

**REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)**  
**on**  
**FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A GAS**  
**PIPELINE ACROSS THE RIVER TOLKA USING TRENCHLESS**  
**TECHNOLOGY**  
**BY**  
**BORD GAIS NETWORKS**

**Dr. Terry McMahon**  
**Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee**  
**09 March 2012**

## **Bord Gais Networks– Foreshore Application for the installation of submarine gas pipeline across the River Tolka using trenchless technology (MS51/4/546).**

### **Project Description:**

In November 2010 Bord Gais Networks submitted an application for a Foreshore Permit to facilitate the installation of a submarine gas pipeline across the River Tolka using trenchless technology. The proposed works are part of a project to reinforce the existing gas transmission system in the Santry to East Wall area of Dublin City.

The River Tolka estuary crossing will be constructed using trenchless technology (pipe ramming or similar technique) and it is intended that the pipeline will be installed at a minimum depth of 1.6m below the bed of the river.

The proposed pipeline will be approximately 26m long from bank to bank and will have a nominal diameter of 300mm and a wall thickness of 11.91mm. The pipeline will cross the river next to Fairview Park, just upstream from the John McCormack Bridge shown in Drawings No. F001, FL-002 and FL-003 submitted with the application. The location of the on-land Launch Pit and Retrieval Pit are shown on Drawing No. FL-003. It is anticipated that the construction of the crossing will take approximately 1 month to complete.

The gas pipeline will be designed and constructed in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006 (SI 504 of 2006) and will also be designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the requirements of the Irish Standard IS 328 Code of Practice for Gas Transmission Pipelines and Pipeline Installations (2003).

### **Natura 2000 sites description**

The location of the proposed crossing is not located within a designated Natura 2000 site but is located approximately 400m upstream from the aquatic boundary of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA ( Site Code 004042) and is also adjacent to the North Dublin Bay SAC(Site Code 000206)

.A site synopsis and Conservation Objectives for each of the Natura 2000 sites were sourced from the NPWS of DAHG.

### **Public Consultation**

A public notice concerning this application was published in the “Irish Times” on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The relevant documents were on display at Clontarf Garda Station for a period of 21 days from the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

No representations or observations were received.

## **MLVC Assessment:**

The following documents were assessed:

- Foreshore Application and accompanying Environmental Appraisal Report submitted by Bord Gais Networks
- Written submissions from DECLG (Engineering) DAHG ( Underwater Archaeology), DAFM (Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division), Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and the Marine Survey Office.
- Site synopsis and Conservation Objectives for the Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA and Dublin Bay SAC

No objections to the proposal were raised.

On the basis of the assessment of the above it was concluded that the use of trenchless technology, with the pipeline being installed a minimum of 1.6m below the bed of the river would not result in any adverse impacts on the foreshore, navigation, fishing or the marine environment, would not have a significant adverse impacts on any of the Conservation Objectives of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA and Dublin Bay SAC and would not adversely impact on the integrity of the sites. As the works will take place below the bed of the river / estuary there will be no habitat loss and there will not be significant disturbance to key habitats or species. Additionally there will be no habitat or species fragmentation. Water quality will not be impacted.

## **MLVC Conclusions**

Having considered and assessed:

- The Environmental Appraisal Report and environmental management and mitigation measures set out in the this Report
- The Submissions received from consultees
- The use of trenchless technology and burial of the pipeline a minimum of 1.6m below the bed of the river
- Conservation Objectives for the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA and Dublin Bay SAC

the MLVC concludes that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below, the proposed works would not have a significant negative impact on the marine environment, would not adversely impact on other legitimate users of the area and would not have a significant impact on the Conservation Objectives of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA and Dublin Bay SAC and therefore recommends that a permit be issued.

## **Proposed Licence Conditions**

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the Foreshore the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
2. The Licensee shall notify the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Inland Fisheries Ireland (Blackrock Office) at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of the works on the foreshore.
3. The Licensee shall provide a certified statement by a Chartered Engineer stating that the works, as detailed in the application, have been designed in accordance with the relevant Irish, British or EU standard specifications of Codes of Practice for strength, stability and durability, taking into account current building regulations and safety legislation.
4. During the course of the works no mechanical vehicles and / or plant shall enter onto the Foreshore.
5. Material excavated during the crossing construction shall not be stockpiled on the foreshore or areas adjacent to the foreshore and shall be disposed of in accordance with the appropriate Waste Disposal Legislation subject to the requirements of Dublin City Council.
6. All wastes generated on the site shall be handled in accordance with the appropriate Waste Management legislation and the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin City Region or as otherwise directed by Dublin City Council.
7. There shall be no direct discharges to any watercourse during the course of the works.
8. Any damage caused to the foreshore during the works shall be made good on completion of the works to the satisfaction of the Minister.
9. During the course of the works the site shall be secured from unauthorised public access or encroachment by means of suitable barriers and signage and the Licensee shall comply with all relevant Health and Safety legislation.
10. The Licensee shall adopt appropriate methods of operation in order to ensure that no spillages of hydrocarbons, cement, excavation run-off or other hazardous substance occur to the Foreshore during the course of the works.

11. The Licensee shall ensure that all environmental management and mitigation measures detailed in the Environmental Appraisal Report which accompanied the application are implemented in full.
12. The Licensee shall implement noise and traffic control procedures in accordance with the requirements of Dublin City Council.
13. The Licensee shall engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist, under licence from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to carry out archaeological monitoring of all ground disturbance works, including the opening of the pipeline trenches, excavation of the launch and reception pits, associated with the development.
14. The monitoring archaeologist shall have the power to have works suspended if potential archaeology is impacted and all works shall cease until the potential archaeology has been fully resolved. The Licensee shall be advised by the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the Department of Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in regard to the resolution of any potential archaeology identified.
15. Should archaeological remains be found the work may be stopped by the licensed archaeologist pending a decision by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on how best to deal with the archaeology
16. The Licensee shall comply with directions from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with regard to any mitigation actions required (preservation in situ or/and excavation) and shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found
17. On completion of the works the Licensee shall provide a report to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht describing the results of archaeological monitoring.
18. Within 2 months of completion of the works the Licensee shall provide a certified statement by a Chartered Engineer stating that the works have been completed in accordance with the information provided in the application.
19. The Licensee shall at all times during the continuation of this licence keep the pipe crossing in a good and proper state of repair and condition to the satisfaction of DECLG and ensure that it is not injurious to navigation, the adjacent lands/properties or the public interest

