

SUBMISSION TO AN BORD PLEANALA

Prepared on behalf of: Tynagh Iron Mines Ltd.

Re: Galway Harbour Extension

References: PL61.PA0033

Location: Vicinity of Galway Docks, Galway

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME 10.05	BY TYNAGH MINES LTD
23 JAN 2015	
CTR-DATED JM	FROM
PI PA0033	

Prepared by: Stephen Dowds Associates,
5 Mary Street, Galway

Presentation

On behalf of Tynagh Iron Mines Ltd. I wish to make a submission to the Oral Hearing being conducted by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed extension to Galway Harbour.

I understand that the proposed extension will enable Galway Harbour to accommodate vessels of 20,000 tonnes and upwards whereas its current capacity is limited to vessels of approx. 3,000 tonnes (dry bulk) and approx. 5,000 tonnes (liquid bulk).

Tynagh Iron Mines Ltd. are currently conducting exploration and site investigations/drilling on the former Tynagh Mines site with a view to establishing the feasibility of reopening the mine. As part of the feasibility stage, my clients must also investigate the optimum means of transporting the ore to a ^{SMELTERS} ~~refinery~~ ^{SMELTERS} which involves shipping it abroad as there are no such ~~refineries~~ ^{SMELTERS} in Ireland.

Ore has an extremely high bulk/weight to value ratio and consequently transport distances and associated costs are a significant consideration in assessing the feasibility of reopening the mine. Being in a position to transport the material to the nearest commercial port, which can handle bulk cargo in a viable vessel size, is critical to the viability of the project.

Galway Port is 58km from the mine site, involving a journey time of approx. 50 - 60 minutes. Foynes Port on the other hand is approx. 122km from the mine involving a journey time of almost 2 hours.

Transporting the ore to Foynes, which is double the distance to Galway and almost double the travel time, poses a significant challenge to the viability of the project and being in a position to use Galway Port is likely to prove crucial if Tynagh Iron Mines Ltd. are to proceed with the project.

For the reasons outlined, my clients support the proposed extension to Galway Harbour as it is critical to the viability of their project which has the ability to generate significant revenue and employment for the Galway region for a 30 year period. They intend to utilise Galway port for export of materials produced at Tynagh and the port expansion is fundamental to the economic justification of the proposed Tynagh Mine development.

Stephen Dowds BA MRUP MIPI
23/01/15