

From: Terry Sheridan (Housing)
Sent: Thursday 27 May 2021 09:37
To: 'Caoimhin Smith'
Cc: Kevin Brady Roisin Garland
Subject: FW: Policy Statement on Importation of Fracked Gas

Caoimhin,

See my below email of yesterday's date to Chairperson of An Bord Pleanala re the above matter.

Chairperson has since confirmed that he has taken note of the contents of the policy statement and Government Decision.

By way of update, he has also advised that the Board has received a request for pre-application consultation for proposed modifications to the current terminal plans, footprint of the development and less on-shore storage elements is currently before the Board while the applicant has also sought a determination as to whether the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure development (SID) or not. Notwithstanding the publication of the policy statement, the Board's decision on this pre-application consultation is focussed on whether the proposed development meets the criteria for SID and it considers that it can make a determination on that matter. However, if there is a subsequent submission of a formal planning application on the site, then the Board will take into account all relevant policies and planning considerations, including the Minister's recent policy statement.

I would be grateful if you could confirm when consultancy review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems has been completed so that I can notify the Board of the end of the stay on the non-progression or permitting of any LNG facilities as per the policy statement and Government Decision.

Regards,

Terry

From: Terry Sheridan (Housing)
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 5:32 p.m.
To: Dave Walsh
Subject: Policy Statement on Importation of Fracked Gas

Dave,

I wish to advise that the Government at its meeting of 18 May last approved and adopted a new Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas as proposed by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications. The policy statement can be viewed at the following link - gov.ie - Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas (www.gov.ie)

A core element of the policy statement is that pending the outcome of a review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems to be carried out by DECC, it would not be appropriate for the development of any LNG terminals in Ireland to be permitted or proceeded with. Accordingly, should any planning application for an LNG facility be received, the Board is requested to have regard to the policy statement in the context of section 34(2)(a)(v) of the Planning and Development Act which provides that when making its decision in relation to a planning application, the planning authority shall have regard to "where relevant, the policy of the Government, the Minister or any other Minister of the Government".

As per the Memorandum for Government, consultants have already been commissioned by DECC to undertake the review which is expected to be completed by the end of the current year. I will notify you when it has been completed.

Also attached for information is a copy of the Government Decision confirming the approval of the policy statement. I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have noted the foregoing.

Regards,

Terry

Dave Walsh
Chairperson

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject RE: Notification of An Bord Pleanála of Policy Statement on Fracked Gas
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Date: Tue, 25 May 2021 16:48:38 +0000

From: Terry Sheridan (Housing)

To: Caoimhin Smith

CC: Kevin Brady, Roisin Garland

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Caoimhin,

Yes all reasonably ok here, hope likewise with you.

We have received a copy of the Government Decision on your Memo so we will follow up with An Bord Pleanala tomorrow and confirm when they have been formally notified of the Decision and the Policy Statement. As stated, will come back to you tomorrow.

Regards,

Terry

From: Caoimhin Smith

Sent: Tuesday 25 May 2021 17:12

To: Terry Sheridan (Housing)

Cc: Kevin Brady ; Roisin Garland

Subject: Notification of An Bord Pleanala of Policy Statement on Fracked Gas

Terry,

I hope you are keeping well.

The policy statement on fracked gas was approved by Government and was published on Tuesday 18/5/2021 on Gov.ie, at the following link [gov.ie - Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-statements/2021-05-18-policy-statement-on-the-importation-of-fracked-gas/) .

Many thanks again for your assistance in getting this over the line.

Please can you let us know when your Department has notified An Bord Pleanala, in line with the obs on the Memo for Government provided by your Minister that your Department will notify the Board of the new policy statement to be issued by the MECC with a view to ensuring that, should a planning application for a new LNG facility be received during the period of the energy supply security review, it should not be permitted or proceeded with.

Best regards,

Caoimhin

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Caoimhin Smith

Business Energy and Gas Policy Division

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An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide

Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications