



CORRIB gas update

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Bellanaboy prepares to receive gas

Construction work on the Bellanaboy Bridge gas terminal is nearing completion and the facility will pass from the Construction team to the Operations team on Monday, December 20.

Personnel on site will now concentrate their efforts on the introduction of backfeed gas to function test the equipment and systems on the terminal. Backfeed gas is a process whereby gas, from the Bord Gáis Éireann (BGÉ) network, is introduced to the terminal. It is planned to introduce gas to the site in spring 2011.

At the peak of construction, during the late spring and summer of 2009, there were 1,150 people employed on the site. In the intervening period numbers have been gradually reducing. However, approximately 300 people will continue to work at the terminal for a number of months into the New Year.

This number is made up of 120 members of the Operational Qualification team, 100 construction workers who will be engaged in demobilising the temporary facilities on the site, 60 members of the Operations team and over 100 others engaged in maintenance, canteen, security and administration duties.

Brendan Butler, terminal project manager, said the terminal was one of the biggest projects carried out in the country in the past decade and was, for

a long time, the biggest construction job in the country in terms of numbers employed.

"It was a major undertaking that presented some interesting challenges. Probably the most satisfying aspect of the development, from our perspective, is that we have now almost achieved completion with a very high success rate in terms of health, safety and the environment.

"Another aspect of the project that was particularly satisfying was the interest shown by the community. Over the course of the construction we had approximately 3,000 people visit the site. Most of these were from the local community but we also had people from other parts of the country, including construction professionals, health and safety people, media, students and public representatives visiting the site as well."

Shell's community liaison officers recently commenced engagement with the neighbouring residents to outline what the backfeed gas process entails. These visits will continue up to and throughout the backfeed gas period.

When backfeed gas testing has been completed, the gas will be discharged from the systems and nitrogen will be introduced to preserve the gas until such time as gas from the Corrib Field becomes available.



A recent picture of the Bellanaboy Bridge gas terminal showing its advanced state of construction.

Decision on onshore pipeline awaited

Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPI) and its partners in the Corrib project, Statoil Hydro and Vermilion, are awaiting an announcement from An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in relation to an application for permission for the onshore section of the Corrib gas pipeline.

A revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of the application was submitted in May and was the subject of an oral hearing between August 24 and October 1.

The oral hearing, which was held in the Broadhaven Bay Hotel, was conducted by Inspector Martin Nolan, whose function is to prepare a report for the Board of ABP.

The main features of the revised EIS included a routing of the pipeline through a tunnel under Sruwaddaon Bay (to minimise environmental impacts) and a

reduction in the maximum allowable operating pressure in the onshore and offshore pipelines.

At the hearing, expert witnesses on behalf of Shell E&P Ireland Limited clearly demonstrated that the proposed Corrib onshore pipeline was safe, did not pose an unacceptable risk to the public, met or exceeded all relevant international and Irish pipeline codes and standards, met the safety criteria established by An Bord Pleanála and would not have a significant residual impact on the human, natural or cultural heritage of the area in the long term.

In addition to the ABP approval, the Corrib Gas Partners are also awaiting a determination on an application to the Department of the Environment for a foreshore licence in respect of the proposed development and a further approval from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on a Section 40 (Gas Act) application.



Rosspport residents to benefit from €750k investment in group water scheme

Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPI) has agreed to provide funding to the Rosspport Group Water Scheme Co-operative Society (RGWSCS) for a much-needed upgrade to the existing system. SEPI will invest €750,000 in the project.

The upgrade will involve the drilling of a new production well, the replacement of the current water distribution network, the installation of consumer and district metering, a new reservoir and a three-phase electricity connection.

The SEPI funding is being given as a gesture of goodwill to the Rosspport community, which has experienced particular difficulties as a result of the Corrib gas project.

In April of this year, the Board of RGWSCS held a meeting of its members to discuss a proposal to make an application to the Corrib Gas Partners for funding for the upgrade. The members voted in favour of making an



Mark Carrigy, Mayo Area Manager

application for funding, and subsequently a letter of request was sent to SEPI.

Following meetings between representatives of SEPI and RGWSCS, an engineering report about the upgrade project was prepared and submitted to SEPI.

Mark Carrigy, SEPI's Mayo Area Manager, said: "We are delighted to be able to support such a worthwhile and widely beneficial project in the Rosspport community. We acknowledge that the people of Rosspport have been at the centre of the controversy surrounding our project and it is a very positive step for that community to make an application to us. In recognition of the difficulties the community has experienced, we are happy to provide funding for this scheme which will enhance the water supply to so many households in the village of Rosspport."

29 organisations successful under second round of local grants 2010

A total of 40 applications were received for the second round of funding under the Erris Local Grants Programme in July 2010, with 29 organisations allocated funding under the programme.

This brings to 121 the total number of applications received to the Local Grants Programme in 2010, with a total of 95 organisations receiving funding allocations.

Earlier this year, 65 other organisations from all over Erris were recommended for funding, with a total budget spend of over €250,000. The allocations under this round bring the annual spend to more than €300,000.

The following table shows the organisations funded under the second round in Erris:

Organisations funded under the Local Grants Programme (second round 2010)

Kilcommon

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| Inver Community Development Project | Scéim Fostaíochta Pobail Chill Chomáin | Cornboy Utd Football Club |
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Belmullet

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| Belmullet Sub-Aqua Club | Belmullet Junior & Senior Schools | Belmullet Bord na nÓg |
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Kilmore

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| Carne Old Cemetery Restoration Committee | Kilmore Triathlon Club | |
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Kiltane

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| Comharchumann Forbartha Cill tSéandna Teo | Cáirde le Chéile | Doohoma Cemetery Committee |
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| Bangor Tourism office | Bangor Children's Centre | Bangor-Erris St Patrick's Day Parade Committee |
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Ballycroy

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| Ballycroy Ladies Football Club | Ballycroy Community Field Management Committee | |
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Erris-wide initiatives

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| Cumann na mBunscol, Erris | Belmullet Rose Event | North West Mayo Hillwalking Club |
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|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland | Erris Heartbeat Defibrillator Committee | Erris Tourism |
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| Erris Agricultural Show Committee | Training initiatives in the Erris area | |
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Waste water treatment facilities on Corrib terminal now ready for use

The state-of-the-art waste water treatment plant on the Bellanaboy Bridge gas terminal has been handed over by the Construction team to the Operations team that will run the plant when gas comes on stream.

As the Corrib facility is located in an environmentally sensitive area, it is necessary to treat any waste water for eventual discharge to both onshore and the immediate environment offshore, to a set of very strict parameters, as set by the Environment Protection Agency. To meet these extremely stringent levels, a bespoke suite of equipment was put together.

There are two separate waste water streams treated in the plant. The Surface Water Plant treats run-off from the paved areas and has a capacity of up to 30m³ per hour, while the Produced Water Plant treats water which comes from processing the gas and has a capacity of up to 6m³ per hour.

To ensure that EPA levels are complied with, a number of innovative and top-of-the-range solutions have been introduced, both for the surface water run-off from the paved areas and for the treatment of the condensate from the process gas. These include tilted plate separators, multi-media filters, ultra-filtration membrane packages for oil removal, and nano-filtration membranes together with carbon filters and ion exchange resin for the removal of metals from the condensed and formation water.

Combined Sludge Treatment

The rejected process waste together with any cleaning and regeneration waste products are treated via a precipitation and flocculation process before being passed through a filter press unit, with the filter cake being removed for disposal and the filtrate returned to the start of the process.

According to Michael Flannery, Project Delivery Engineer, the combination of technologies used in the Produced Water Treatment Plant is "very advanced and purposely designed for the Corrib project".



The photo shows the Produced Water Ultra-filtration and Nano-filtration Membrane Skid, with Filter Press to the left.

Shell issues winter driving kits to staff

With hazardous driving conditions expected again this weekend, Shell E&P Ireland Limited (SEPI) Managing Director Terry Nolan has cautioned workers and road users in the Erris area to exercise extreme caution if they feel it necessary to make road journeys in icy conditions.

In a message to staff, Mr Nolan highlighted the danger caused, in particular, by black ice and stressed the need for "extreme care at all times".

He urged staff to consider carefully if their journey was necessary and if so to follow a journey management plan, allowing plenty of time to make the journey, avoiding driving at night and making use of a winter driving kit.

Over the past fortnight safety officers on the Bellanaboy site distributed

775 winter driving kits to workers, site contractors, Erris-based contractors and Belmullet office staff.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) and An Garda Síochána have also appealed for extra vigilance on the roads as the weather conditions return to freezing temperatures, fog, possible snow and ice.

Noel Brett, RSA chief executive, warned about the dangers of black ice especially in sheltered or shaded areas on roads, under trees and adjacent to high walls.

"The main advice to drivers is to consider whether or not the journey is necessary. If it is necessary, drivers should manoeuvre gently, drive slowly in the highest gear possible, leave extra distance between you and the driver in front and avoid harsh braking," he said.

Eight Killybegs organisations funded

The 2010 offshore season has come to an end in Killybegs, which was once again the main offshore logistics base for the rig campaign and also supported the site investigation works.

One of the biggest highlights of the season was the excellent safety record of all involved in the operations. This year a sponsorship fund, in partnership with our main contractors in the port, was initiated. The fund supported a total of eight sporting and voluntary organisations in the Killybegs parish and will continue during the 2011 season.



Professional Profile – Alan Mee, Deputy Mayo Manager

Name: Alan Mee
Title: Deputy Mayo Manager
Native of: Castlebar, Mayo

Where did you go to secondary school?

St Gerald's College, Castlebar

What did you study at third level and where?

I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Geology at UCD and later completed a Masters in Computing in Earth Sciences, at Keele University, UK

What did you want to be when you were at school?

An inventor

What was your first job?

Working as a labourer on a building site in London.

What other jobs have you had?

I have worked in the oil and gas industry in various parts of the world for almost 20 years. In 1992 I joined a petrophysical company working with many different oil and gas companies worldwide. In the course of this job I worked in many different locations, including the UK, Norway, Russia, Libya, Egypt, the USA and Canada.

In 1996, I moved to a UK-based company which launched a ground-breaking data-sharing and initiative for 35 oil and gas operators in the North Sea region.

When this company was subsequently taken over, I moved to Calgary, Canada, where I worked as Director of Product Management.

I have also worked in Houston, Texas and delivered projects for operators in the Gulf of Mexico.

What is the role of the Deputy Mayo



Alan Mee, Deputy Mayo Manager

Manager on this project?

The most significant part of the role of Deputy Mayo Manager is responsibility for community liaison on all aspects of the project. This involves working with my team of five community liaison officers (CLOs) to ensure that people in the community are kept up to date on project progress, to minimise the impacts of the project, to build community considerations into our technical plans, to deal with queries and complaints, and to facilitate visits to the Bellanaboy terminal site by community members. This requires a close working relationship with the technical teams working on the project, so that our understanding of work is as comprehensive as possible and so that they fully appreciate community considerations.

I also have responsibility for running our Belmullet office, including the public information facility within it.

What aspect of your current job do you most enjoy?

The most enjoyable part of the job for me, having been involved in this industry for so

long abroad, is working with other men and women from Mayo and Ireland in delivering a state-of-the-art gas facility in my home county. Working to include a community perspective in the delivery of the project is particularly rewarding, as it means constant learning about the community and building relationships with people in the local area.

I also value learning from the experienced professionals, from the four corners of the world, who work on the project.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Balancing the varied and competing demands of the role, and managing my time appropriately, is a constant challenge.

What advice would you give to anyone considering a career in the oil and gas industry?

For anyone who has a love of natural sciences, working in the oil and gas industry provides a great opportunity to study how the earth has evolved and see the world at the same time.

I recommend working hard at school to anyone considering this or any other career, because a love of learning and an ability to acquire new skills will help you deal with the ups and downs of business life.

What has been the highlight of your career to date?

This job has been the highlight – working with Shell in my home county and being part of Ireland's first onshore facility which will deliver clean gas to our businesses, our homes and our country.

What do you see yourself doing in five years' time?

It's not something I dwell on too much, but I think I will probably still be working in oil and gas, and hopefully making a positive difference with communities.

Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.



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