



An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

05 08 2025

Re: ABP-322568-25 10-year permission for proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park consisting of power plant, battery energy storage system, floating storage and regasification unit, jetty, onshore receiving facilities, above ground installation and all ancillary structures/works. Townlands of Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry

Dear Ellen,

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence with me (received by the Department on July 2nd 2025) requesting further information as to government policy in respect of certain energy matters. As you are undoubtedly aware, any individual decision in respect of this or other planning applications remains within the remit of An Coimisiún Pleanála, and I respect fully the independence that An Coimisiún Pleanála exercises in this regard. This being said, I am happy to clarify the overall policy position in respect of Ireland's strategic gas reserve and related matters, details of which are set out below.

The Government is committed to taking decisive action to radically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and to achieve a 51% reduction in emissions from 2018 to 2030, and to achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050.

The [Energy Security in Ireland to 2030](#) report, published in November 2023, states that Ireland's future energy will be secure by moving from a fossil fuel-based energy system to an electricity-led system, maximising our renewable energy potential, flexibility and being integrated into Europe's energy systems.



This review also highlighted a significant risk to Ireland's economy and society in the event of a disruption to gas supplies, that this Government felt needed to be addressed. It is in the context of energy security, that on the 4th March 2025, the [Government approved the development of a temporary State-led strategic gas emergency reserve](#), to secure Ireland's energy systems, as an interim measure, as we continue to transition to an indigenous, clean renewable energy future.

The 2021 'Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas' notes that the statement will remain in place pending the completion of the review of Ireland's energy security. The approval of this Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve marks that completion. Therefore, [The Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas no longer remains in place.](#)

If you have any queries in relation to the above submission, please contact officials in my Department at minister.O'Brien@dcee.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. O'Brien', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Darragh O'Brien, T.D.

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment

