

# PREAMBLE

## INTRODUCTION

Shell E&P Ireland Ltd. (SEPIL) on behalf of the Corrib Gas Partners (SEPIL, Statoil Exploration (Ireland) Ltd. and Vermilion Energy Ireland Limited) is developing the Corrib Gas Field off the coast of County Mayo. The development of the Corrib Gas Field represents the largest natural gas development in Ireland for over 30 years.

The Corrib Gas Field Development is divided into five distinct but inter-related and inter-dependent elements (see Figure 1) as follows:

1. Offshore seabed installation (subsea wellheads and manifold at the Gas Field);
2. Offshore gas pipeline (between wellheads and landfall);
3. Onshore gas pipeline (between landfall and gas terminal at Béal an Átha Buí (Bellanaboy));
4. Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal; and
5. Onshore 150km Mayo to Galway pipeline.

All elements of the proposed development have received regulatory approval

Following local concerns raised in 2005 about the proximity of the approved pipeline to houses, and the subsequent reviews undertaken on behalf of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, SEPIL undertook to modify the route of the onshore pipeline in the vicinity of Ros Dumhach (Rosspart).

SEPIL applied for consents for a modified route for the onshore pipeline in February 2009 in applications to An Bord Pleanála, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) and to the Foreshore Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) under the relevant statutory processes.

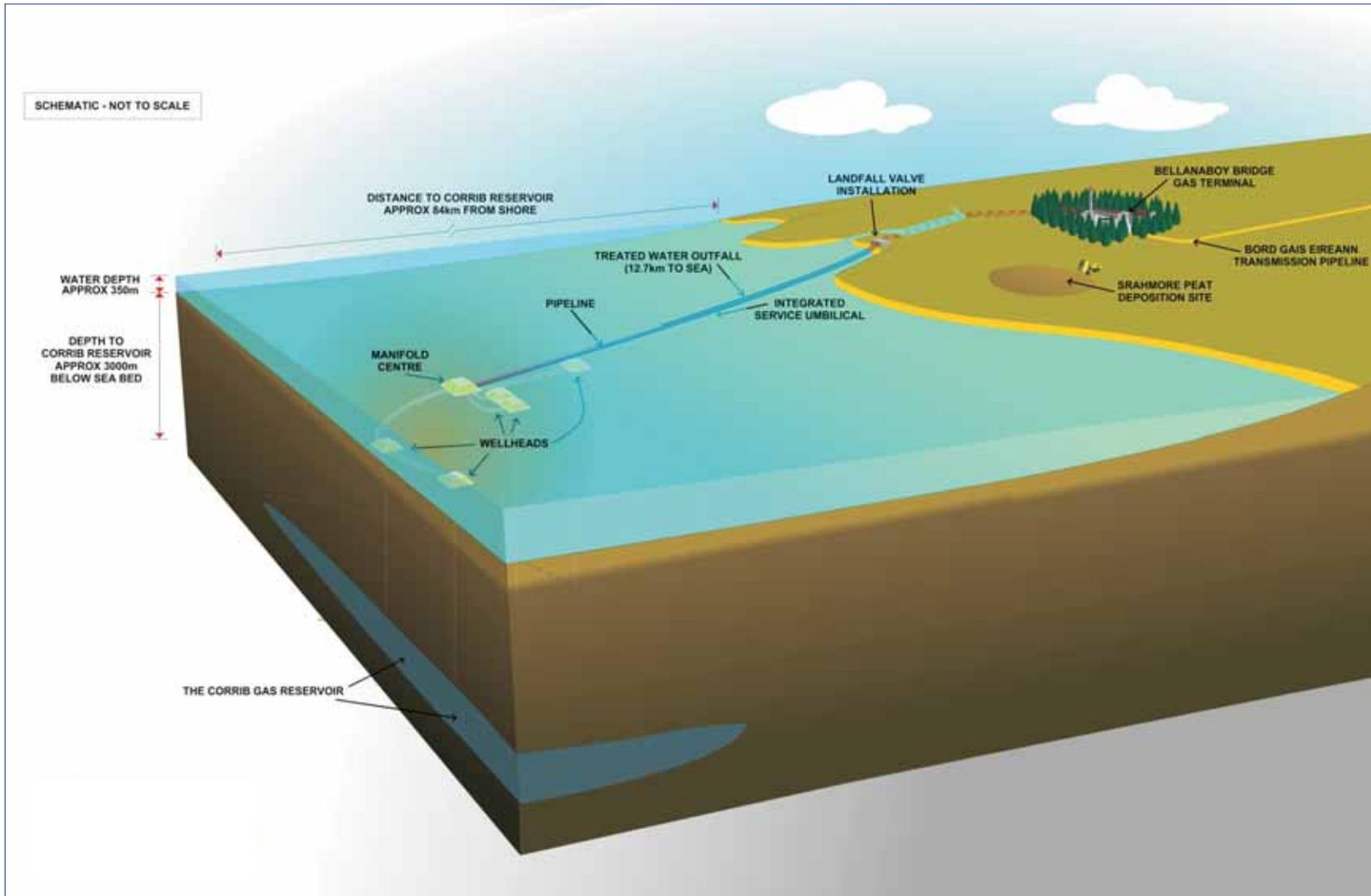
Following an Oral Hearing hosted by An Bord Pleanála in 2009, An Bord Pleanála in a letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009 requested that alterations be made to the proposed development as follows:-

*“Modify the pipeline route between chainages 83+910 and 89+550 so that the route at this location would generally be in accordance with that indicated as Corridor C (that is, within Sruwaddacon Bay) in the route selection process which formed part of the Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.) and planning application”.*

This revised Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS describes the modified onshore pipeline route in accordance with An Bord Pleanála’s request.

The modifications to the proposed onshore pipeline development requested by An Bord Pleanála has affected the applications made in February, 2009, and has necessitated the preparation of new/revised applications to the relevant statutory authorities, including a revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the onshore pipeline and other documentation as outlined below:

- This Preamble, which is common to the revised Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS and the revised Supplementary Update Report to the 2001 Corrib Field Development Offshore Field to Terminal EIS (the ‘Offshore EIS’), outlines the background to the Corrib project and presents a profile of the developer, SEPIL. In addition, it summarises the regulatory approvals required for the proposed pipeline development and outlines the consents and processes associated with these.



## Corrib Gas Field Development

Figure 1

File Ref: MDR0470GrEIS100 RevA03  
Date: May 2010

CORRIB ONSHORE PIPELINE

**Corrib**  
natural gas

**RPS**

- The 2001 Offshore EIS (prepared by RSK Environment Ltd) described the pipeline system from the field to the Gas Terminal, with Section 19 covering the onshore pipeline. The new (revised) Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS (prepared by RPS) for the development of the onshore pipeline between the landfall and the Gas Terminal replaces Section 19 of the 2001 Offshore EIS.
- As the consents processes under the under the Gas Act and the Foreshore Act apply to the pipeline in its entirety (both onshore and offshore), a revised (2010) supplementary update report in respect of the offshore section of the pipeline for the 2001 Offshore EIS has also been prepared (by RSK Environment Ltd).

## BACKGROUND

The Corrib Gas Field is a small - to medium - sized offshore gas field, estimated to contain approximately 1 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas. It is equivalent to approximately two thirds the amount of gas originally contained in the Kinsale Head Gas Field. It is currently predicted that the Corrib Gas Field will supply up to 60% of Ireland's gas needs during peak supply and it is estimated to have a field life of between 15 and 20 years. The gas in the Corrib Gas Field is a pure form of natural gas, consisting of approximately 97% methane/ethane and small amounts of water and hydrocarbon condensate.

The Corrib Gas Field will be developed using subsea technology tied back to an onshore gas terminal. This means that once the wells are drilled, there will be no need for a permanent offshore platform structure, as the wells will be remotely controlled from land. This is best practice for a gas field of this type and size and is similar in design to some of the most modern gas field developments such as the Ormen Lange Field, Norway, the Snøhvit Field (Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)), Norway, the Casino Field, south east Australia and the Scarab Saffron Gas Fields, East Mediterranean, Egypt.

## THE DEVELOPER

SEPIL is a wholly-owned company within the global group of energy and petrochemical companies ("Shell Group"), operating in more than 140 countries and territories owned by Royal Dutch Shell plc. The Shell Group explores for, produces and trades in a range of energy resources.

The Shell Group is the largest international gas producer in Western Europe and one of the largest in the world. Currently, the Group operates in over 90 countries, employs approximately 100,000 staff, and operates more than 100 gas plants.

SEPIL is part of the Group's European organisation, which has extensive experience in operating gas plants and gas pipelines as well as subsea developments and offshore oil and gas fields in Europe since the 1960's (see Appendix D).

The Corrib Gas Field is being developed by three co-venture partners. These are SEPIL (the Operator) (45%), Statoil Exploration (Ireland) Limited (36.5%) and Vermilion Energy Ireland Limited (18.5%).

## NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

Since the application was submitted in 2001 to the then Department of the Marine & Natural Resources for approval of the Plan of Development for the Corrib Field, gas consumption in Ireland has continued to increase.

This rising demand for energy has outstripped Ireland's domestic production and infrastructure capacity. Consequently, Ireland has required additional imports of gas from abroad since the mid-

1990's (gas inter-connector pipelines with Scotland were constructed in 1993 and 2002) and currently more than 90% of the gas used in Ireland is imported. In 2009, approval was granted to Shannon LNG for the construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Foynes and a high pressure pipeline connecting to the gas network by An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Act. This facility will receive LNG (transported by ocean-going tankers) and will be connected to the Irish natural gas network. In addition, a new 'East–West electrical inter-connector' to facilitate greater exchange of electricity between Ireland and the UK will begin construction in 2010 (in addition to the existing Moyle (North–South) Inter-connector with Northern Ireland and electrical connections between Scotland and Northern Ireland).

This, combined with Ireland's peripheral location in Europe and its small market scale, leaves the country vulnerable to supply disruption and imported price volatility.

In 1999 Bord Gáis Éireann (BGE) commissioned consultants (Sofregaz, MCOS (now RPS) and JP Kenny) to evaluate the required strategic investment in gas transmission infrastructure throughout Ireland until the year 2025. The resulting expansion of the Irish Natural Gas Transmission Network has included:

- Gas Pipeline to the West (Dublin – Galway – Limerick), constructed 2002;
- Second Gas Interconnector (Ireland – Scotland), constructed 2002;
- South – North Pipeline (Dublin – Belfast), constructed 2006; and
- Mayo – Galway Pipeline, constructed 2005 – 2006 specifically for Corrib gas.

BGE also constructed the Belfast-Derry pipeline in Northern Ireland in 2005. The full extent of the Irish Natural Gas Network, including each of these recent developments and the proposed Corrib Pipeline, is shown on Figure 2 overleaf.

Declining gas reserves in the Kinsale Head and Ballycotton gas fields, and the lower-than-expected contributions from the Seven Heads field, means that indigenous gas forms a decreasing proportion of the gas used in the Irish market, supplying approximately 5% of the demand from domestic sources. Furthermore, the UK, from where Ireland imports over 90% of its gas, has itself become a net importer of gas. The development of the Corrib Gas Field will facilitate greater indigenous security of gas supply that will be available throughout the entire network. It has already stimulated expansion of the onshore gas transmission system, which in turn will result in increased possibilities for economic growth in the Mayo / Galway region.

Bord Gáis Éireann has been spending €40 million over three years on the Gaswest Project, under which the natural gas network from the Mayo-Galway Gas Pipeline is being expanded. Eleven towns in Co. Mayo and Co. Galway have been identified for this investment. The towns in Co. Mayo included in the Gaswest Project are Ballina, Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Castlebar, Claremorris, Crossmolina, Knock and Westport. Progress for this expansion is already well under way, and Ballyhaunis and Knock are the only remaining towns in Mayo scheduled to receive gas (expected to be in 2010). Electricity generation and transport are the key sectors influencing energy demand in Ireland. In 2009 annual growth to 2020 was forecasted to be 1.7% (Energy Forecasts for Ireland 2020, *Sustainable Energy Ireland, 2009*).

Gas is also predicted to become a greater source of energy in Ireland due to its positive environmental profile compared with traditional energy sources such as peat and the Government's Kyoto Protocol commitments, which include targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to no more than 13% above 1990 levels in 2008-2012. Ireland generates 55% of its electricity from natural gas. Natural gas thus facilitates reduced carbon emissions in Ireland while meeting increasing demands for energy at a time when renewable sources of energy are being developed but will only be capable of meeting a relatively small proportion of overall demand.



Gas Transmission Network in Ireland

Figure 2

CORRIB ONSHORE PIPELINE

File Ref: MDR0470GREIS040 Rev A03  
 Date: May 2010



## EXISTING CONSENTS

The Corrib Gas Field Development has been subject to a long and complex regulatory approval process. The statutory approvals / licences / consents that are associated with the development and that have been granted are listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1:** Existing Consents and Approvals for the Corrib Gas Field Development.

Licence/Consent	Status
Petroleum Lease by the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources.	Granted 2001
Plan of Development for the Corrib Field by the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources.	Approved 2002
Consent under Continental Shelf Act 1968 from the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources.	Granted 2002
Foreshore Licence for pipeline, umbilical and outfall from the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources.	Granted 2002
Consent to Construct a Pipeline (Section 40 of the Gas Act) from the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources.	Granted 2002
Planning Permission – Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal and associated peat deposition site from An Bord Pleanála.	Granted 2004
Waste licence from Environmental Protection Agency for peat deposition at An Srath Mór (Srahmore) (Bord na Móna).	Granted 2004
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency for Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal.	Granted 2007
Green House Gas Emission Permit from Environmental Protection Agency, Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal	Granted 2009

## PROJECT HISTORY

The following provides an overview of the planning and development history of the Corrib Gas Field Development and rationale for the proposed modification of the route of the onshore section of the pipeline.

The Corrib Field was discovered in 1996 by Enterprise Energy Ireland Ltd, which was subsequently acquired by SEPIL in 2002. Application for planning permission for Bellanaboy Bridge Gas Terminal with associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was lodged with Mayo County Council by Enterprise Energy Ireland Ltd in April 2001. Planning permission for the Terminal was received in August 2001 and subsequently appealed to An Bord Pleanála. Consent to Construct a Pipeline (under Section 40 of the Gas Act) from the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources was granted in 2002. Enterprise Energy Ireland Ltd was acquired by Shell in May 2002.

In October 2004 An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the Gas Terminal and associated peat deposition site. Planning and construction of the Gas Terminal commenced in December 2004. Haulage of peat from Béal an Átha Buí (Bellanaboy) to An Srath Mór Srahmore (the peat deposition site) commenced under EPA Waste Licence in April 2005.

During preparation work for the onshore section of the pipeline in the summer of 2005 local concerns were raised about the proximity of the approved pipeline to houses between the landfall and the Gas Terminal. After opposition to these onshore works resulted in the imprisonment of five men for contempt of court, all onshore construction work associated with the Corrib Gas Field development was halted in July 2005.

The (then) Minister for Communications Marine and Natural Resources appointed international pipeline consultants, Advantica, to conduct an independent safety review of the onshore pipeline. They subsequently issued a report on their findings (Independent Safety Review of the Onshore Section of

the Proposed Corrib Gas Pipeline, 2006). Offshore installation work was ongoing at this time. The Corrib Gas Partners accepted the recommendations arising from this review, which included limiting the pressure in the onshore section of the pipeline to 144 barg - less than half the original design pressure of the pipeline. Advantica concluded that, provided it could be demonstrated that the pressure in the onshore pipeline would be limited effectively and the recommendations of the report were followed, there would be a substantial safety margin in the pipeline design, and that the pipeline design and proposed route (originally proposed route) should be accepted as meeting or exceeding international standards in terms of the acceptability of risk and international best practice for high pressure pipelines. SEPIL and their engineering consultants carried out engineering and safety studies to ensure that all the recommendations made by Advantica in their Safety Review had been addressed and implemented in the design for the 2009 proposed development. Advantica's main findings and recommendations are detailed in Appendix Q8.

In 2006, a Government-appointed mediator (Peter Cassells) met with local residents from the Ros Dumhach (Rosspart) area, including those who were opposed to the development, and with SEPIL in an attempt to resolve difficulties that arose there during 2005. Offshore subsea installation work at the Corrib Field was ongoing at this time and construction on the Gas Terminal recommenced in October 2006. In his report, Mr. Cassells recommended that the route of the onshore pipeline be modified in the vicinity of Ros Dumhach (Rosspart). SEPIL took this recommendation and appointed consultants (RPS) in 2007 to identify and develop this modified route in consultation with the local community and other relevant stakeholders. Work on this began in January 2007 which also necessitated the preparation of a new Environmental Impact Statement for this section of pipeline. The outcome of the route selection process, which took place during 2007 and 2008 culminated in the various applications for consent for a modified onshore pipeline being submitted in February 2009.

As of May 2010, the offshore production facilities have been installed, the 83km offshore section of the Corrib pipeline has been laid, and the Gas Terminal is more than 90% complete. To allow the connection of the Corrib gas development with the national gas distribution network the 150km Galway to Mayo pipeline was completed in 2006 and is now connected to the Terminal. The onshore section of the Corrib Pipeline is the last major element of the project.

Following the application to An Bord Pleanála in February 2009 for consent for the onshore pipeline under the Strategic Infrastructure Act, the An Bord Pleanála requested further information in November 2009. This request included an invitation to SEPIL to modify the route of the onshore pipeline so that it would be generally in accordance with that indicated as 'Corridor C' in the February 2009 application (that is, within Sruwaddacon Bay). The revised Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS reflects the requested route change.

## **STATUTORY APPROVALS ASSOCIATED WITH ONSHORE PIPELINE ROUTE MODIFICATION**

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 - the 'Strategic Infrastructure Act', was enacted on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2006 and became fully operational on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2007. This inserted a number of significant provisions into the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (the 'PDA'). In essence, these provide a streamlined procedure for planning applications for prescribed classes of infrastructure development, and require that applications for such development be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. The onshore pipeline development is declared under the 2006 Act to comprise strategic infrastructure. As such, the pipeline, which had previously constituted exempted development under the Planning Acts, is subject to an application for Approval for this development to An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Act as a result of the route modification. This does not alter the requirement to submit separate applications under the Gas Act and Foreshore Act.

The entire pipeline between the Corrib Gas Field and the Gas Terminal received Ministerial Consent under Section 40 of the Gas Act in April 2002. However, a new consent will be required under the Gas Act for the entire pipeline in order to implement the proposed modifications to the onshore pipeline route. This is because there is no mechanism under the Gas Act to amend an existing consent.

The Foreshore Licence dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2002 to construct/install, operate and maintain the pipeline in the foreshore (from the high water mark to 12 nautical miles offshore), under the Foreshore Act, is specific to the exact route of the pipeline in the foreshore; therefore modifications to the route alignment in the areas of Sruwaddacon Bay below High Water Mark require additional consent.

Key consents for the revised route are therefore being sought as follows:

- Approval of the onshore pipeline and associated development within the functional area of the Planning Authority, by An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006;
- Consent for the overall pipeline development from the Minister of the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) under Section 40 of the Gas Act 1976 to 2002 (as amended); and
- A Foreshore Licence in respect of the works in the foreshore from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) under the Foreshore Acts 1933-2009 (as amended).

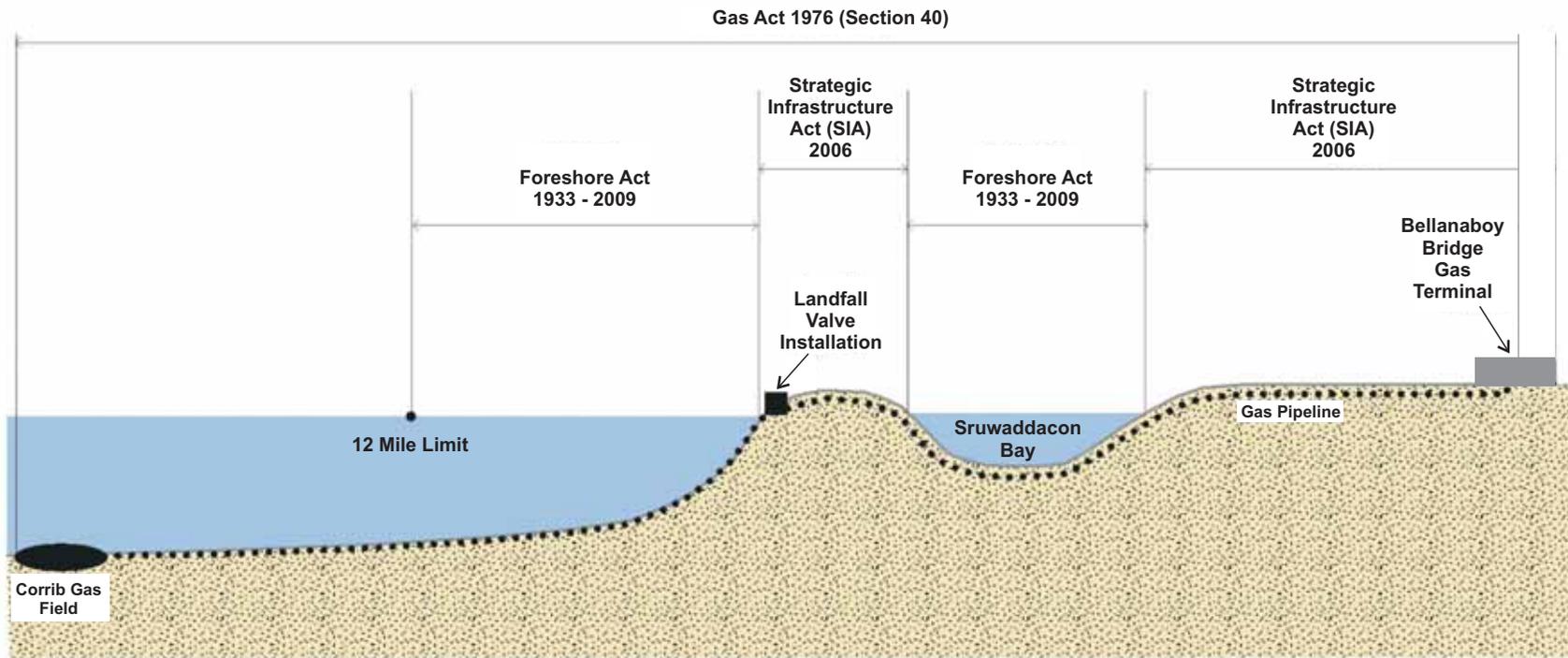
The inter-relationship of these three pieces of legislation is illustrated in Figure 3

The following revised EIS documentation has been prepared:

- A revised Supplementary Update Report (by RSK) to the 2001 Offshore EIS, reflecting the current status of the offshore development; and
- A revised Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Corrib Onshore Pipeline (by RPS), which has been revised to reflect request for further information from An Bord Pleanála.

## **OFFSHORE EIS**

The details of the development of the offshore section of the pipeline have not been materially altered since the publication of the 2001 Offshore EIS, nor indeed from that which has the benefit of previous regulatory consent. The Corrib Offshore Pipeline between the gas field and the landfall at Gleann an Ghad (Glengad) was installed in 2009 in accordance with the existing consents under the Gas Act and the Foreshore Act. The Supplementary Update Report for the 2001 Offshore EIS has been updated to reflect the current status of the offshore development, as well as up-to-date baseline survey data that have been acquired and the findings of monitoring carried out since the February 2009 applications were submitted.



Corrib Gas Field -  
Statutory Approvals

Figure 3

File Ref: MDR0470GrEIS039 RevA03  
Date: May 2010

CORRIB ONSHORE PIPELINE

**CORRIB**  
natural gas

**RPS**

## CORRIB ONSHORE PIPELINE EIS

The revised EIS for the modified onshore section of the pipeline has been prepared to meet the requirements of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989-2001. The EIS includes:

- A summary of the route selection process and details on alternatives considered, including alternative construction methodologies;
- A detailed description of the proposed development;
- Pipeline design documentation presented in (revised) Appendix Q, in response to recommendations made by the DCENR, and to An Bord Pleanála's request (November 2009) for further information;
- An assessment of the environmental impacts associated with the revised route of the onshore section of the pipeline, including
  - An assessment of the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing a 4.9 km tunnel, most of which is underneath Sruwaddacon Bay;
  - An assessment of the potential impacts resulting from the deposition at the Srahmore Peat Deposition Site of up to 75,000m<sup>3</sup> of peat arising from the construction of the onshore pipeline. This assessment is provided in Volume 3 of the Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS.

## THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE) ACT 2006

Section 4 of the Strategic Infrastructure Act (SIA) relates to Provision of Electricity Transmission and Gas Infrastructure. Specifically Section 4 of the SIA inserts a new Section 182C into the Planning and Development Act 2000 (the 'PDA'), which now requires an application for approval of all strategic gas infrastructure projects to be made to An Bord Pleanála. Therefore the provisions of the SIA as inserted into the PDA apply to the proposed development. A "Strategic Gas Infrastructure Development" is defined in Section 2 of the PDA as amended by Section 6 of the SIA as:

*"any proposed development comprising or for the purposes of a strategic downstream gas pipeline or a strategic upstream gas pipeline, and associated terminals, buildings and installations, whether above or below ground, including any associated discharge pipe".*

The Act further defines a strategic upstream gas pipeline as:

*"so much of any gas pipeline proposed to be operated or constructed – (a) as part of a gas production project, or (b) for the purposes of conveying unprocessed natural gas from one or more than one such project to a processing plant or terminal or final coastal landing terminal, as will be situate in the functional area or areas of a planning authority or planning authorities".*

These definitions clearly incorporate all development within the functional area of Mayo County Council associated with the proposed upstream pipeline development, including the LVI and other associated infrastructure.

The SIA and PDA, as amended, provide that where the "undertaker" intends to carry out a Strategic Gas Infrastructure Development, the undertaker shall prepare an application and an Environmental Impact Statement, and shall apply to An Bord Pleanála for approval of the development. The powers to grant compulsory acquisition orders for land under the Gas Act have been transferred under the SIA to An Bord Pleanála.

## Application

An application for consent under the PDA, as amended by the SIA and elsewhere, for the Corrib Onshore Pipeline was made to An Bord Pleanála in February 2009. The application consisted of:

- A cover letter, copy of draft statutory notices and other relevant particulars;
- Application drawings; and
- Environmental Impact Statement for the Corrib Onshore Pipeline.

Following a request for further information in November 2009, the application drawings and the Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS have been revised. The changes to the EIS include the modification of the route, as well as a change of construction methodology for the modified route section. The EIS also includes further information on the design documentation for the pipeline (contained in a revised Appendix Q).

Copies of the response to An Bord Pleanála's request, including the revised application drawings and revised EIS will be provided to the prescribed bodies.

The additional information is likely to become available for public inspection during a statutory period for public consultation to be prescribed by An Bord Pleanála (some time after it has received the additional information). During this period any person may make a submission to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the additional information. The prescribed bodies would also be invited to provide submissions to An Bord Pleanála within this period.

An Bord Pleanála may reopen the oral hearing in respect of the additional information submitted.

An Bord Pleanála can approve applications made to it in whole or in part; it can require modifications to the proposal (as is the case with this application to An Bord Pleanála); or it may refuse approval. It may also attach conditions relating to the construction or financing of the project.

In making its decision, An Bord Pleanála must have regard to proper planning and sustainable development, environmental effects, national policies, the national interest, and relevant local development plans.

With the implementation of the SIA and the amendments of the PDA, no conventional Planning Permission is required under the Planning and Development Act 2000, i.e. from Mayo County Council, for any part of this proposed development.

## **THE GAS ACTS 1976 TO 2000 (AS AMENDED)**

The Gas Act sets out in detail the powers and duties of the gas undertaker. Section 40 of the Gas Act applies to the proposed overall gas pipeline development. Section 40A requires that where relevant, an Environmental Impact Statement be included as part of an application to the Minister under Section 40 of the Act. Applications for Section 40 Approval must therefore be accompanied by comprehensive appraisal of possible environmental and other impacts, which may be brought about by the construction of the upstream pipeline.

The Gas Act as amended requires that when selecting a route for a pipeline that the developer have regard to any comments raised by any local authority within whose functional area the proposed pipeline route, or part of the route is situated, or any of the following on, in or over whose land such a route or part of the route would be situated, namely; a harbour authority, the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) or any other electricity undertaker, and Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) or any other railway undertaker.

Consequently, SEPIL and their consultants, RPS, have consulted with the relevant prescribed bodies as well as with the DCENR prior to submitting the revised application for the proposed development. This has included pre-application consultation meetings with the DCENR, Mayo County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of DEHLG and North Western Regional Fisheries Board (NWRFB). Particulars of the concerns raised, and how these have been addressed are included in Chapter 2 of the Onshore Pipeline EIS.

### **Application**

An application for Consent to Construct a Pipeline under Section 40 of the Gas Act, 1976, as amended, was made to the Minister of the DCENR in February 2009. As a result of the invitation from An Bord Pleanála for SEPIL to modify the onshore pipeline route, the February 2009 application to DCENR will be withdrawn and a revised (new) application will be resubmitted in parallel with the response to An Bord Pleanála. It will comprise:

- Application (Scope, Drawings and Design Premise)
- Offshore EIS comprising:
  - Corrib Field Development Offshore (Field to Terminal) Environmental Impact Statement, 2001 re-printed 2008.
  - Supplementary Update Report (Rev 03), 2010
- Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS (Revised).

There is no statutory mechanism for making amendments to a Section 40 application. Therefore, in light of modifications requested by An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Act, it is necessary for an entirely new Section 40 application to be made for the modified pipeline route now proposed.

## **THE FORESHORE ACTS 1933-2009 (AS AMENDED)**

The Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2009 (as amended) provides for the protection and preservation of the Foreshore and the seashore.

The foreshore extends to the twelve-mile limit. Section 3(1) of the Act, as amended by the Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1992, and the Foreshore and Dumping At Sea Amendment Act 2009 provides that any works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of, or removal of material from the

foreshore requires a lease or licence to be obtained from the Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

This type of development requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, which must be provided to the prescribed bodies specified in the Foreshore (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1990 (S.I. No. 220).

SEPIL and their consultants, RPS, have consulted with the Foreshore Unit of the DEHLG and with relevant prescribed bodies prior to finalising the revised application for the proposed development.

## Application

An application for a Foreshore Licence associated with the modifications to the Corrib Onshore Pipeline was submitted to the Coastal Zone Management Division of the DAFF in February 2009. As a result of the invitation from An Bord Pleanála for SEPIL to modify the onshore pipeline route, the February 2009 Foreshore Licence application will be withdrawn and a revised (new) application will be submitted to the Foreshore Unit of the DEHLG<sup>1</sup> in parallel with the response to An Bord Pleanála and the revised Gas Act application referenced above. It will comprise:

- Application Form;
- Offshore EIS comprising:
  - Corrib Field Development Offshore (Field to Terminal) Environmental Impact Statement, 2001 (re-printed 2008).
  - Supplementary Update Report (Rev 03), 2010.
- Corrib Onshore Pipeline EIS (revised).

---

<sup>1</sup> Under the *Foreshore and Dumping at Sea (Amendment) Act 2009*, responsibility for all foreshore energy-related developments (including oil, gas, wind, wave and tidal energy) was transferred to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2010