

REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)
on
FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A GAS
PIPELINE ACROSS THE RIVER BARROW TO THE GREAT ISLAND POWER
STATION USING TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY
BY
BORD GAIS NETWORKS

Dr. Terry McMahon
Chair, Marine Licence Vetting Committee
21 October 2011

Bord Gais Networks– Foreshore Application for the installation of submarine gas pipeline across the River Barrow using trenchless technology (MS51/6/332).

Background

In September 2010 Bord Gais Networks submitted an application for a Foreshore Permit to facilitate the installation of a submarine gas pipeline across the River Barrow estuary using trenchless technology. The proposed works are required to connect the 430 MW Great Island Power Station in Co. Wexford to the national gas network.

The River Barrow estuary crossing will be constructed using trenchless technology (horizontal directional drilling) and it is intended that the pipeline will be installed at a minimum depth of 10m below the bed of the estuary.

The proposed pipeline will be approximately 1Km long and will have a nominal diameter of 406mm and a wall thickness of 14.2mm. The pipeline will cross the estuary between Ballinlaw, County Kilkenny and Dollar Point, County Wexford as shown in Drawings No. FL-001, 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. As part of the drilling process a temporary fluid return pipe is required to circulate the drilling fluid Bentonite. This fully welded 200mm diameter pipeline will be installed on the river bed in one day, remain in place for the duration of the works (approximately 3-4 months) and be removed in one day on completion of the works. 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).

The location of the proposed crossing is within the River Nore and River Barrow SAC (Site Code 002162) and this site is also a proposed NHA.

Public Consultation

A public notice concerning this application was published in the Irish Examiner” on the 12 December 2010. The relevant documents were on display at New Ross Garda Station for a period of 21 days from the 21st December 2010.

No representations or observations were received.

MLVC Considerations

The following documents were considered:

- Foreshore Application and accompanying Environmental Appraisal Report submitted by Bord Gais Networks
- Written submissions from DEHLG Development Applications Unit (Nature Conservation, Underwater Archaeology), DAFF (Engineering Division), Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and the Marine Survey Office.

No objections to the proposal were raised. It was considered that the use of trenchless technology, with the pipeline being installed a minimum of 10m below the bed of the estuary, would not result in any adverse impacts on the foreshore, would not have a significant adverse impacts on any of the qualifying interests of the River Nore and River Barrow SAC and would not adversely impact on the integrity of the site. 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. Disturbance to overwintering birds will be avoided as no works will be carried out during the period November – March inclusive Water quality will not be impacted.

MLVC Conclusions

Having regard to:

- 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 10m below the bed of the estuary

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 adversely impact on the River Nore and River Barrow 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 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. 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.
6. 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.
7. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a local marine notice giving general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion.
8. The Licensee shall liaise with the Waterford and New Ross Port Authorities prior to and during the proposed works.
9. 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.
10. 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 Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in regard to the resolution of any potential archaeology identified.
11. 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

12. 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
13. 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.