



An Coimisiún Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902

05 08 2025

**Re: ABP-322568-25 10-year permission for proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park consisting of power plant, battery energy storage system, floating storage and regasification unit, jetty, onshore receiving facilities, above ground installation and all ancillary structures/works. Townlands of Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry**

Dear Ellen,

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence with me (received by the Department on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025) requesting further information as to government policy in respect of certain energy matters. As you are undoubtedly aware, any individual decision in respect of this or other planning applications remains within the remit of An Coimisiún Pleanála, and I respect fully the independence that An Coimisiún Pleanála exercises in this regard. This being said, I am happy to clarify the overall policy position in respect of Ireland's strategic gas reserve and related matters, details of which are set out below.

The Government is committed to taking decisive action to radically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and to achieve a 51% reduction in emissions from 2018 to 2030, and to achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

The [Energy Security in Ireland to 2030](#) report, published in November 2023, states that Ireland's future energy will be secure by moving from a fossil fuel-based energy system to an electricity-led system, maximising our renewable energy potential, flexibility and being integrated into Europe's energy systems.



This review also highlighted a significant risk to Ireland's economy and society in the event of a disruption to gas supplies, that this Government felt needed to be addressed. It is in the context of energy security, that on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the [Government approved the development of a temporary State-led strategic gas emergency reserve](#), to secure Ireland's energy systems, as an interim measure, as we continue to transition to an indigenous, clean renewable energy future.

The 2021 'Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas' notes that the statement will remain in place pending the completion of the review of Ireland's energy security. The approval of this Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve marks that completion. Therefore, [The Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas no longer remains in place.](#)

If you have any queries in relation to the above submission, please contact officials in my Department at [minister.O'Brien@dcee.gov.ie](mailto:minister.O'Brien@dcee.gov.ie).

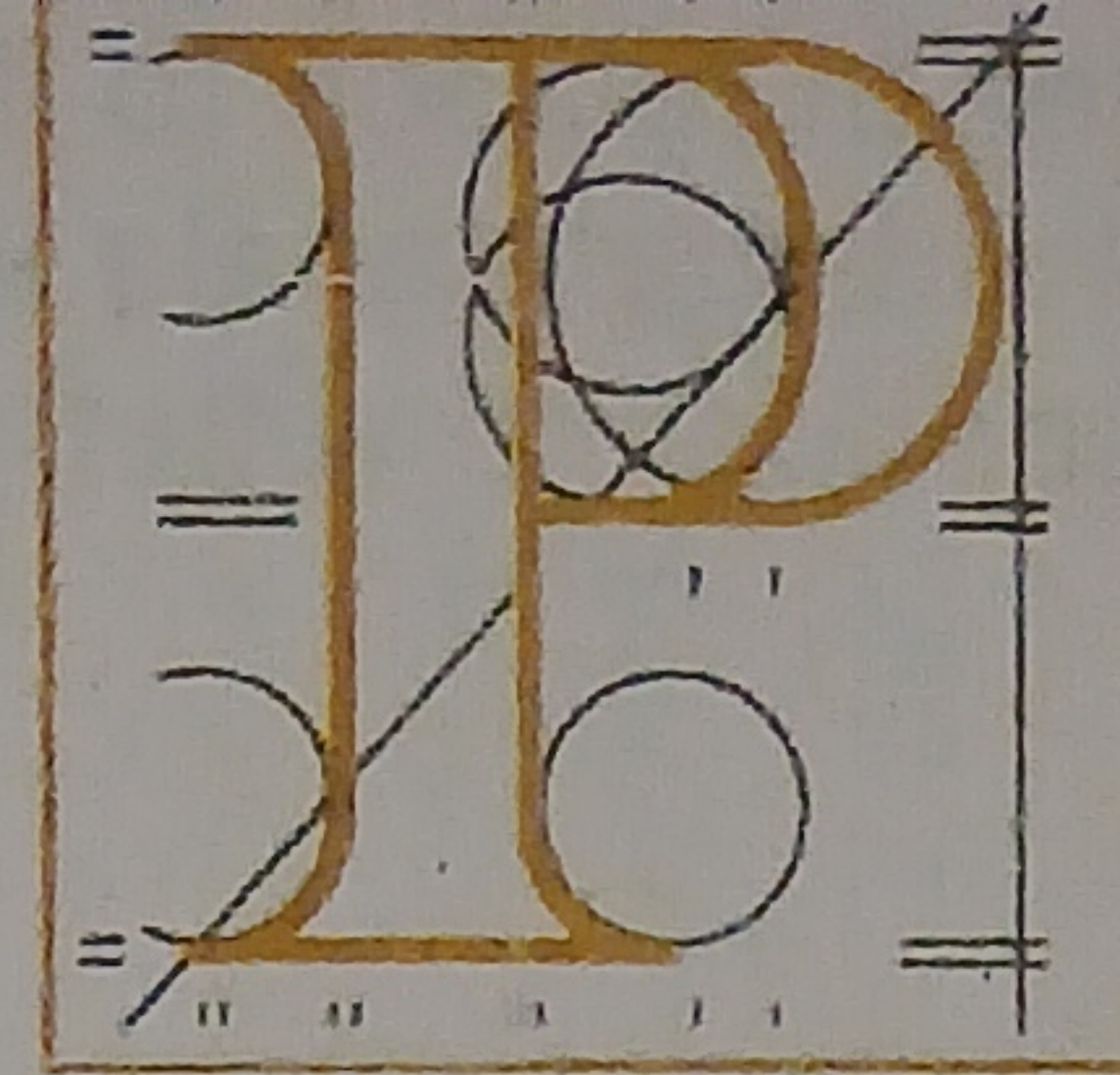
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. O'Brien', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Darragh O'Brien, T.D.

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment  
Tom Johnson House,  
Haddington Road  
Dublin 4  
D04 K7X4

**Date:** 27 June 2025

**Re:** 10 year permission for proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park consisting of power plant, battery energy storage system, floating storage and regasification unit, jetty, onshore receiving facilities, above ground installation and all ancillary structures/works.  
Townlands of Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Coimisiún Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned remitted application bearing reference number ABP-322568-25.

An Coimisiún Pleanála previously made a decision on this application by Order dated 13th September, 2023 and under reference number ABP-311233-21. That decision was quashed by Order of the High Court and the case was remitted by that Court back to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a new decision (and upon remittal was given the new 2025 reference number set out above). A copy of the High Court Judgment [2024] IEHC 555 and Order is attached to this letter for your information. Also enclosed for your information is a copy of a notice issued to the applicant in this case.

Having regard to the foregoing, the application has now been reactivated.

In that context, the Commission notes the Government's approval of "a State-led strategic gas emergency reserve that will be in the form of a Floating Storage and Regassification Unit (FSRU), to be owned on behalf of the State by the system operator, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)", the completion of the review of Ireland's energy security, and the consequent cessation of effect of the "Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas", all announced by press release on the 4th March, 2025. It is noted that the application in this matter relates to a private FRSU, and not a state led one, in this regard the Commission seeks clarity as to what is the policy in relation to private FRSUs.

Having regard to the foregoing, the Commission considers it appropriate, pursuant to section 37F(1)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to request the Minister to provide further submissions or observations on the remitted planning application, and in particular, to provide the Commission with information as to what in the Minister's view are the implications of the Government's current policy, as announced on the 4th March 2025, for this application currently under consideration by the Commission (i.e. the remitted application bearing reference number ABP-322568-25).

**Any such submissions that you may have in response to this notice must be received on or before 5.30 p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025.**

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission or email [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie) quoting the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Moss

Ellen Moss  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737285

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment  
Tom Johnson House  
Haddington Road  
Dublin 4  
D04 K7X4

Date: 27 June 2025

Re: 10 year permission for proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park consisting of power plant, battery energy storage system, floating storage and regasification unit, jetty, onshore receiving facilities, above ground installation and all ancillary structures.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Coimisiún Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned permitted application bearing reference number ABP-32258-25.

An Coimisiún Pleanála previously made a decision on this application by Order dated 13th September 2023 and under reference number ABP-31133-21. That decision was quashed by Order of the High Court and the case was remitted by that Court back to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a new decision (and your remittal was given the new 2025 reference number set out above). A copy of the High Court Judgment (2024) IEHC 555 and Order is attached to this letter for your information. Also enclosed for your information is a copy of a notice issued to the applicant in this case.

Having regard to the foregoing, the application has now been reactivated.

In the context of the Commission's role, the Government's approval of a State-led strategic gas emergency reserve that will be in the form of a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), to be owned or partly owned by the State, the system operator, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), the completion of the review of Ireland's energy security and the subsequent cessation of effect of the Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas, all announced by press release on the 4th March 2025. It is noted that the application in this matter relates to a private FSRU, and not a state led one. In this regard the Commission seeks clarity as to what is the policy in relation to private FSRUs.

Having regard to the foregoing, the Commission considers it appropriate, pursuant to section 27(1)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to request the Minister to provide further information or observations on the remitted planning application, and in particular to provide the Commission with information as to what is the Minister's view as to the implications of the Government's current policy as announced on the 4th March 2025, for this application currently under consideration by the Commission (i.e. the remitted application bearing reference number ABP-32258-25).

Any written observations that you may have in response to this notice must be received on or before 27th August 2025.

Tel  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel  
LoCall  
Fax  
Website  
Email

(01) 858 8100  
1800 275 175  
(01) 872 2684  
[www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
[communications@pleanala.ie](mailto:communications@pleanala.ie)

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