offshore. So, you are immediately getting rid of the  
3 safety risks involved. And it can be done in exactly  
4 the same way. Now, I have a little video that will  
5 just show that and you will get a better idea for what 16:13  
6 it actually is.

7  
8 (VIDEO PLAYED)

9  
10 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Okay, Mr. Inspector, that's 16:19  
11 just to prove that there is  
12 one alternative. I mean, that's an alternative that  
13 causes no safety issues whatsoever to the general  
14 public. So, if there is a vapour cloud or everything  
15 leaks it will go 20 miles and then it goes beyond, from 16:19  
16 what I read from what the expert's say, at a certain  
17 stage there is too much oxygen in the vapour clouds and  
18 it will not ignite.

19  
20 Now, I am not a proponent of offshore terminals, but I 16:20  
21 am just saying that there are other alternatives that  
22 can be done. If the Government are saying that this is  
23 in the national interest, to have this, that does not  
24 mean that they have to take the first guy that comes  
25 along and says 'oh, I can do this for you'. They have 16:20  
26 to be able to say 'hold on, can somebody else do this  
27 better?'. So that's one alternative that exists.

28  
29 ExxonMobil, they have put in a planning application for



1 that terminal and it is, I think, for about 1 billion  
2 dollars they are going build it, which is about €650  
3 million. Shannon LNG had said in their EIS that, you  
4 know, it is very expensive, the alternative offshore,  
5 etc. But if an independent company wants to build it, 16: 21  
6 and they are going to make money out of it - they are  
7 getting no government funding either, or anything like  
8 that - they see it as economically viable and they  
9 realise that it is getting rid of all the risks and  
10 still doing exactly the same thing. That shi pload 16: 21  
11 there is going to cater for about 5 million residential  
12 users per day. So, just to get that in. It is nice to  
13 get a picture so then you can get the image.

14  
15 Now, also, there is another type of offshore storage 16: 21  
16 facility.

17 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. McElligott, can you  
18 just clarify. It said on  
19 that video "a federal permitting process", how far has  
20 that process gone at this stage? 16: 21

21 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** It has been submitted just  
22 before Christmas.

23 **INSPECTOR:** So, there is no indication  
24 of whether this project  
25 will go ahead or be permitted. 16: 21

26 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** And there is no indication  
27 that Shannon LNG's process  
28 will go ahead either, is there?

29 **INSPECTOR:** Quite.

1 MR. J. McELLI GOTT: You know, so. They are not  
2 going to put in a planning  
3 application for something that can't be done. It is  
4 not in their interest.

16: 22

5  
6 However, there is another offshore facility used by  
7 ExxonMobil and it is called a GBS. It is a gravity  
8 based system. They put in for planning application for  
9 that and succeeded and that's off to coast of Italy.

10 Because the Italians had a big problem with onshore LNG 16: 22  
11 terminals. I think there was an accident a few years  
12 ago, with a vapour cloud, and just because the cloud  
13 went out to sea instead of into land they learned their  
14 lesson and they decided they would go in very remote  
15 places. Isola Delavante is the name of the place, it 16: 22  
16 is the North Adriatic. That is like a platform in  
17 about 30 metres of water, I think, and it is about 19  
18 miles offshore. That costs about €900 million and that  
19 is being built in Gibraltar. That is in the process of  
20 going ahead, of being built. I think it is due to come 16: 23  
21 on stream next year. That is going to feed into the --  
22 that's going to be taken from Gibraltar. It will take  
23 about 22 knots, 22 miles a day or something to bring it  
24 across to Italy.

16: 23

25  
26 There are two other alternatives. There is Accelerate  
27 Energy and they have, in Gulf Gateway Terminal, 116  
28 miles off the coast of Louisiana, they have a submerged  
29 buoy, offshore buoy technology, where there is

1 basically the pipeline, like you saw coming out there,  
2 but instead of being into a gasified storage facility  
3 an LNG ship arrives and connects directly on to the  
4 pipeline, it pulls up the pipeline with a buoy system  
5 and then it pumps the regasified LNG, it regasifies it 16:24  
6 on board and pumps it into the pipeline.

7  
8 Now, Shannon LNG said that that's fine, but when you  
9 have one LNG -- because that's not going into any  
10 storage facility -- but when you have an LNG ship that 16:24  
11 comes -- I don't know, is it 17 hours it spends  
12 there -- it pushes the regasified LNG into the  
13 pipeline. When that ship goes away then there is a  
14 time lapse where there is a fall in pressure on the gas  
15 that's going into that system. However, they have 16:24  
16 counteracted that by having two pipelines, with two  
17 different taps, so ships could come in, in parallel.

18  
19 There is another terminal in the UK called Teesside,  
20 and that's a gas port. That's also run by Accelerate 16:24  
21 Energy. Now, that pumps directly into the pipeline in  
22 the UK. The ship comes up and is gasifying the LNG  
23 onshore at the docks and it gasifies it and pumps it  
24 into the system. And that only costs 40 million  
25 dollars, apparently. Not 500 million like this project 16:25  
26 here, it only costs 40 million dollars and it can be  
27 done very quickly.

28  
29 There is also new technology on the scene, which allows

1 LNG ships now to pump directly from an LNG carrier  
2 directly into salt caverns. They exist in the North of  
3 Ireland. They cost about 480 to 650 million dollars.  
4 So, the idea is that, you know, going with what Des  
5 Branigan was saying about using the depleted gas fields 16: 25  
6 off the Kinsale gas field, we could get the LNG ships  
7 to pump directly into the depleted gas reservoirs  
8 underneath the sea, which are almost depleted. But I  
9 think they are owned by Marathon and, I don't know,  
10 Paddy Power could probably explain more, he was 16: 26  
11 President of Marathon up to 1998, so maybe they have  
12 some control still over it, why they are still gasing  
13 it, or something like that. I am not sure.

14  
15 But the whole idea anyway is that there are other 16: 26  
16 alternatives that one can implemented. So, this  
17 Shannon LNG project, if it is refused, it is not being  
18 refused and stopping the development of LNG importation  
19 into Ireland, it is just that this method might be  
20 refused. Also, maybe there is another more remote 16: 26  
21 place in Ireland, which would not have the population  
22 that would not be affected in Ireland. So, onshore is  
23 still a possibility too.

24  
25 Because we question did they really do the EIS, looking 16: 26  
26 for alternative locations, when in actual fact I think  
27 they probably found the site first and then ticked all  
28 the boxes and said 'oh, we looked at all these other  
29 sites'. Because Eileen O'Connor was telling me that

1 when they spoke with Shannon LNG at their offices about  
2 the land, Stevie Lynch's land, that they did bring up  
3 the point that 'oh well, if you don't accept it we have  
4 an alternative site in mind'. Was it in Cork or  
5 something?

16: 27

6 **MS. O'CONNOR:** Cork. Kinsale.

7 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** So, it was as if to say we  
8 don't really need your land  
9 anyway. We can go somewhere else. Maybe they could  
10 elaborate where they were talking about. They also  
11 mentioned that, I think, to Donncha Finucane. So, it  
12 was as if to say we have another alternative, you  
13 should be happy that we are coming along.

16: 27

14  
15 I would like now to show you something that shows the  
16 alternative that is currently being put in place in  
17 Milford Haven. It will give you an idea of what is  
18 being built and you are going to compare the risk free  
19 alternative, that I just showed you now, with what is  
20 actually happening in Milford Haven. So, that gives  
21 you a good overall view of what is really happening.  
22 This is courtesy of the BBC 1 coast programme as well.

16: 27

16: 28

23  
24 (VIDEO PLAYED)

16: 34

25  
26 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** Mr. Inspector, the point in  
27 all that about the Milford  
28 Haven LNG terminal. You know, I am just an ordinary  
29 Joe soap, I am not a rocket scientist, but I just

1 started reading about the idea that it is going to  
2 create a security of supply, the one in Shannon LNG on  
3 the Shannon Estuary. But we could also build another  
4 pipeline from Milford Haven over to the southeast of  
5 Ireland and we would have another alternative source of 16: 35  
6 LNG, which would go into the Milford Haven -- God bless  
7 their souls, the poor creatures who got it before us.  
8 Let them take the risks and let us take their LNG.

9  
10 So, that gets rid of all the risk for us and let them 16: 35  
11 get blown up, when it blows up. And it is already  
12 nearly finished.

13  
14 So, one of the big arguments, I don't understand all  
15 the things about the interconnector and all this, but I 16: 35  
16 do notice that they are saying that if the  
17 interconnector from Scotland, I think it comes in one  
18 high pressure pipeline to Moffat and then it branches  
19 off into two different pipelines, so if there is a  
20 problem at the Scottish side it could stop a flow of 16: 35  
21 gas into Ireland. But if we have a second pipeline  
22 from Milford Haven then you get rid of that problem. I  
23 heard somebody saying it costs about 85 million.  
24 That's the number I read thrown around. Or  
25 alternatively, we do have a source of LNG that comes to 16: 36  
26 the UK and then on to Ireland without passing through  
27 the pipelines from Norway or Russia, or whatever. So  
28 that's another alternative.

1 Now, I am no genius, but I am sure that the technology  
2 is removing so fast that by the time this planning  
3 application gets refused we will have found a new  
4 technology. I know that in the States they are  
5 realising more and more that this represents a very 16: 36  
6 serious amount of energy. So, like Dr. Havens, who  
7 wrote to me yesterday, said that the amount of energy  
8 in an LNG container ship is equivalent to the energy in  
9 50 Hiroshima bombs. Now, you can't really compare like  
10 with like, he said, because the Hiroshima bomb, all 16: 37  
11 that energy was released in a fraction of the second.  
12 Whereas the energy of the 50 Hiroshima bombs would be  
13 released more slowly. But you are still dealing with a  
14 very serious amount of energy which, you know, if there  
15 is another way to get the LNG without taking any of the 16: 37  
16 risk for us then why not look at that?

17  
18 Now, there is a big thing that all the development in  
19 Ireland, whenever you go around the country and you see  
20 the cut of the place and you say 'Mother of God, how 16: 37  
21 did they allow that?', and it is developer led. A lot  
22 of the big errors in development projects in Ireland,  
23 it is the developer that comes in and says 'I can do  
24 this'. You know, they'll say 'I will build 1,000  
25 houses. We need houses Kerry, I will build 1,000 16: 37  
26 houses'. Then down the line they realise 'oh, there  
27 are no schools, no roads. Oh well, the council can  
28 deal with that'. And that is the same idea here. It  
29 is a very good idea, we need LNG. Okay, supposedly.

1 But let's look at the alternatives.

2  
3 As we pointed out earlier, Shannon Development, if this  
4 goes ahead and the land is sterilised, it won't bring  
5 jobs to the area. If they say it is in the national 16: 38  
6 interest we have alternative solutions. I think Des  
7 Branigan's was one of the best, using the depleted gas  
8 fields of Kinsale, because that's already an  
9 infrastructure that exists. And the real idea of  
10 having a strategic supply of gas, it is to have a 16: 38  
11 storage facility where, if the main source of gas is  
12 cut off, that we can use the supply for a certain  
13 number of days. Now, if there is a war in Europe or  
14 something we are all going to run out of gas anyway  
15 after a while. It might just prolong the inevitable. 16: 38  
16 But it is really just having an enhancement of the  
17 supply of gas. The depleted fields in Kinsale can be  
18 used.

19  
20 Now, the Government is going through an All Island 16: 38  
21 Strategy document, that has been released -- well, it  
22 has been submitted to them without any public input  
23 just before Christmas. But that has to be put to the  
24 Government yet so we cannot get access to it. So they  
25 are just highlighting the commitments under the 16: 39  
26 Government's Energy Policy Framework document, where  
27 they said that we must have other sources of gas. But  
28 they do not say it has to be Shannon LNG. They might  
29 mention it. Because Shannon LNG, they politicked for a



1 long time and they were able to go to make submissions  
2 to all these Government bodies. So, they raised them  
3 before. But nowhere in Irish policy does it say that  
4 Shannon LNG must have -- or that we must have a  
5 terminal on the Shannon Estuary? And just because they 16: 39  
6 spent a tonne of money so far and they flashed the cash  
7 does not mean that they can be granted planning  
8 permission. It is like if you are building a house and  
9 then you built the house and then applied for retention  
10 the fact that the house is built and you spent money is 16: 40  
11 not a guarantee that you should be allowed to build.  
12 So, that's what I was thinking about, the alternatives.

13  
14 Now, to look at other issues concerning the need for  
15 natural gas. I just have to raise one issue on the 16: 40  
16 national interest side. Ireland has a lot of  
17 commitments made with our Green Ministers Ryan and  
18 Gormley, commitments to the Kyoto Protocol and to  
19 reducing gas emissions. This is very serious. This is  
20 Government policy and it is very specific, that we must 16: 40  
21 reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We know that when this project  
22 goes ahead there will be carbon credits to pay. It is  
23 not only a commitment on the Kyoto Protocol, it not  
24 only forces us to have a commitment in reducing carbon  
25 emissions in Ireland but when you include the whole, 16: 41  
26 like they showed in the video there, the liquefaction  
27 of the gas and the transporting it in ships across the  
28 world, they say that it goes 40% dirtier, so it is  
29 nearly half as dirty as coal. But since there is going

1 to be a lot more of it, and much more accessible, then  
2 it will be just as bad as coal in the end  
3 quantitatively. So, the whole idea is that we have a  
4 commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions -- I know this is an  
5 environmental part of it, but this is Government 16: 41  
6 policy. Since the terminal down here is interfering  
7 with the Sea Energy Group proposal to develop a wave  
8 technology for developing electricity, which is  
9 sustainable, that's in the long term, because let's not  
10 forget that gas is a fossil fuel so it is not a 16: 41  
11 renewable energy, it is not environmentally friendly,  
12 because you are putting CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, that  
13 we should be pushing, as Government policy is forcing  
14 us to do, alternatives that deal with the energy  
15 situation, that are not dirtying the planet. I know 16: 42  
16 now that our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, our obligations are only  
17 on Ireland, but we have a commitment to the rest of the  
18 planet not to put other CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the  
19 atmosphere from the ships coming in and encouraging a  
20 dirty industry. Now, let's not forget they keep saying 16: 42  
21 it is a clean environmental alternative. It is still a  
22 dirty energy.

23  
24 There is also this alternative about the massive wind  
25 turbine power and creating a super grid from Ireland up 16: 42  
26 to the Baltics. So, where the wind power is not  
27 working in one place it will work in another place.  
28 This is sustainable development, so. There is nowhere  
29 in Irish legislation that it has said that we must have

1 LNG. They just say have another source or enhance our  
2 strategic supply of gas.

3  
4 I will just briefly deal on other arguments. One I  
5 heard put forward is that the Corrib gas is not needed. 16: 43  
6 You know, that in itself, the Corrib gas field, that  
7 could be used as a strategic supply of gas. Let us buy  
8 the gas abroad, while they are selling it, and when we  
9 eventually run out of gas we will have the Corrib  
10 fields of gas. So, that in itself is a strategic 16: 43  
11 supply of gas. Why not keep importing while they are  
12 selling it and then use the Corrib gas when we run out  
13 of gas elsewhere. I think is it five companies have  
14 put in applications to do more gas exploration off the  
15 west coast, Providence, off the coast of Kerry? So we 16: 43  
16 know there is more gas out there. They say that there  
17 is very little gas in Corrib, but there are more  
18 companies going out exploring out there. But the  
19 problem, I suppose, is that the gas companies come in  
20 and they say 'well, we must develop it now', that was 16: 44  
21 part of their contracts. But that's a Government  
22 issue, that's a policy issue. The gas does exist  
23 there.

24  
25 Like I said before, there was the storage need. There 16: 44  
26 are salt mines in the North, in Larne, which could be  
27 used. And that's part of the All Island Strategy  
28 Document, but we cannot get our hands on it yet because  
29 it has not been released to the public. So, really, we

1 were also asking that this decision should be postponed  
2 until the All Island Strategy Document is published and  
3 that the Government has a declared policy on LNG  
4 importation.

16: 44

5  
6 I know I keep harping back to it, but Seveso II  
7 Directive says that major accident hazards should be  
8 avoided in site selection. So, the selection of an  
9 alternative site is crucial in the evaluation of this  
10 proposal by An Bord Pleanála. So, we really think that 16: 45  
11 you have to seriously consider alternatives. Not that  
12 they are going to be done now, but that they can be  
13 done. I also read somewhere in the Government strategy  
14 document where at some stage, if it is not being done  
15 by the private sector, the Government can actually 16: 45  
16 decide, if it is in the national interest, to invest  
17 directly into this strategic supply of gas. Which  
18 would, again, go what Des Branigan of DB Marine  
19 Research has said, that we could buy our own LNG  
20 tankers and we could bring the gas in from Norway. And 16: 45  
21 the Government could do that and we would make money on  
22 it, rather than a multinational. Okay, that's it for  
23 now. Thank you very much.

24  
25 **END OF SUBMISSION**

16: 45

26  
27 **INSPECTOR:** Can you give us copy of the  
28 videos?

29 **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** I could yeah, as long as I

1 am not breaking copyright.  
2 Any questions from anybody?  
3 **INSPECTOR:** Well, I was going to see if  
4 anybody else wanted to make  
5 a contribution on that and then ask if there are 16:46  
6 questions. So, do we have any other people who wish to  
7 make a contribution on this module: The need for the  
8 project, its national, regional and local context, the  
9 consideration of alternatives, including alternative  
10 methods? I have not anybody down, but if anybody wants 16:46  
11 to speak on it. No. Okay, well then it is over to the  
12 applicants to seek clarifications  
13

14 **MR. O'NEILL QUESTIONED MR. J. McELLI GOTT AS FOLLOWS:**

15 16 1 Q. **MR. O'NEILL:** Mr. McElligott, I have just 16:46  
17 a few questions for you.  
18 When listening to your presentation to the Inspector I  
19 get the sense that you have issues with Irish  
20 Government policy in relation to energy consumption and 16:47  
21 natural gas, both in its gaseous and liquefied form; is  
22 that right?

23 A. **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** No, I have no problems with  
24 LNG. I am not anti-LNG.

25 2 Q. **MR. O'NEILL:** But have you problems with 16:47  
26 Government policy in  
27 relation to the use of LNG.

28 A. **MR. J. McELLI GOTT:** No, all I stated was that  
29 we are awaiting an all

1 Island Government statement to be implemented. It is  
2 due in early 2008, and that maybe it would be prudent  
3 to await the outcome of this policy formulation phase.  
4 So, I am only just highlighting things that I am  
5 reading.

16:47

6 3 Q. MR. O'NEILL: But you suggested, for  
7 example, that the Corrib  
8 gas field, instead of being utilised now could be used  
9 as a strategic gas reserve. That's not Government  
10 policy, is it?

16:47

11 A. MR. J. McELLI GOTT: All I said was that there  
12 are... (INTERJECTION)

13 4 Q. MR. O'NEILL: Is it Government policy?  
14 Just answer the question.

15 A. MR. J. McELLI GOTT: All I said when I was  
16 talking was that these are  
17 possible alternatives. It is not for me to say. I  
18 only had to point out that there is a physical  
19 alternative. That your submission is only one possible  
20 alternative. I don't know what the Government's doing.  
21 It doesn't really bother me either really, I am just  
22 putting forward the issues. I am coming from a safety  
23 perspective for the Kilcolgan residents.

16:47

16:48

24 5 Q. All right, but at the moment we are dealing with the  
25 need and site selection and related issues. We will  
26 deal with safety later; isn't that right?

02:04

27 A. Yes.

28 6 Q. Are you suggesting that when you mention the  
29 possibility of the Corrib gasfield being used as a

1 strategic reserve for the State, that that's not  
2 something that you really take seriously at all?

3 A. It's not for me to take it seriously, it was for me to  
4 point out that it could be done. It's not my opinion,  
5 that's the opinion of An Bord Pleanála, it's to see if 16: 49  
6 there are alternatives that can be done safely, that  
7 was all.

8 7 Q. Can I just clarify your position and I don't mean any  
9 disrespect in this at all?

10 A. No, go ahead. 16: 49

11 8 Q. Can I just ask you what your qualifications are?

12 A. I am a computer programmer.

13 9 Q. I see.

14 A. I have an MBA in International Finance. I am not  
15 living on that land bank, but my family goes back to 16: 50  
16 1590. We were buried in Lislaughtin Abbey. Most of  
17 the family left with the wild geese and they fought  
18 with great valour in France and they were in Napoleon's  
19 army in invading Russia. My mother, Lord have mercy on  
20 her, is buried in Lislaughtin Abbey. My grandmother's 16: 50  
21 house, which is on the site, which is Tim Hanley's  
22 former house, my grandmother came from that site and my  
23 grandmother's house, you are just going to bulldoze it,  
24 you are just going to go over a load of history. We  
25 have 20 acres of farmland right overlooking the site in 16: 50  
26 Kilcolgan, the townland next to it, Kilcolgan Upper,  
27 you are in Kilcolgan Lower and we have 20 acres that we  
28 are farming there. My brother wants to come home from  
29 American with his four young kids and possibly build

1 there. My uncle and aunt live one mile from the site.  
2 They are elderly and handicapped, multiple sclerosis.  
3 I take care of them, I sleep there a lot of the time.  
4 I work there during the day. I can't work there every  
5 day because then they might withdraw the home help, but 16:51  
6 I set up the broadband and I work there some days and  
7 I work in Listowel other days and I go to London every  
8 other few weeks.

9  
10 My qualifications is that I am just reading information 16:51  
11 and I am only asking questions. I am come across here  
12 loads of times and I have noticed that in other  
13 situations around the country the onus tends to be put  
14 on local groups or communities when there is not  
15 community consent to ride roughshod over their 16:51  
16 opinions. Now, all we can do as residents are raise  
17 questions and if somebody is building a house, like  
18 Morgan Heaphy was doing his house there recently, and  
19 there was one little change he had to do to the house  
20 and they said it is going to have a discordant feature 16:51  
21 on the landscape and you go back to the drawing board  
22 for another year. We are just asking the questions, we  
23 should only have to raise the questions. You cannot  
24 come back to me the individual and even pose questions  
25 on my character, my education, who I am, where I come 16:51  
26 from, I am raising the questions and it's up to the  
27 statutory bodies to deal with it. We have had no  
28 funding, you are spending millions. The guys that are  
29 sitting down there today, you probably 1,000 a head an



1 hour, it must be 40 or 50,000 for this day here alone.  
2 We have no funding so even to question the fact that  
3 I am asking questions I think how dare you, being  
4 honest about it.

5 10 Q. Mr. McElligott, you will remember when I asked the 16: 52  
6 question I said I want to ask you this question with no  
7 disrespect and the reason I asked the question is  
8 simply to find out your state of knowledge. It has  
9 never been suggested that you or any other member of  
10 society, whether living in this particular area, in 16: 52  
11 Listowel, in Kerry, in anywhere else in Ireland has a  
12 right to challenge, has a right to question this  
13 development, no-one is suggesting that. I didn't ask  
14 you anything in relation to where you come from,  
15 I simply asked you what your qualifications and 16: 53  
16 experience is and I can well understand that perhaps in  
17 the last few months that you have taken on another  
18 level of experience in terms of the research you have  
19 done in respect of this particular facility?

20 A. I am not alone, there is a group of us. 16: 53

21 11 Q. I see. The reason I raise that is because I just want  
22 to know where this information that you have and that  
23 you have presented to the Inspector is coming from?

24 A. Okay.

25 12 Q. In a general sense, I don't need the specifics of 16: 53  
26 everything at all.

27 A. My information started by examining other applications  
28 in other parts of the world for LNG terminals. I am  
29 specifically relying on qualified LNG experts who have

1 written in peer reviewed journals of repute and who  
2 have done research that has been peer reviewed, which  
3 means that it has been reviewed by other experts in  
4 their field of knowledge such as Dr. Jerry Havens.  
5 When I contacted Dr. Jerry Havens who I am sure you are 16: 53  
6 very well aware of.

7 13 Q. We are, yes.

8 A. When I highlighted the issues that are going on here  
9 that there is no risk assessment, Quantitative Risk  
10 Assessment being done on the marine side of things, 16: 54  
11 I am not an expert. I contacted one local chemical  
12 hazards expert and he said if he comes up here and  
13 talks about LNG it costs about 800 a day so it would be  
14 able 4800 for the week. I don't know is that excluding  
15 VAT now or including VAT but anyway. He said the 16: 54  
16 minute he stands up here and he says the one word,  
17 'what do you know about LNG, nothing, get off the  
18 stage'. Dr. Jerry Havens, a world renowned expert in  
19 LNG, he is going to come over and he is going to put  
20 the manners on the lot of you and he is going to 16: 54  
21 explain really what safety issues are. Like I said  
22 I just read something, I started doing the research,  
23 I found out there are safety issues, there are corners  
24 being cut and let's bring in the big experts and the  
25 big boys who can tell you. You did a QRA assessment, 16: 55  
26 right, and I have just realised ERM Dr. Andrew Franks,  
27 what experience does he have?

28 14 Q. Mr. McElligott, I don't want to cut across, but I asked  
29 you a question, do you remember what the question was?

1 A. The question was 'where do I get my knowledge' and my  
2 answer to you is that my knowledge is from my research  
3 that I am doing on LNG, experts' reports that I am  
4 reading and researching. Then I am contacting the  
5 experts themselves and asking their opinion and they 16: 55  
6 are going to come over now.

7 15 Q. That's fine, that's a complete answer to my question.

8 A. Good.

9 16 Q. You see the difficulty that I have is that when you  
10 make presentations to the Inspector and you tell the 16: 55  
11 Inspector of what's happened in other countries and in  
12 other facilities that you are relying upon what  
13 somebody else has said. For example, you have  
14 suggested there was an accident in Italy, there was no  
15 accident in Italy? 16: 55

16 A. I said a near accident, there was a vapour cloud --  
17 from what I could remember reading somewhere, there was  
18 a vapour cloud problem where a cloud went out towards  
19 sea instead of into land.

20 17 Q. There was no accident, I took you down as saying there 16: 56  
21 was a accident?

22 A. Oh, no, you misunderstood so.

23 18 Q. That the Italians don't permit or don't like LNG  
24 facilities onshore?

25 A. No, they realised there are safety issues, that's what 16: 56  
26 I read.

27 19 Q. So does everyone, everyone deals with safety issues so  
28 they so too, Italy is part of the EU?

29 A. Now, while we are at it: Didn't you in your documents

1                   ... (INTERJECTION)

2    20   Q.    Mr. McElligott, before you say anything, just as you  
3            indicated to various other witnesses I get to ask the  
4            questions and you get to answer them?

5            A.    Good, you are asking the questions. 16: 56

6    21   Q.    Now, Mr. McElligott, it is your turn to answer the  
7            questions.

8            A.    No problem at all, fire away so.

9    22   Q.    There are LNG onshore facilities in Italy, aren't  
10           there? 16: 56

11           A.    I am not the expert. Is that a question or a  
12           statement?

13   23   Q.    Perhaps can we then leave or can we take the comments  
14           that you make with those qualifications that you are  
15           not an expert and what you have said really cannot be 16: 56  
16           treated as expert evidence?

17           A.    Yes, but I said there then ... (INTERJECTION)

18   24   Q.    Dr. Havens of course will come and your other  
19           representatives that you referred to?

20           A.    What I have presented there is from ExxonMobil who have 16: 57  
21           LNG terminals. Shannon LNG and Hess have no -- do you  
22           have any LNG terminals in the world?

23   25   Q.    Again you see, Mr. McElligott, I am the one that asks  
24           the questions?

25           A.    Go on, I am sure you are paid enough for it anyway. 16: 57

26   26   Q.    I think those sort of comments really don't get us  
27           anywhere.

28           A.    It doesn't matter.

29   27   Q.    There is a serious application from the Applicant's

1 point of view and I am sure it's a serious application  
2 from your point of view and perhaps it should be  
3 treated accordingly rather than little snide remarks?  
4 A. I know, yes. It's people's lives in North Kerry we are  
5 talking about. 16: 57

6 28 Q. Indeed we are and that has all been assessed and that  
7 has been dealt with in due course?  
8 A. Actually you have pre-empted ... (INTERJECTION)

9 INSPECTOR: Mr. McElligott, just answer  
10 the questions. 16: 57

11 29 Q. MR. O'NEILL: I am dealing with site  
12 selection and the need?  
13 A. Okay.

14 30 Q. And related issues and other types of facilities that  
15 can be brought on line? 16: 58

16 A. Right, and I completely agree with you. My answer to  
17 that would be if I raise an issue about an alternative  
18 site, bring in the experts to deal with each of those  
19 sites in succession and to deal -- I am not the expert,  
20 I just raise the questions so now I put it to An Bord 16: 58  
21 Pleanála that you have been informed of other possible  
22 alternatives and under the Seveso II obligations where  
23 you have to look at other possible alternatives that  
24 might be safe and prevent major hazards I am signalling  
25 them to you so you have to do the work, don't put it 16: 58  
26 back to the ordinary Joe Soap.

27 31 Q. I simply wanted to clarify, which you have now  
28 clarified, your basis for giving evidence. You are  
29 simply picking things out of newspapers, you are simply

1 picking things off the internet, you are reciting what  
2 other people have told you. Dr. Havens may well have  
3 fed you significant information and he will be hear to  
4 give that information himself; isn't that right?

5 A. When anybody does research they have to examine the 16:58  
6 information that they are looking at so you have done  
7 your research.

8 32 Q. You need an ... (INTERJECTION)

9 A. You have never built an LNG terminal so what do you  
10 know. 16:59

11 33 Q. You need an element of experience before you can  
12 actually appraise the information that you are  
13 downloading from the internet or when you are reading  
14 newspapers?

15 A. Okay. So does experience mean like giving €1200 to the 16:59  
16 local GAA club?

17 34 Q. Mr. McElligott, please, I don't intend asking this  
18 witness any further questions. I think I have  
19 established that he has a lack of experience. I don't  
20 doubt for a second his genuine desire to ensure that 16:59  
21 this project is properly appraised and absolute  
22 entitlement ... (INTERJECTION)

23 A. Is that shooting the messenger, is it?

24 MR. O'NEILL: Would you please don't  
25 interrupt. 16:59

26 INSPECTOR: Mr. McElligott.

27 MR. O'NEILL: His entitlement to raise  
28 issues, I have no  
29 difficulty and my clients have no difficulty with that

1 at all, but I don't intend asking this particular  
2 witness any further questions.

3  
4 END OF CROSS-EXAMINATION OF MR. McELLI GOTT BY  
5 MR. O' NEILL

16:59

6  
7 35 Q. RAYMOND: A question for Johnny: Are  
8 you getting paid to do what  
9 you are doing here today?

10 A. No, I am getting nothing. I am losing money by coming 17:00  
11 here. I get paid by the day, I am a computer  
12 contractor, I don't get paid to come here.

13 36 Q. Do you think we need a Senior Counsel to help us or  
14 something?

15 A. Well, the Aarhus Convention says that people should 17:00  
16 have affordable access to justice so we cannot afford  
17 it as a local community group, all we can do are raise  
18 issues and hope that the statutory bodies would do  
19 their job. The gentleman over there referred to me not  
20 having experience, but there was one situation where 17:00  
21 the land bank was being rezoned in March 2007 and the  
22 rules say that if there is a variation to the County  
23 Development Plan there should be a strategic  
24 environmental assessment and this would have been the  
25 independent expertise that would have done an 17:00  
26 independent examination of the environmental impact of  
27 this project. Now, Kerry County Council managed to  
28 wriggle their ways out of that by outsourcing the SCA  
29 screening report to consultants, but they never told







1 INSPECTOR: What about the previous  
2 speakers?

3 MR. O' NEI LL: I beg your pardon, I di dn' t  
4 hear what you said.

5 INSPECTOR: The previous speaker, do 17: 04  
6 you have questi ons for hi m?

7 MR. O' NEI LL: No.

8 MR. O' MAHONY: I have one more questi on.  
9 If Shannon LNG won' t speak  
10 to Johnny because he is not qual i fi ed enough does that 17: 04  
11 mean they don' t talk to the Tarbert Devel opment or the  
12 Bally Devel opment or anyone else here who don' t have  
13 qual i fi cati ons?

14 MR. O' NEI LL: If I can answer that.  
15 I want to make it 17: 04  
16 abundantly clear, and as I have said on two occasi ons,  
17 we have no di ffi cul ty and we wel come peopl e expressi ng  
18 thei r concerns because if they are expressed we can  
19 then deal wi th them, if they are not expressed we  
20 cannot deal wi th them. The poi nt I am making is the 17: 04  
21 process that thi s hearing is now goi ng through is an  
22 evaluati on of the appli cati on, an evaluati on of the  
23 EIS, it is unfair and not the best use of time for me  
24 to cross-exami ne on expert matters someone who di dn' t  
25 profess an expertise on those areas. Dr. Havens we 17: 05  
26 have heard and two other indi vi duals are comi ng along  
27 and we wi ll put the appropri ate questi ons to them, but  
28 there is no poi nt aski ng someone to express a vi ew on  
29 an i ssue about whi ch he or she has expertise, that' s

1 simply the point I am making. I don't question for a  
2 second the entitlement of any member of the public to  
3 make the case that has been made.

4 **MR. McCELLIGOTT:** So with LNG you are saying  
5 that you have to be an 17:05  
6 expert to speak so LNG cannot speak on behalf of the  
7 locals, is that more or less what you are saying?

8 **MR. O'NEILL:** That's not what I said.

9 **MR. McCELLIGOTT:** You are not an expert at  
10 being local. 17:05

11 **MR. O'NEILL:** That's not what I said.

12 I said, and I will say it  
13 for the third time, that the company, the Applicant,  
14 welcomes observations, constructive criticism, it  
15 welcomes it from members of the public, from local 17:05  
16 residents and it welcomes it because it can deal with  
17 those observations. There is little point as I have  
18 said in cross-examining a witness on matters of  
19 expertise where that witness himself says 'I am not an  
20 expert, I have simply got this information from various 17:06  
21 other sources, all I am doing is throwing it into the  
22 arena', there is no point, it will be a waste of time  
23 to cross-examine any witness in those circumstances on  
24 matters of expertise.

25 **MR. McCELLIGOTT:** I agree with that. What 17:06  
26 I am saying is that I only  
27 as an individual have to raise the issues, let's get  
28 the experts on all the issues I raised, would you agree  
29 with that?

1 MR. O'NEILL: And indeed you will hear  
2 from experts.

3 MR. McELLI GOTT: Can we get an insert on  
4 each of those different  
5 types of issues I raised? 17:06

6 MR. O'NEILL: I can assure you evidence  
7 is going to be led on each  
8 of those topics, on each of these modules by  
9 representatives on behalf of the Applicant, independent  
10 experts as well. 17:06

11 MR. McELLI GOTT: Right, for the ExxonMobil  
12 offshore application there, can  
13 you get an expert on that?

14 MR. O'NEILL: All of those matters will  
15 be dealt with and you will 17:07  
16 have opportunity to put questions to those experts.

17 MR. McELLI GOTT: Then I am not an expert so  
18 why should I be able to ask  
19 them any questions.

20 MR. O'NEILL: Look, you choose your own 17:07  
21 path.

22 MR. McELLI GOTT: If the experts are being  
23 paid by Shannon LNG how can  
24 they be independent?

25 MR. O'NEILL: You can make those comments 17:07  
26 to the Inspector.

27 MR. McELLI GOTT: I am making the comments to  
28 the Inspector. We have  
29 just a justice deficit here because we cannot afford to

1 employ expertise, that's why we have got an uneven  
2 playing pitch.

3 **MR. O'NEILL:** We won't make those similar  
4 observations in respect of  
5 the experts that you bring. 17:07

6 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** We are bringing over one  
7 expert, he is coming over  
8 as a matter of course, out of pocket expenses, that's  
9 all we can afford as a group.

10 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. Branigan. 17:07

11 **MR. BRANIGAN:** I was a quarter of a  
12 century at sea, much of  
13 that time in tankers. Secondly, I have a Masters  
14 degree in Marine Science from the University of  
15 St. Andrews where the royal family send their people. 17:08  
16 I believe they are boasting the fact that they went to  
17 the same university as Branigan. Now, expertise is  
18 fine -- incidentally I am a member of the Institute of  
19 Industrial Engineers and I have a qualification in  
20 archaeology -- expertise, I have associates and those 17:08  
21 associates are very, very expert in various fields and  
22 we collectively on speaking for marine research and  
23 associates and each of our associates has expertise in  
24 particular fields and we coordinate the whole thing in  
25 something like this that I am presenting so insofar as 17:09  
26 expertise is concerned and anybody who wants to  
27 question, that's fine, but there is one thing I have to  
28 say and that is this discussion was about alternatives,  
29 I gave one simple, straightforward, safe, economical

1 alternative and that's all that should be necessary.

2 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** Sorry.

3 **LADY SPEAKER:** May I speak. I have a  
4 question for yourself, it  
5 is a question as to the need for the project. Is it a 17:09  
6 function of An Bord Pleanála to critically assess the  
7 Applicant's assertions as to such things as downward  
8 pressure on gas prices. When the Applicant states that  
9 this is strategic, it's necessary, does An Bord  
10 Pleanála take that as fact or does An Bord Pleanála 17:10  
11 assess whether those assertions are in fact accurate?  
12 **INSPECTOR:** The Board will look at the  
13 level of assessment that  
14 will go into.

15 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** Is the Applicant obliged to 17:10  
16 provide evidence that  
17 providing this terminal would exert a downward pressure  
18 on gas prices, have they evidence of that?

19 **INSPECTOR:** I expect they will do,  
20 I would expect them to do 17:10  
21 so.

22 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. Fox.

23 41 Q. **MR. FOX:** Mr. Inspector, can I ask a  
24 question of Mr. McElligott  
25 please. I want to point out to you as we live in the 17:11  
26 area of Tarbert/Ballylongford we also have an interest  
27 in safety. We are concerned because as Mr. McElligott  
28 has pointed out in other places the exclusion zone and  
29 the shipping zones could interfere and affect our

1 quality of life. In the presentation just gone by he  
2 has mentioned about the offshore blue ocean and from  
3 what I can see it's very similar to what LNG are  
4 proposing only that it's offshore so I take it that  
5 Mr. McElligott has no objection to LNG per se, it's 17:11  
6 this particular site. That's question 1.

7  
8 Question 2: He mentioned as well about the Milford  
9 Haven site which is really very similar to what is  
10 proposed for Tarbert, the Tarbert land bank, and I take 17:11  
11 it that he has no objection to LNG in that particular  
12 regard. What he is really saying, and I would like him  
13 to comment on it, he doesn't mind where the LNG plant  
14 is put as long as it's not on the land bank in Tarbert  
15 and he is saying that for safety reasons, am I correct 17:12  
16 in saying that?

17 A. **MR. McELLI GOTT:** I stated before that we are  
18 primarily concerned with  
19 the safety aspects, that we are putting in all other  
20 observations just for completeness. We are not experts 17:12  
21 and so all we are asking is that the safety regulations  
22 would be followed for our safety. Now everybody might  
23 say that's just Not in My Back Yard-ism, NIMBYs,  
24 whatever they are called, my attitude is you must think  
25 globally and asked locally. If there is a problem we 17:12  
26 are on the front line, we see what's happening here, we  
27 are just raising the warning flags and I completely  
28 agree with you, Mr. Fox, I would be equally concerned  
29 elsewhere, but I am just more familiar with this area

1 here. All I am asking is that we can only as  
2 individuals raise questions. You cannot attack the  
3 individual that raises the question and question why is  
4 he asking the questions because that deviates from  
5 everything. We have asked sensible questions so it's 17: 13  
6 up to the authorities because the planning process is  
7 only as strong as its weakest link, we can only ask the  
8 questions so if anybody even questions -- I just said  
9 before we are not anti-LNG, we realise there is a  
10 tradeoff between the environment and development. We 17: 13  
11 want to see the land bank developed as per Shannon  
12 Developments obligations and assertions that it would  
13 be in the future so I won't mind if Shannon LNG went  
14 ahead there if there is no problem. From what I am  
15 seeing there are problems and to get very highly paid 17: 14  
16 counsel to come up to me and say 'what's your  
17 authority', I said I am just asking the questions. If  
18 I am asking the question it's up to each of the  
19 statutory bodies to ensure that they completely exhaust  
20 all avenues in finding out what the issues are so if 17: 14  
21 I say is there a safety problem with LNG spills in  
22 water, should there be a QRA done on that, I have asked  
23 the question, it doesn't matter where I got the  
24 information if it's an intelligent question, get an  
25 expert to answer the questions. I am not anti 17: 14  
26 anything, we are being proactive members of society.  
27 We are doing civic duty by raising issues so you cannot  
28 come and question me or question my motivations or my  
29 blood link to the area or anything. I have asked the



1 serious question, let the people that are paid to do  
2 this job do it, that's all I am saying. I am not about  
3 fighting with anybody or anything like that. I am just  
4 asking the questions. If you want to put this through  
5 a fast track planning process I think the only body 17: 15  
6 really that can decide on the issues that are not being  
7 completely dealt with by the HSA is An Bord Pleanála  
8 and An Bord Pleanála has the power to request more  
9 expert opinion and as we are beginning to see now there  
10 are serious questions being raised in this first day of 17: 15  
11 the oral hearing that are so damning in the aspect that  
12 they have not really been tackled at all to date  
13 because everybody was getting these glossy brochures  
14 saying everything is perfect. We have raised the  
15 warning flag, we have to withdraw after this, we cannot 17: 15  
16 partake in the planning process anymore because we  
17 cannot afford it. Personally up here, the amount of  
18 abuse I have got is unbelievable and I am only asking  
19 ordinary questions. It's up to somebody else to do  
20 their jobs. This country is going in such a way where 17: 16  
21 it's just money that talks and waffle walks and that's  
22 it, but don't ever again come on to me and say what is  
23 your reason, what is your blood link, everything like  
24 that, that's all.

25 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. McElligott. 17: 16

26 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** You have got the point.

27 42 Q. **MR. FOX:** Can I take it so that  
28 Mr. McElligott is not  
29 against the LNG plant in Tarbert, is that what he has

1 said?

2 A. **MR. McELLI GOTT:** No, I said I am not against  
3 LNG. I am raising the  
4 safety concerns of the LNG plant in Tarbert and the  
5 development of the land bank, the exclusion zones, the 17:16  
6 effect on the shipping, the idea of the sterilisation  
7 of our property and my family's property. One of my  
8 brothers and sisters will inherit sites worth hundreds  
9 of thousands. These have an effect on me, but they  
10 also affect the rest of the area. I am from North 17:16  
11 Kerry, this is my bloodline, this is my place, this is  
12 my ancestral home going back to the time of the  
13 O'Connors of Carrigfoyle, this is where I belong and  
14 I have a right to say it.

15 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you, Mr. Elligott. 17:17

16 43 Q. **MR. FOX:** Just one final question  
17 please and I will defend  
18 everything and support Johnny's right to say such  
19 things and to ask questions, he is entitled, that's the  
20 process. If An Bord Pleanála do not grant planning 17:17  
21 permission for this particular project what alternative  
22 projects would be acceptable to Mr. McElligott?

23 A. Any alternative project that would be acceptable to me  
24 is the type of projects that were openly declared  
25 through the last 30 years for the land bank which would 17:17  
26 bring employment, be safe and not endanger the people  
27 and that covers a multitude.

28 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you, Mr. McElligott.  
29 You may stand down now.

1 MR. McELLI GOTT: Thank you.

2 INSPECTOR: Do the planni ng authori ty  
3 have any questi ons of  
4 Mr. McElli gott?

5 PLANNI NG AUTHORI TY: No, Mr. Inspector. 17: 18

6 INSPECTOR: Thank you. Do the planni ng  
7 authori ty itsel f wish to  
8 make a deci sion on the i ssue of al ternati ves?

9 PLANNI NG AUTHORI TY: We have made our opi ni ons  
10 known in the manager' s 17: 18  
11 report and at this stage we are going to leave it at  
12 that.

13 MALE SPEAKER: Sorry, we have a lot of  
14 questi ons to ask the  
15 planni ng authori ty. 17: 18

16 MR. O' DONOVAN: Can I just make a comment.  
17 Is this modul e on  
18 al ternati ves?

19 INSPECTOR: It is, yes.

20 MR. O' DONOVAN: It is all al ternati ves. 17: 18  
21 I come from the area, that  
22 Kil col gan area.

23 INSPECTOR: Sorry, could I have your  
24 name agai n?

25 MR. O' DONOVAN: Thomas O' Donovan. 17: 18

26 INSPECTOR: Okay.

27 MR. O' DONOVAN: I put in a submi ssi on  
28 before. We have fi shed, my  
29 father and grandfather had a li cence to fi sh salmon and

1 we did fish for a number of years back in that  
2 particular area and we had a licence to do it and there  
3 was ample fish coming up so my thing is that this was  
4 and is a pristine area. It's a pristine area in the  
5 area of fresh water, coming from the sea and the River 17: 19  
6 Shannon and it's also a scenic area. If you are  
7 talking about -- excuse me, I am a bit nervous, if you  
8 are talking about alternatives, I am an  
9 environmentalist, I am not an expert either but that is  
10 my general feeling and I feel that it could be used as 17: 19  
11 an eco park and marine area.

12  
13 As I said before there was planning permission given  
14 for 20 turbines in the Tarbert area and there were  
15 people that went around objecting to them. Now, these 17: 20  
16 are sustainable and this is sustainable energy and this  
17 energy would be there in a thousand years time whereas  
18 the gasfields could run out and we don't know what  
19 other damage they would do, but it's an ideal spot for  
20 a marine park and a state of the art recreational area. 17: 20

21  
22 It is also designated thanks to An Taisce's submission,  
23 it is also designated as an amenity area, parts of it.  
24 Now, I can't see that the two could be married, where  
25 you would have a proposed gas terminal and possibly an 17: 21  
26 oil terminal alongside it and an amenity area, the two  
27 would not go together. As we rely on tourism as the  
28 largest industry in Ireland, I maintain that if we  
29 build up the tourist industry we would be much better

1 served by that rather than importing gas. I am not  
2 going to get into why the Government signed away our  
3 own gasfields, we have enough gasfields around our own  
4 country to supply us anyway rather than bringing it  
5 from thousands of miles. That's all I have to say, 17: 21  
6 thank you for a long winded speak.

7 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you, Mr. O' Donovan.  
8 You don't have any  
9 questions?

10 **MR. O' NEILL:** I don't have any questions, 17: 22  
11 thank you.

12 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. I think at this  
13 stage, unless we can ask  
14 questions of the planning authority who have not made  
15 an oral submission. 17: 22

16 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** We would like to ask  
17 questions of the planning  
18 authority, maybe tomorrow if you like, because they  
19 give a submission directly to An Bord Pleanála without  
20 any right of reply to the general public so we would 17: 22  
21 like to be able to go through their conditions that  
22 they propose to put forward on this planning  
23 application and question it, we have a fairly detailed  
24 amount of questions to ask them.

25 **INSPECTOR:** In terms of this module. 17: 22

26 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** Not in this module.

27 **INSPECTOR:** You will let it go, okay.  
28 Mr. O'Neill, this is your  
29 turn now.

1                   MR. O'NEILL:                         I have a number of  
2   witnesses. First I am  
3     going to deal with the national need for this facility  
4     and then deal with the site selection. Mr. Power is  
5     one of the witnesses dealing with the national need, if 17:23  
6     we could just have a minute to set up the power point  
7     presentation.  
8                   INSPECTOR:                         Very well. How long do you  
9   think your total submission  
10    is likely to take? 17:23  
11                  MR. O'NEILL:                         I have four submissions and  
12   five pieces of evidence,  
13    it's going to take a little bit of time, it's going to  
14    take until maybe lunchtime tomorrow this topic.  
15                  INSPECTOR:                         That's fair enough. Your 17:23  
16   first submission, are we  
17    going to get out by 6 o'clock?  
18                  MR. O'NEILL:                         35 pages. I would say it  
19   would take about an hour,  
20    two minutes a page. 17:23  
21                  INSPECTOR:                         That would be 6:20, will we  
22   go with that?  
23                  MR. McELLI GOTT:                         No, that wouldn't be  
24   helpful. No, that is too  
25    late. 17:23  
26                  MR. O'NEILL:                         We are anxious to use the  
27   time as best we can.  
28                  MR. McELLI GOTT:                         We have come a long  
29   distance for this oral

1 hearing and we have families and other commitments to  
2 go home to. If you had had the oral hearing locally it  
3 might be different, but we have made long arrangements  
4 so you cannot do this.

5 **MR. O'NEILL:** Perhaps we could start the 17:24  
6 submission in any event and  
7 see how far we get.

8 **INSPECTOR:** Okay, we will do that. If  
9 it's going to run on too  
10 long we will take a break. 17:24

11 **MR. O'NEILL:** If I could have a couple of  
12 minutes to set up the power  
13 point.

14 **INSPECTOR:** Okay, if people want to  
15 slip out for a moment, but 17:24  
16 just a moment.

17

18

19

(SHORT ADJOURNMENT)

20

17:27

21

THE HEARING RESUMED AFTER A SHORT ADJOURNMENT AS

22

FOLLOWS

23

24

25 **INSPECTOR:** Okay. If people could 17:29  
26 resume their seats please,  
27 can people sit down please. Okay, Mr. Power, off you  
28 go.

29

1 MR. PADDY POWER DELIVERED A SUBMISSION TO THE ORAL  
2 HEARING AS FOLLOWS

3  
4 MR. POWER: Thank you, Inspector.

5 I have prepared a statement 17: 30  
6 of evidence which we will provide to the hearing of  
7 course and to the attendees here. As I have already  
8 covered my qualifications and the Shannon LNG profile,  
9 with your approval I will take it as read so I don't  
10 need to repeat it here again this evening. I also will 17: 30  
11 have dealt with some of the subject matter that I am  
12 now going to deal with this morning, but now I will  
13 deal with it in more detail.

14  
15 The purpose of my evidence then, Mr. Inspector, is to 17: 31  
16 explain the need for the proposed development in  
17 Ireland at this time. Additionally I will describe the  
18 policy context of the project from a European and Irish  
19 perspective. I will also provide a description of the  
20 proposed development in more detail and outline the 17: 31  
21 benefits of the project as I see it. I will also  
22 address some of the submissions that have been made to  
23 the Board and provide Shannon LNG's response to those  
24 submissions.

25 17: 31  
26 The next slide. Turning first to project background.  
27 I would like to make some general observations about  
28 the proposed development. Mr. Inspector, Ireland  
29 currently imports about 90% of its natural gas



1 requirements from and through the United Kingdom.  
2 Please these refer to figure 1 shown here for an  
3 overview of the National Grid. It shows the  
4 interconnecting pipelines linking Ireland to the UK as  
5 well. As outlined in volume 2 section 2.2.3 of the EIS 17: 32  
6 natural gas is the fuel of choice for electricity  
7 generation with about 60% of our electricity needs  
8 being generated from power stations using natural gas  
9 as a fuel. Gas is also the cleanest and most  
10 environmental friendly fossil fuel available and is 17: 32  
11 much more efficient than either coal, oil or turf.

12  
13 Additionally, increased highly flexible deliveries of  
14 natural gas from an LNG terminal will assist Government  
15 Policy towards the development of additional supplies 17: 32  
16 of renewable energy, in particular wind generation,  
17 which must be backed up by rapid response electricity  
18 generation due to its intermittent production profile.

19  
20 The proposed development will bring good sustainable 17: 33  
21 jobs to North Kerry through direct employment at the  
22 terminal and substantial spillover in indirect  
23 employment. As the anchor developer in the Shannon  
24 Development owned land bank and by making  
25 environmentally friendly natural gas available on site 17: 33  
26 so the project will bring natural gas to North Kerry  
27 and onto the site. It also has the potential to  
28 attract additional industrial activity to the region.  
29 Like Shannon Development this morning we see this as a

1 very attractive feature for the rest of the land bank  
2 as well.

3  
4 LNG importation technology is straightforward and has  
5 proven safe and reliable for over 40 years. The 17: 33  
6 Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal  
7 Operators, that is SIGTTO, their records shows that  
8 some 52,000 sea voyages have been undertaken without a  
9 major cargo spill up to the end of December 2007.

10 There are over 50 import terminals operating worldwide 17: 34  
11 and to improve security and diversity of energy supply  
12 a number of new import terminals are currently being  
13 built in Europe, the UK and North America.

14  
15 I will refer you to figure 2 shown here, that's the 17: 34  
16 same as figure 2 in the 2.2 in the Environmental Impact  
17 Statement which shows the number of LNG terminals  
18 across Europe. Mr. Inspector, you can see that most of  
19 our European neighbours are developing and building LNG  
20 import terminals at the moment. 17: 34

21  
22 Shannon LNG has carried out a detailed Quantitative  
23 Risk Assessment, that's QRA, of the terminal and  
24 submitted it to the Health and Safety Authority. It is  
25 summarised in volume 4, appendix 3E of the 17: 35  
26 Environmental Impact Statement. It has also been made  
27 available on the Shannon LNG website since 24 October.  
28 It's in my statement of evidence which is available.  
29

1 A hard copy was given to anyone who requested it,  
2 Mr. Inspector. My colleagues Blair MacIntyre and Leon  
3 Bowdoin and Andy Franks of ERM and Phani Raj Technology  
4 & Management Systems will address the safety aspects of  
5 the proposed development and the QRA in detail later. 17: 35

6  
7 Shannon LNG notes the finding of the HSA's review of  
8 the QRA. The HSA does not advise against the granting  
9 of planning permission in the context of major accident  
10 hazards. 17: 35

11  
12 Shannon LNG notes the submission from the Commission  
13 for Energy Regulation, that's the CER, to the Board  
14 regarding the Shannon LNG terminal. The CER advised in  
15 their submission that: 17: 36

16 "The proposed development will be a  
17 major commercial project with very  
18 significant strategic implications for  
19 the long-term future of the Irish  
energy sector."

20 The imminent depletion of the Kinsale Field and the 17: 36  
21 relatively modest size of the projected life and the  
22 projected life of the Corrib Field put a particular  
23 premium on diversifying our geographic sources of  
24 natural gas. This is what the CER have said.

25 17: 36  
26 Shannon LNG also notes Kerry County Council's  
27 recommendation to the Board to grant planning  
28 permission for the terminal. In particular, we welcome  
29 the recommendation that Shannon LNG establish an Annual

1 Community Contribution Scheme. We would like to  
2 propose that the money in the scheme is administered by  
3 a committee comprising representatives of the community  
4 including the Tarbert and Ballylongford Development  
5 Associations and representatives of the company. We 17: 37  
6 believe as much of this money as possible, possibly up  
7 to 50%, should be spent on higher education and  
8 scholarship initiatives for local people.  
9

10 My colleague Michael Biggane will discuss the issue of 17: 37  
11 local consultation in some detail later and I believe  
12 that the records shows that local communication and  
13 consultation are priority issues for Shannon LNG.  
14

15 I will add that this will continue if granted planning 17: 37  
16 permission and other approvals. We will appoint a  
17 local Community Liaison Officer to ensure consultation.  
18

19 The community made public its intention to develop a  
20 terminal on the land bank as early as May 2006 in order 17: 37  
21 to allow plenty of time for local consultation. Since  
22 then Shannon LNG has endeavoured to keep the community  
23 and all interested parties up to date. We have held  
24 numerous meetings including public meetings with the  
25 local community and their representatives. Senior 17: 38  
26 Shannon LNG personnel have made a number of visits to  
27 the home of the residents living adjacent to the land  
28 bank to seek their opinions and answer any questions  
29 asked. The consultation process is discussed in detail

1 in volume 2 section 1.9 of the EIS and my colleague  
2 Michael Biggane will expand on this topic later and  
3 answer any questions on it.  
4

5 Turning now to the strategic need for the project. 17: 38

6 I will start out on the reasons why I believe that the  
7 terminal is needed in Ireland. Of course this was also  
8 addressed in volume 2, section 2.2 of the EIS. Natural  
9 gas demand in Ireland is forecast to increase by about  
10 50% between 2006 and 2012/2013, that's a 50% increase 17: 39  
11 in a short number of years and that's according to the  
12 CER capacity statement 2007 published by the Commission  
13 recently.  
14

15 The Irish Government in its document "National Climate 17: 39

16 Change Strategy from 2007-2012" shows natural gas as  
17 the dominant fuel for power generation out to 2020.  
18 Natural gas is more environmentally friendly than  
19 alternative fuels for power generation such as coal,  
20 oil and turf. The continued high level of natural gas 17: 39  
21 demand will assist the Government in achieving both its  
22 emissions reductions targets and its 33% renewable  
23 energy electricity target by 2020. All of this of  
24 course is as outlined in the "National Climate Change  
25 Strategy". 17: 40  
26

27 I will briefly go through the supply shortfall that  
28 I addressed this morning and elaborate somewhat on it.  
29 The Commission for Energy Regulation forecast that the

1 Corrib Field will come on-line in 2009/2010, initially  
2 supplying up to 39% of Ireland's peak day demand. By  
3 2012/13, however, in the face of normal production  
4 declines and rising demand, Corrib will only supply 18%  
5 of Irish peak day demand. Figure 4 below, which is the 17: 40  
6 one now shown, entitled "Forecast Gas Supply and Demand  
7 to 2020 for Ireland" is extracted from Sustainable  
8 Energy Ireland publication title "Security of Supply in  
9 Ireland 2007". This was prepared by the petroleum  
10 affairs division of the department. It demonstrates 17: 41  
11 that while Corrib Field can provide welcome indigenous  
12 gas supplies for a number of years it is not a  
13 sufficient long-term solution to addressing Ireland's  
14 growing demand. There would be a significant supply  
15 shortfall in Ireland once production from the Corrib 17: 41  
16 Field starts to decline.

17  
18 The UK will be importing increasing quantities of  
19 natural gas in the future. National Grid, that's the  
20 UK operator of their high pressure pipeline system, 17: 41  
21 recently stated:

22 "Our latest view indicates that the UK  
23 may have an import requirement of about  
24 79% by 2016/2017."

25 The Shannon LNG project has the potential to supply 17: 41  
26 about 60% of Ireland's natural gas demand, if granted  
27 planning permission and other approvals. For  
28 environmental reasons the Government's "National  
29 Climate Change Strategy" shows natural gas as being the

1 predominant fuel for power generation in the future.  
2 Therefore, in an evolving global natural gas market  
3 Ireland now has to decide the optimum way to source the  
4 natural gas for its power generation, commercial and  
5 domestic requirements. 17: 42

6  
7 I believe that I adequately handled the next portion of  
8 my statement this morning so I will take it as read  
9 with your approval, Inspector. I also have a section  
10 in here on world gas supplies and I believe that 17: 42  
11 I handled that adequately this morning and I will take  
12 it as read with your approval. My colleague Gordon  
13 Shearer will address this topic in further detail also.

14  
15 The next section of my statement entitled "Allowing 17: 42  
16 Ireland to compete on the global gas market", I would  
17 also propose that I take that as read, Mr. Inspector,  
18 and it will be elaborated further by my colleague  
19 Gordon Shearer later.

20 17: 43  
21 On the subject of supporting renewable electricity  
22 generation. The Irish Government has set a target that  
23 33% of electricity will be produced by renewable energy  
24 by 2020. Due to the environmental consequences of coal  
25 and oil, natural gas will be used to fuel the majority 17: 43  
26 of the remaining power requirements in Ireland up to  
27 2020 and well beyond in fact as well. The majority of  
28 the 33% renewable energy target will be met by  
29 electricity produced by wind generation, but due to the

1 intermittent and unpredictable nature of wind  
2 generation, gas fired electricity generation will have  
3 to be available as back-up to the system when the wind  
4 generation is low or absent.

17: 44

5  
6 Ireland will require more and more flexible gas  
7 supplies to fuel power stations that are providing  
8 back-up to this proposed wind generation. Shannon LNG  
9 is well placed to provide these flexible gas supplies.  
10 EirGrid acknowledge that more flexible gas supplies  
11 will be required in the future in a document they  
12 published in 2007 and I provide the reference to that.

17: 44

13  
14 In summary I would like to say that I believe that  
15 natural gas will continue to be a key component of  
16 Ireland's fuel mix well into this century and that  
17 natural gas will play a key role in supporting the  
18 Government in achieving their renewable energy target.

17: 44

19  
20 An added advantage of the Shannon LNG terminal is its  
21 potential for storage. Compared to other European  
22 countries on a percentage basis Ireland has one of the  
23 lowest amounts of natural gas storage to meet peaks in  
24 gas demand and unexpected supply interruptions. Even  
25 though it is designed primarily for operational  
26 purposes, Shannon LNG's storage will add to the overall  
27 gas storage capacity in the Irish market. The figure  
28 now being displayed here, figure 6, demonstrates the  
29 very low amounts of gas storage available in Ireland

17: 44

17: 45



1 compared to other European countries and you can see on  
2 this list we are the lowest.

3  
4 Turning now to the energy policy context both in  
5 Ireland and internationally. I will outline how the 17: 45  
6 proposed terminal is consistent with international,  
7 with European and national policy developments as  
8 discussed in detail in volume 2, section 4 of the EIS  
9 and expand a little bit on it.

10  
11 First of all starting with the International Energy  
12 Agency. The International Energy Agency acts as energy  
13 policy advisor to 27 member countries in their effort  
14 to ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy for  
15 their citizens and Ireland is a member of the IEA. The 17: 46  
16 IEA in their report on Ireland titled "Energy Policies  
17 of IEA Countries - Ireland 2007 Review" made the  
18 following statement:

19  
20 "A stable and secure supply of natural 17: 46  
21 gas at competitive prices is of crucial  
22 importance to Ireland. The island has  
23 no operational indigenous source of  
24 natural gas after the projected  
25 depletion of the Kinsale gasfield which  
26 is already operating at end of life  
27 levels. To diversify gas supply the  
28 opening of the Corrib field is a  
29 priority and should be supported by the  
Government."

They went on to add:

"The construction of an LNG terminal  
has been proposed by a private operator  
-- that's Shannon LNG -- and this could  
contribute to increase the security of  
supply and achieve diversification in

1 supply sources. "

2

3 The report goes on to say that the Government of  
4 Ireland should:

5

6 "Create an investment friendly  
7 transparent environment in the natural  
8 gas market and consider on an all  
9 island basis, taking into account  
projected demand increases, the  
potential of natural gas storage and an  
LNG terminal for enhancing the  
country's security of supply. "

17: 47

10

17: 47

11 That deals with the International Energy Agency.  
12 Turning now to the EU Commission.

13

14 The EU published a Green Paper entitled "European  
15 Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure  
16 Energy" in March 2006. In the green paper there are  
17 proposals for an agreed list of priorities for the  
18 construction of new infrastructure necessary for the  
19 security of EU energy supplies, notably gas pipelines  
20 and liquefied natural gas terminals.

17: 48

17: 48

21

22 Turning now to the Irish Government. The Minister for  
23 Communications, Marine and Natural Resources published  
24 an Energy White Paper entitled "Delivering a  
25 Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland" in early 2007.  
26 Security of supply is identified as a key  
27 consideration. The White Paper states that:

17: 48

28

29 "Security of energy supply is crucial  
for the economy and society. We need  
reliable access to oil and gas supplies

1 and the infrastructure in place to  
2 import, distribute and store gas and  
oil.

3 Currently over -- and I am quoting from  
4 the paper -- currently over 90% of the  
Irish energy requirements are imported.  
5 Combined with our peripheral location  
and small market scale this current  
6 reality leaves Ireland vulnerable to  
supply disruption and imported price  
7 volatility. Security of energy supply  
is a global issue and the European  
8 Union's growing reliance on energy  
imports increases Ireland's overall  
9 energy vulnerability.

17: 49

10 The Government's overriding policy  
objective is to ensure that energy is  
11 consistently available at competitive  
prices with minimal risk of supply  
12 disruption."

17: 49

13 One of the Government's strategic goals in the White  
14 Paper is, and I quote:

15 "Ensuring the physical security and  
16 reliability of gas supplies to Ireland  
because of the importance of gas in the  
17 Irish fuel mix."

17: 49

18  
19 The White Paper goes on list the actions to be taken to  
20 ensure this, including, and I quote:

17: 49

21 "We will continue to actively encourage  
22 private sector interest in investing in  
gas storage facilities and LNG and  
23 review the potential role for  
24 Government intervention in the event of  
market failure in light of the study's  
25 findings."

17: 50

26 Energy Minister Eamonn Ryan TD made the following  
27 statement in a recent Dáil debate:

28 "The planned development of a merchant  
29 LNG storage facility at Shannon will  
have a positive impact on the security

1 of our gas supply and improve our  
2 connectivity to the global gas market."

3 The CER have also made some statements. Of course we  
4 know that the CER is the regulator for electricity and  
5 natural gas in Ireland. They are responsible for  
6 ensuring that the lights stay on and that the gas  
7 continues to flow.

17: 50

8  
9 In their report on "Ireland's Security of Supply of  
10 Electricity" in August 2006 they said:

17: 50

11 "It is understood that consideration by  
12 private enterprises is being given to  
13 the construction of an LNG terminal for  
14 Ireland. The addition of an LNG  
15 terminal to Ireland's natural gas  
16 infrastructure will significantly  
17 enhance Ireland's security of supply.

17: 51

18 This would be as a result of:

19 Overall supplies of gas increasing as a  
20 result of the additional source of gas  
21 importation;

22 and a more diversion delivery  
23 infrastructure for natural gas enhances  
24 the security of gas supplies."

17: 51

25 On national and regional policies I also believe that  
26 the proposed development of the terminal is consistent  
27 with and supports other national and region policies  
28 such as the National Development Plan 2007 to 2013, the  
29 National Spatial Strategy 2002 to 2020, the South  
Western Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines  
2004, the Strategic Plan for Shannon Estuary 2005,  
Kerry County Development Plan 2003 to 2009. Ri a Lyden  
will expand on this topic further in her evidence.

17: 51

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29

Turning now to an outline of the project. Shannon LNG proposes to construct the regasification terminal on a 257 acre site between Tarbert and Ballylongford. The site location and an aerial photograph of the site are shown in the non-technical summary of the EIS, many copies of which are available here in the hall. More detail on the site and the project description is given in volume 2, section 3 of the EIS and I won't deal with it here.

17: 52

17: 52

Shannon LNG has entered into an option to purchase agreement with Shannon Development who are the owners of the site. As part of its planning permission to the Board Shannon LNG included correspondence from Shannon Development to the Board indicating that it was consenting to the application being made by Shannon LNG in respect of these lands. Of course this was further confirmed by Richard O'Sullivan of Shannon Development here today.

17: 53

17: 53

The site is part of a land bank of approximately 600 acres. The land was acquired by the State, the first tranche in 1959 and the remainder in 1980, I understand, as an national strategic location for large scale maritime related industry. That's the background to the site. I was going to deal with a brief overview of LNG, but I believe I adequately covered that this morning and with your approval,

17: 53

1 Inspector, I will move on.

2  
3 An overview of the project itself is also included in  
4 my statement of evidence. We are proposing, and this  
5 is detailed in volume 2 section 3 of the EIS and also 17: 54  
6 I would refer you to figure 1.3 of the EIS which is  
7 shown here on the overhead. (Indicating) The proposal  
8 is to build an LNG jetty. This jetty will be capable  
9 of receiving and providing secure berthing for LNG  
10 ships up to 265,000 cubic metres cargo capacity. The 17: 54  
11 double hulled LNG ships carry the LNG at near  
12 atmospheric pressure in specially insulated tanks. The  
13 LNG storage tanks: There would be up to four full  
14 containment LNG storage tanks, each with a useable  
15 capacity of about 200,000 cubic metres. The 17: 54  
16 vaporisation process equipment: This equipment will  
17 convert the LNG from a liquid to a gaseous state.  
18 Administration and security building, stores,  
19 workshops, various other buildings and process  
20 equipment will also be built on the site. 17: 55

21  
22 A pond will be created to provide a water supply during  
23 construction and operation of the terminal. It will be  
24 located on the existing stream within the site as shown  
25 on the diagram. (Indicating) We have also shown a 17: 55  
26 materials jetty. During the construction of the plant  
27 it is possible that certain materials and equipment may  
28 be transported to the site by sea. If determined to be  
29 a feasible method of supply a small materials jetty

1 would be constructed or may be constructed.

2  
3 More information on the shipping aspects and the tanks  
4 and equipment will be provided by my colleagues  
5 Mr. Blair MacIntyre, Mr. Leon Bowdoin, Mr. Eoghan Lynch 17:55  
6 of Arup Consulting Engineers will describe the civil  
7 engineering works later.

8  
9 It is anticipated that the terminal will be developed  
10 in several phases. When all phases are complete the 17:56  
11 terminal have a sendout capacity of up to 1 billion  
12 cubic feet of gas per day. During the initial phase  
13 one or two of the tanks will be constructed in addition  
14 to vaporisation equipment and other facilities. In the  
15 initial phase the normal operating flow rate of gas on 17:56  
16 the terminal into the gas transmission grid will be  
17 approximately 400 million cubic feet per day. In the  
18 initial phase sufficient capacity will be provided to  
19 enable peak regasification and sent out at up to 600  
20 million cubic feet per day. It is expected that 17:56  
21 construction for the initial phase could commence in  
22 2009, subject to planning permission and other  
23 approvals of course. It is envisaged that the terminal  
24 will be operational in 2012/2013, if approved.

25 17:57  
26 In a future phase between one and three additional  
27 tanks, that is up to four tanks in total, may be  
28 constructed. Vaporisation and equipment and other  
29 facilities will be installed to increase the sendout

1 capacity to 1 BCF per day. To facilitate the phased  
2 development, Shannon LNG has applied for a 10 year  
3 planning permission. My colleague Gordon Shearer will  
4 provide further information on this area when  
5 discussing the global LNG industry and the scale of the 17:57  
6 project.

7  
8 With the availability of gas it is possible that in the  
9 future a gas fired power station may be developed on  
10 the site. There are no plans at this time for a power 17:57  
11 station area, but an area has been allocated on site in  
12 order to make sure we would have sufficient space for  
13 one. If a power station is proposed in the future it  
14 will require a separate planning application and  
15 Environmental Impact Statement. 17:58

16  
17 Turning to the ancillary projects, Mr. Inspector,  
18 I would now like to discuss these with you. These  
19 projects are of course discussed in detail in volume 3  
20 section 18 of the Environmental Impact Statement. They 17:58  
21 include the upgrade of the coast road, a 110 kilovolt  
22 line supply from EirGrid and a gas pipeline to connect  
23 the terminal to the national gas grid near Foynes. As  
24 is normal for road projects the consent for upgrading  
25 of the coast road would be made by Kerry County Council 17:58  
26 under the requirements of part 8 of the Planning and  
27 Development Regulations 2001. This activity is  
28 underway, I understand, by Kerry County Council and  
29 their representatives will describe their activities



1 later.

2

3 We have applied to EirGrid for a 110 kV power supply.  
4 The power supply will originate in the vicinity of the  
5 ESB Tarbert substation. The normal practice for power 17: 59  
6 supply projects is that EirGrid make the planning  
7 application.

8

9 Construction of the gas pipeline does not have to start  
10 until about 2011 at the earliest. However, preparation 17: 59  
11 of the planning application is more time consuming than  
12 for the terminal because of a number of factors.

13 Namely, the pipeline crosses lands with numerous owners  
14 unlike the terminal which sits on a single plot of  
15 land. A number of the owners of the land along the 17: 59  
16 pipeline route are living abroad and are otherwise not  
17 readily contactable. I would like to add that we are  
18 in negotiations with BGE to determine if they are  
19 interested in building, owning and operating the  
20 pipeline and the pipeline may involve compulsory 18: 00  
21 acquisition to which different considerations may  
22 apply.

23

24 It is our intention to progress these activities as  
25 fast as possible, but as you can see, Mr. Inspector, 18: 00  
26 others are also involved and they have their own  
27 regulatory constraints, guidelines and commercial  
28 interests. Hence, we have to respect their views on  
29 how these activities can be progressed. Having said

1 this, we are aiming to submit the pipeline planning  
2 application in the next few months to An Bord Pleanála.  
3 We have already started the preconsultation process  
4 with An Bord Pleanála.

5  
6 Shannon LNG has already agreed a comprehensive package  
7 of measures with the Irish Farmers Association and the  
8 Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association on the terms  
9 and conditions for securing the rights of way for the  
10 gas pipeline and they have welcomed these agreements. 18:00  
11 Additional information will be provided later by Ri  
12 Lyden on the ancillary projects. 18:01

13  
14 I was now going to cover the subject of benefits to  
15 Ireland from the Shannon LNG terminal, but, 18:01  
16 Mr. Inspector, I believe that I adequately covered this  
17 this morning. They are listed in my statement of  
18 evidence which you have and which the others here have  
19 and I will take them as read with your approval.

20 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** Sorry, it is 6:00. 18:01

21 **MR. POWER:** Turning now, Mr. Inspector  
22 ... (INTERJECTION)

23 **INSPECTOR:** Just to answer that. We  
24 have eight more pages to go  
25 according to this. Well, it's not even eight, it is 18:01  
26 seven.

27 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** We want to question some of  
28 the stuff.

29 **INSPECTOR:** I think we will reserve

1 that for tomorrow, is that  
2 all right?

3 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** We have got to go home, we  
4 have a long distance to  
5 travel. We asked if we could have the oral hearing 18:02  
6 closer to home and now we have to go home. Eight  
7 pages, he will read them tomorrow, we can look at them  
8 tonight and we can read them tomorrow.

9 **INSPECTOR:** How do you feel about that,  
10 do you want to adjourn it 18:02  
11 at this stage or do you wish to press on?

12 **MR. O' NEI LL:** Seven pages down the line  
13 would finish his report,  
14 but I am entirely in your hands. I am conscious that  
15 we have a limited period of time to get through and we 18:02  
16 have a large number of issues.

17 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** We have to pick up children  
18 and everything, we want to  
19 hear everything.

20 **INSPECTOR:** We are talking about, what, 18:02  
21 15 minutes.

22 **MR. O' NEI LL:** 15 minutes maximum.

23 **INSPECTOR:** I don't think that is  
24 unreasonable. The times  
25 that I have given should be taken as guideline times 18:02  
26 and I think it would be sensible just to finish this  
27 submission.

28 **SPEAKER:** It is just that I have to  
29 get back to Limerick City

1 for 8 o'clock tonight so I cannot stay any longer.

2 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** I have to go as well,  
3 thanks.

4 **MR. O' NEI LL:** They have the written  
5 reports in any event and 18:03  
6 all this witness is going to do is go through that  
7 written report and will obviously be available for  
8 questioning tomorrow.

9 **I NSPECTOR:** Mr. McElligott, you are  
10 taking the written report 18:03  
11 home with you?

12 **MR. McELLI GOTT:** Yes.

13 **I NSPECTOR:** Okay. I think we will  
14 continue, Mr. Power.

15 **MR. POWER:** Thank you, Mr. Inspector. 18:03  
16 Turning first to the Kerry  
17 County Council submission. We note the submission from  
18 Kerry County Council and that it is the recommendation  
19 of the Manager that permission for the proposed  
20 development should be granted subject to the conditions 18:03  
21 listed in section 5.15.1 below. The Kerry County  
22 Council submission recommends that a number of  
23 conditions are placed on any planning permission  
24 granted to Shannon LNG. These conditions are detailed  
25 in their submission. Shannon LNG will accept these 18:03  
26 conditions. We accept all of these conditions,  
27 Mr. Inspector; however, with a minor exception. We  
28 will be providing some comments on the conditions  
29 relating to the x-raying of wells in the fabrication of

1 the gas tanks and pipelines and the method of  
2 certification of the chemical composition of nickel  
3 steels. My colleague Leon Bowdoyn will provide  
4 additional details on these issues in their evidence.  
5 Other than those two very minor items we accept the 18: 04  
6 conditions that Kerry County Council have added.

7  
8 Kerry County Council also in their submission said that  
9 with regard to property prices in the area they state  
10 that: 18: 04

11 "Due to the extra demand for property  
12 arising from the development, the  
13 planning history of the site and public  
14 awareness of intended uses, the  
15 planning authority considers  
16 depreciation of authority in the area  
17 will be negligible, if any." 18: 05

16 Our response to this is we note their observation  
17 property prices are unlikely to be impacted by the  
18 development and we would agree with that.

19  
20 Turning to the Kilcolgan Resident Association's 18: 05  
21 submissions. They made the submission that there is no  
22 strategic need for an LNG terminal in Ireland. Ireland  
23 can rely on the UK for its gas supply. Our response is  
24 that the Irish Government's Energy White Paper points  
25 to the need to develop longer term strategies to reduce 18: 05  
26 overreliance on gas imports from the UK. We have  
27 detailed the risks of Ireland relying on Britain for  
28 our natural gas requirements in volume 2 section 2.2.2  
29 of the EIS and in section 5 of this evidence entitled

1 "The Strategic Need for the Project".

2  
3 The Kilcolgan Residents Association also submitted  
4 claims that Shannon LNG does not guarantee the supply  
5 of natural gas to Ireland. Our response to this is the 18:06  
6 proposed Shannon LNG is an long-term commercial  
7 venture. It is anticipated that Shannon LNG will have  
8 contracts with wholesale purchase of natural gas in  
9 Ireland. These contracts normally contain commitments  
10 to deliver agreed quantities of natural gas with an 18:06  
11 agreed pricing formula. Additionally the terminal will  
12 provide access to multiple sources of natural gas  
13 around the world.

14  
15 Another one of their submissions, that's the Kilcolgan 18:06  
16 Residents Association, claims that there is no  
17 strategic benefit to the country from the Shannon LNG  
18 terminal. Our response to this is we have outlined the  
19 strategic benefits to the country in volume 2 section  
20 2.28 of the EIS and section 9 "Benefits of the Project 18:06  
21 to Ireland" in this evidence.

22  
23 They also made a submission and claims that the  
24 proposed terminal undermines stated Government policy.  
25 Our policy to that is we have outlined how the proposed 18:07  
26 terminal is consistent with Government policy in volume  
27 2 section 4 of the EIS and in section 6 the policy  
28 context of this evidence. They made an additional  
29 submission, that's the Kilcolgan Residents Association,

1 which states that Shannon LNG is artificially cutting  
2 this LNG project into pieces for the purpose of winning  
3 legal approval. Our response to that is we have  
4 outlined in volume 2 section 18 of the EIS the  
5 ancillary projects associated with the LNG terminal. 18: 07  
6 We have outlined in section 8 ancillary projects of  
7 this evidence the reasons it is necessary to submit  
8 separate planning applications for the ancillary  
9 projects and Ria Lyden will further provide background  
10 in this area in her evidence. 18: 07

11  
12 Point No. 15 in the Kilcolgan residents submission  
13 states the justification for the project being that the  
14 supply of gas to Ireland is not assured must be  
15 questioned and it cannot be assumed that the proposed 18: 08  
16 gas terminal is of overriding natural interest.  
17 Shannon LNG's response to this: We have shown in  
18 volume 2 section 2 of the EIS and in section 5 the  
19 strategic need for the project of this evidence, the  
20 risks facing Ireland in securing its long-term gas 18: 08  
21 supplies through one pipeline from Britain. Section 5  
22 the policy context of this statement provides clear  
23 evidence that the International Energy Agency, the  
24 Irish Government and the Commission for Energy  
25 Regulation all recognise the security and diversity of 18: 08  
26 supply benefits an LNG terminal in Ireland would  
27 provide.

28  
29 The Kilcolgan Residents Association, point No. 15, in

1 their submission claims that when the whole of the  
2 supply chain is considered that natural gas is no  
3 cleaner than coal. Our response to that is coal also  
4 has to be extracted and transported by ship to Ireland  
5 over long distances. As referenced in section 4 18:09  
6 project background of this evidence Sustainable Energy  
7 Ireland statistics show that coal produces 67% more CO<sub>2</sub>  
8 emissions than gas per kilowatt-hour of energy  
9 produced.

10 18:09  
11 In point No. 16 of the Killologan residents submission  
12 claims that there will be a glut of LNG in the UK  
13 market which should guarantee the supply of LNG to  
14 Ireland. Our response to this: We have already  
15 outlined the risks to Ireland relying on one supply 18:09  
16 point, that is Britain for its gas, which is quickly  
17 running out of gas. We accept that there may be  
18 adequate import capacity in the UK market over the next  
19 few years, but this is not the same as the supply of  
20 gas. It's not the same as the supply of molecules. 18:10  
21 Their Killologan Residents Association's submission  
22 misses the point. The Shannon LNG project has been  
23 planned as a long-term 40 plus year solution to meeting  
24 Ireland's gas demands, not for the next couple of  
25 years. National Grid, that's the operator of the UK 18:10  
26 high pressure pipeline network, made the following  
27 points in their ten year statement to 2007:

28 "The UK may be importing around 80% of  
29 its own gas requirements by 2016/17 --  
that's only a few years away. The



1 supply of natural gas to the UK market  
2 will become tight again sometime  
3 between 2011 and 12 and supplies from  
4 Norway to the UK will not be as  
5 significant as previously understood."

6 This answers that part of their submission. 18: 10

7 Point No. 17 in the Killocolgan Residents Association  
8 submission quotes the Government White Paper delivering  
9 a sustainable energy solution for Ireland when stating  
10 that the prognosis for gas supplies is relatively 18: 11  
11 secure as a result. Our response to this is that they  
12 are very selective in this observation. While import  
13 capacity may be adequate this is not the same as gas  
14 supplies as demonstrated above. The White Paper goes  
15 on to say that: 18: 11

16 "It is prudent for Ireland to develop a  
17 long-term strategy to reduce  
18 overreliance on gas imports from the  
19 UK."

20 As I outlined in section 6, the policy content of this 18: 11  
21 statement, the Irish Government went on to say in the  
22 White Paper:

23 "We will continue to actively encourage  
24 private sector interest in investing in  
25 gas storage facilities and LNG and 18: 11  
26 review the potential role for  
27 Government intervention in the event of  
28 market failure in light of the studies  
29 findings."

30 The Killocolgan Residents Association point No. 17 claims  
31 that there is no overriding urgent strategic imperative

1 or immediate need for an LNG terminal in Ireland or in  
2 Tarbert. We believe that volume 2 section 2 of the EIS  
3 and section 5, the strategic need for the project, and  
4 section 5 the policy content of this evidence  
5 demonstrate the strategic imperative for an LNG  
6 terminal in Ireland. 18: 12

7  
8 Their submission point No. 52 claims that Shannon LNG  
9 terminal would increase Ireland's dependency on the  
10 OPEC nations. Our response to that is the Shannon LNG 18: 12  
11 terminal will allow Ireland to source LNG from numerous  
12 locations and countries around the world. Some of  
13 these countries will be members of OPEC and some others  
14 will not be members.

15 18: 12  
16 There was also a submission from Adam Kearney &  
17 Associates. That submission says that there is no  
18 strategic need for an LNG terminal in Ireland as  
19 Ireland can rely on Britain and the Corrib Field for  
20 its long-term natural gas requirements. Our response 18: 13  
21 to that is that we have outlined the strategic need for  
22 the project in volume 2 section 2 of the EIS and  
23 section 5, the strategic need for the project, and  
24 section 6, the policy content text of this evidence.  
25 I believe we have adequately answered that question. 18: 13

26  
27 There was also a submission from the Sea Energy Group.  
28 Their submission stated that Sea Energy acknowledges  
29 the need for energy diversity and they state LNG should

1 be included. The submission also states that LNG is a  
2 global warming fuel and that renewables should be  
3 prioritised first.

4  
5 Our response to this is that the Shannon LNG terminal 18: 13  
6 or proposal envisages only a part of the land bank  
7 being used for LNG, leaving the remainder available for  
8 the sea energy concept if it proves to be practical.

9 Section 4, project background of this statement,  
10 demonstrates that natural gas is the most 18: 13  
11 environmentally friendly of the fossil fuels and  
12 section 5, the strategic need for the project, details  
13 the Government's climate change strategy involves the  
14 continued high dependence on natural gas to 2020.

15 18: 14  
16 Thomas O'Donovan made a submission. His submission  
17 claims that we have the technology in this country to  
18 supply enough energy from indigenous sustainable and  
19 ecological resources to supply all present and future  
20 needs. Our response to this is: This submission is 18: 14  
21 not valid. Ireland is amongst the most energy import  
22 dependent countries in Europe. Sustainable Energy  
23 Ireland estimate we have an energy import dependency of  
24 around 90%. We are not self-sufficient as demonstrated  
25 in my statement. 18: 14

26  
27 Kathy Sinnott MEP made a submission. This submission  
28 claims that there is no strategic need for an LNG  
29 terminal in Ireland and that natural gas is a fossil

1 fuel and, therefore, ultimately unsustainable. Our  
2 response to this is that we have demonstrated the  
3 strategic need for the project in volume 2 section 2 of  
4 the EIS and section 5 of this statement. We have  
5 demonstrated the long-term nature of natural gas 18: 15  
6 reserves available to the world in volume 2 section 2  
7 of the EIS and also in the statement. My colleague  
8 Gordon Shearer will talk to that subject as well  
9 tomorrow.

10  
11 Marshall & McCawley Solicitors submissions on behalf of  
12 Ms. Anne O'Connor, Mr. John O'Connor, Ms. Eileen  
13 O'Connor and Ms. Tina O'Connor. Their submissions  
14 concern access to the plot of land that is not part of  
15 the Shannon Development land bank and Shannon LNG has 18: 15  
16 no interest in it. That was their submission. That's  
17 roughly the two acres that you asked about this  
18 morning, Mr. Inspector. Our response to this is that  
19 we have been advised that Shannon Development do not  
20 own the small parcel of land in question and Shannon 18: 16  
21 Development has advised us that they are not aware of  
22 any right of way over their land to it. Although this  
23 issue does not affect the progress of the overall  
24 project, we would encourage the O'Connor family to  
25 address this issue with Shannon Development directly as 18: 16  
26 soon as possible.

27  
28 Mr. Desmond Branigan made a submission. We welcome  
29 Mr. Branigan's confirmation that he believes that LNG

1 will not only be the fuel of choice but the fuel of the  
2 future and he quotes the Northern Ireland Department of  
3 Trade and Industry. The quotation is:

4 "Natural gas is the only viable fuel  
5 that can link the carbon based global  
6 energy supply used today to a renewable  
7 based energy supply that will have to  
8 be used in the future. It is the only  
9 relatively clean alternative to coal  
10 and oil, fully supported by  
11 commercially affected production and  
12 distribution technologies. There is  
13 little doubt, therefore, that natural  
14 gas and in particular LNG will not only  
15 be the fuel of choice, but the fuel for  
16 the future."

18: 16

18: 17

12 The submission also claims that the proposed LNG  
13 facility in the Shannon area is not and in the  
14 long-term would not be the means by which the essential  
15 supplies of gas would be assured. Our response to that  
16 is that we outline in volume 2 section 2 of the EIS why  
17 the Shannon LNG site is an excellent location for the  
18 terminal.

18: 17

20 I will outline further in my evidence on site selection  
21 why the Shannon LNG site is an excellent location for  
22 the terminal. As I said earlier this morning I believe  
23 that it's the right site at the right location and it's  
24 right project for the site.

18: 17

18: 18

26 Ms. Eileen O'Connor also make a submission. This  
27 submission requests An Bord Pleanála to analyse Shannon  
28 LNG's assertion that the terminal will improve supply,  
29 bring downward pressure on prices and give security of

1 supply to Ireland. It also makes the point that  
2 Shannon LNG will sell its gas to the highest bidder.  
3 Our response to this is I believe that section 5 of the  
4 strategic need for the project and section 6, the  
5 policy context of this evidence, answer the questions 18: 18  
6 raised in this submission. The CER, the State  
7 organisation responsible for ensuring that the lights  
8 say on and the gas continues to flow, have welcomed  
9 private enterprise developing an LNG terminal in  
10 Ireland. The IEA, that's the Irish Government and the 18: 18  
11 CER, also recognise the security and diversity of  
12 supply benefits afforded to the nation by the LNG  
13 terminal located in Ireland and the development of the  
14 terminal in Ireland is supported by Government policy  
15 and assists Government policy. 18: 19

16  
17 Additional supply to a market will normally put  
18 downward pressure on prices, this is in response to the  
19 question about prices. Additional supply to a market  
20 will normally put downward pressure on prices in that 18: 19  
21 market and I will give an example. Wholesale prices  
22 dropped by about 50% between November 2005 and November  
23 2006 in the UK primarily due to new supplies flowing  
24 from Norway to the UK.

25 18: 19  
26 It is anticipated that Shannon LNG will have contracts  
27 with wholesale purchase of natural gas in Ireland.  
28 These contracts normally contain commitments to deliver  
29 agreed quantities of natural gas with an agreed pricing



1 questioning Mr. Power on matters which are dealt with  
2 in other precise or more appropriately dealt with by  
3 other people, but we are in your hands in relation to  
4 that.

5 **INSPECTOR:** It does mean that there is 18: 21  
6 going to be a huge volume  
7 of submissions from yourselves that the likes of  
8 Mr. Power are going to have to deal with, but I think  
9 maybe we will proceed on with your submission certainly  
10 initially tomorrow morning and see how things go. 18: 21

11 **MR. O'NEILL:** Sorry, proceed with?

12 **INSPECTOR:** With your next submission.

13 **MR. O'NEILL:** Yes, my next witness.

14 **INSPECTOR:** If I feel it is getting out  
15 of hand I may stop you. 18: 21

16 **MR. O'NEILL:** Absolutely, Sir. If you  
17 want we can probably divide

18 it between the need and site selection. The next  
19 witness Mr. Shearer will be dealing with the  
20 international need and it may be if you feel 18: 21  
21 appropriate that questions on that aspect can then be  
22 dealt with and then we can go on to the site selection  
23 issue.

24 **INSPECTOR:** Okay, we will think about  
25 that overnight and let you 18: 22  
26 know sometime tomorrow morning. Thank you very much  
27 everybody. I think we have a few questions.

28 **FEMALE SPEAKER:** It is just that we couldn't  
29 hear what you were saying.



1 We would like to know what is the agenda for tomorrow,  
2 what is going to be discussed tomorrow morning. We  
3 couldn't hear.

4 **INSPECTOR:** Sorry, I must have been  
5 talking away from the 18: 22  
6 microphone. Yes, definitely the microphone was off and  
7 that's why you couldn't hear me. I was debating in  
8 fact what procedure we would have, but I think we have  
9 decided that we are going to go on with their  
10 submission for the moment and we are looking at 18: 22  
11 breaking it up until some modules, if you like, but the  
12 first person on tomorrow will be the next person from  
13 the Applicants. Mr. Fox?

14 **MR. FOX:** Can I just take it so we  
15 are leaving aside the 18: 23  
16 particular presentation that Mr. Power made just now  
17 and we will come back and question him later if we  
18 wish.

19 **INSPECTOR:** Yes, but somebody else will  
20 be doing a presentation 18: 23  
21 first thing tomorrow morning and then possibly we will  
22 come back to Mr. Power who is the next presenter.

23 **MR. FOX:** Thank you.

24 **INSPECTOR:** Mr. Branigan?

25 **MR. BRANIGAN:** There is a reference here 18: 23  
26 "we welcome Mr. Branigan's  
27 contribution". Mr. Branigan didn't say anything. This  
28 organisation Marine Research & Associates are  
29 responsible. I don't like to think I am being

1 personalised in any way. If it was any other  
2 organisation, they got a statement from this or that,  
3 that's merely from me.

4 **INSPECTOR:** I think that's probably a  
5 reflection of your strong 18: 24  
6 personal i ty, Mr. Brani gan.

7 **MR. BRANI GAN:** I beg your pardon.

8 **INSPECTOR:** I think that's probably a  
9 reflection of your strong  
10 personal i ty that you have been given special treatment, 18: 24  
11 but I presume the Applicants take that point on board.

12 **MR. O' NEI LL:** Indeed, we di dn' t mean to  
13 represent the posi ti on at  
14 all .

15 **MR. BRANI GAN:** I hope that my strong 18: 24  
16 personal i ty results in  
17 somebody real ising that we are a bloody island and the  
18 way to get the gas is wi th our own ships.

19 **INSPECTOR:** Thank you.

20 **MR. O' DONOVAN:** I just want to put a brief 18: 24  
21 questions to Mr. Power.  
22 I am Thomas O' Donovan and my submi ssi on was short  
23 enough really so I think Mr. Power might have been a  
24 bit selective in my submi ssi on, there was more to it.  
25 There was more on the envi ronment, there was more on 18: 24  
26 wildl i fe, there was more on the dolphi ns and there was  
27 more on salmon so I would j ust l i ke to remind him of  
28 that.

29 **INSPECTOR:** We wi ll be coming to that

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in later modules.

MR. O' DONOVAN:

Thank you very much.

INSPECTOR:

I am going to close  
procedures for today so

hopefully we will see you all at 10:00 o'clock tomorrow 18:25  
morning. Thank you, everybody.

THE HEARING WAS ADJOURNED TO TUESDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2008

AT 10:00 A.M.

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