

Glengad  
Pollathomas  
Ballina  
County Mayo  
086 3123439

18<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Planning Department  
Kerry County Council  
Council Buildings  
Rathass, Tralee  
County Kerry

**RE: The “Safety Before LNG” group’s request for a declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - on proposed changes to the Shannon LNG project at Kilcolgan, Tarbert, County Kerry - dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008.**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you on behalf of Pobal Chill Chomáin (a local community group in Kilcommon Parish in North Mayo) to express our support for the “Safety Before LNG” group - representing the vested interests of the people of Kilcolgan and the wider community - in their efforts to secure a sustainable development that ensures the health and safety of their people and their environment.

The potential impacts associated with major gas projects are well known to our community, with the development of the Corrib offshore gas field currently being proposed to be situated in the heart of our parish. As a community we have faced the difficulties of participating in the planning process in a fair and equitable manner, and we recognise and share many of the concerns expressed by the residents of Kilcolgan in recent times in relation to the planned LNG installation on the Shannon estuary.

Our own experiences have shown that there are serious deficiencies in the planning, licensing and regulatory systems in this jurisdiction - and particularly with reference to the practice of project-splitting - which gives rise to inadequate protection for people and the environment when faced with large-scale industrial projects.

What is of great concern is that the authorities are just not capable of handling projects of this type and scale, and this is even more serious when the consequences of such developments are potentially catastrophic. This is clearly the case with hazardous pipelines, refineries, and the transportation and storage of Liquefied Natural Gas.

Pobal Chill Chomáin wishes to urge Kerry County Council to give serious consideration to the proposed changes to the Shannon LNG project and its associated impacts, and to act in the best interests of those people who would be directly affected by this development.

Yours sincerely

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John Monaghan  
Spokesperson, Pobal Chill Chomáin