

FO1 No 26/2005

18 May 2005

Ms Brid McGarry

Co Mayo

Dear Ms Mc Garry

I refer to your Freedom of Information request dated 22 April 2005 requesting

1. The complete original Quantified Risk Assessment (QRA) prepared in 2001 and which has been refused to date by the Department. A non-technical version is not acceptable unless it is accompanied by the full original complete QRA report as specified in this statement.
2. Details with respect to the pipeline expert Mr Andrew Johnston who in turn was commissioned to evaluate the unprecedented shore to inland refinery section of pipeline and associated apparatus. This report was commissioned to form the basis for the pipeline grant of consent and contains several contradictions.
3. On the basis of the recommendation letter issued by Minister Frank Fahey on the 15 April 2002 which is purported to be the actual pipeline consent, I wish to acquire the follow up letter stating that the developer accepted the conditions as set out by the Minister, and the actual instrument of consent per same.

In the matter of 1; the information is being refused under Section 20(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 1997 as amended as the record concerned contains matters relating to the deliberative process. I enclose for your information a copy of reply to Parliamentary question dated 10 March 2005. I would draw your attention to the penultimate paragraph which states:

“It is my intention to appoint a consultant, who is an expert in QRA to review these documents and report to me on all aspects and especially that of public safety. I intend to publish these report immediately when available”.

As regards 2; the Report on the Evaluation of Onshore Pipeline Design Code was carried out by Mr Andrew Johnston, Consultant Engineer, from London, Mr. Johnston is well qualified in having a B.Sc. Civil Eng., Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Member of the Institute of Petroleum and Member of the Society of Underwater Technology.

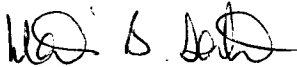
Mr Johnston is a pipeline engineer with over 25 years experience in the onshore and offshore pipeline industry, initially with engineering consultants, followed by project engineering/management in major international companies, and most recently with consultants and project finance companies.

He has a proven track record of work in infrastructure studies, due diligence, feasibility studies, economic evaluations, gas transmission system analysis, project planning/scheduling, engineering design and project management. He has extensive experience of onshore pipelines work in the Middle East that ranged from six onshore pipelines totalling 250 kms, to reinstatement of crude oil pipelines in Kuwait after the Gulf war and supervision of a multi disciplinary design team on a Middle East gas project that included high temperature and pressure flowlines, manifolds and export facilities. He has international experience in North America, Latin America, the Middle East, India, the Far East, the North Sea and the New Independent States.

The information being sought at 3 is being refused under Section 27(1) of the FOI Act 1997 as amended as it forms part of the deliberate process relating to developers application under Section 40 of the Gas Act 1976 as amended for consent to construct and commission a pipeline

I am to advise that if you are not satisfied with this reply you may write to Mr. John Wynne of this Department at Leeson Lane Dublin 2 (quoting the relevant FOI reference) within four weeks of the receipt of this letter. In that event the matter will be fall to be considered by a more senior member of staff.

Yours sincerely,



Marian B. Salmon
Deciding Officer

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION No. 102

Dail Eireann

To ask the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources if he will provide a copy of the quantified risk assessment that was carried out in relation to the Corrib gas project, north County Mayo, in its entirety.

- Michael Ring.

* For WRITTEN answer on Thursday, 10th March, 2005.

Ref No: 8423/05

REPLY

Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (Mr N Dempsey)

As I have already stated my Department is at present considering an application for consent to install the onshore pipeline. Both the Quantified Risk Assessment (QRA) and the Johnston report, to which I have referred previously, will form part of this process. In so far as there may be issues in the QRA that need further clarification, elaboration or even additional material, Mr. Andrew Johnston, assisted by other independent consultants, will be providing the necessary advice to my Department.

On 21 February 2005, Shell reactivated its application for Consent to Install and Commission; Phase 3: Onshore Pipeline and umbilical originally submitted in June 2002. On 24 February 2005, my Department wrote to Shell requesting the clarification and elaboration of certain information and studies provided in the 2002 application.

Officials from my Department met with Shell on Friday 4 March 2005 to discuss these issues further. In the course of this meeting Shell advised that the company

had appointed Shell Global Solutions to carry out a Peer Review on the QRA and any associated reports/studies submitted to my Department by the then operator Enterprise Energy Ireland Ltd. Shell has agreed to submit these reports to my Department by early April of this year.

It is my intention to appoint a consultant, who is an expert in Quantified Risk Assessment, to review these documents and report to me on all aspects and especially that of public safety. I intend to publish these reports immediately when available.

It is my intention to progress consideration of the application for consent to install the upstream pipeline in an open, balanced and informed manner. My decision to publish the full suite of documents mentioned above, prior to my making a decision, will, hopefully, allay local fears in regard to the safety of the pipeline and the process being adopted.

Ms.Brid McGarry

Co.Mayo.

FOI/26/2005

28th April 2005

Dear Ms. McGarry,

I refer to the Freedom of Information request received in this office on 28th April 2005. Your request concerns various Departmental correspondence in relation to the Corrib gas field upstream pipeline. .

The officer handling your request will be **Ms.Marian Salmon, Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources, Petroleum Affairs Division, Beggars Bush, Haddington Rd. Dublin 4. She can be contacted at 01 – 6782694.**

A final decision on your request will normally be sent to you within 4 weeks of receipt of your request. This means that you can expect to receive your decision by the **26th May 2005.**

If you have not heard from us once the allotted time has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal to the Department for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired.

You should also be aware that you are entitled to a review of the decision if your request is refused or if you are for any reason dissatisfied with the outcome of your request. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff of this body. In the event that you need to make an appeal, you can do so by writing to Mr John Wynne, FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2. Please note that there will be a charge for all appeals of FOI requests. This charge will be levied at €75.

Please note, the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources has a policy of posting a summary of your request, your name and address and the subsequent reply on the Department's website for reference purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Liam Murphy
FOI Unit

F01/20/2005 head
fol unit
28/4/05
w/ree

Co. Mayo

22nd April 2005

To Mr. Michael Daly, Principal Officer (Petroleum Affairs Division),
C/o of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources,
Beggar's Bush,
Haddington Road,
Dublin 4

27/4/2005

Re: Freedom of Information request under the Act.

Dear Mr. Daly,

I wish to place a request under the Freedom Of Information Act with respect to the unprecedented pipeline complex (9km shore to inland refinery section) as proposed by Shell E & P Ireland Limited. I wish to acquire the following outstanding information, which has been withheld from the public domain to date, and which I am entitled to receive as this pipeline complex will pose an unprecedented health and safety risk with respect to myself, and my family.

I require the following information:

- The complete original Quantified Risk Assessment (QRA) prepared in 2001 and which has been refused to date by the Department. A non technical version is not acceptable unless it is accompanied by the full original complete Quantified Risk Assessment report as specified in this statement.
- Details with respect to the pipeline expert Mr. Andrew Johnston who in turn was commissioned to evaluate the unprecedented shore to inland refinery section of pipeline and associated apparatus. This report was commissioned to form the basis for the pipeline grant of consent and contains several contradictions.
- On the basis of the recommendation letter issued by Minister Frank Fahey on the 15th April 2002 which is purported to be the actual pipeline consent, I wish to acquire the follow up letter stating that the developer accepted the conditions as set out by the Minister, and the actual instrument of consent per same.

I enclose a postal order to the value of €15.00 made payable to the Department, and I await your prompt response.

Yours faithfully,
Brid McGarry.
Brid McGarry.

