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Sandycove,
Co Dublin, A96 D6V3.

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

September 19, 2025.

Submission on Case reference: ABP-322568-25 - Shannon Technology & Energy Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is beyond belief that such an important project as this could still, after four years, be stuck in the planning system. Our arguments of 2021 (see overleaf) have become increasingly more urgent.

1. Again, introducing the ICSF

The Irish Climate Science Forum (ICSF, www.ICSF.ie) is Ireland's only independent think-tank focused on objective climate science and pragmatic energy policy. It aims to inform policymaking for the national good; it is self-funded, has no vested interests nor has any political affiliations.

2. Our recent Reality Check on the "Energy Transition":

We recently commissioned a Report "*Ireland's Renewable Energy Targets for 2030 – A Reality Check*" (downloadable from our website) on the electrical engineering and economic implications of the aspired "Energy Transition". It was prepared by one of our international energy advisors, Mr Douglas Pollock, an expert on analyzing the operating challenges of electricity grids in the presence of high levels of renewable generation, with wide experience in analyzing similar scenarios across Europe, North and South America.

The Report showed that far from delivering an energy transition providing "cheap renewable energy", it would lead to electricity prices rising by multiples, in parallel creating an unstable grid prone to blackouts - just as recently happened in Iberia. To keep the lights on affordably and reliably for the coming decades, the pragmatic approach, from both engineering and economic perspectives, is to roll out additional new high-efficiency gas-fired power stations, backed up by international LNG imports.

3. The Necessity of an LNG Import Facility

Ireland is rapidly running out of indigenous gas, is supplied by two relatively insecure gas pipelines, has no gas storage, and, to cap it all, has perversely banned further offshore exploration. Irish energy security policy cannot rely on electricity interconnectors from UK and French networks that are themselves becoming increasingly unreliable. National policy needs to return to engineering and economic pragmatism, with an essential and urgent refocusing on conventional gas-fired generation, secured by LNG import facilities. Lives will be at risk if and, more likely, when the lights go out.

In short, the immediate final permitting of this LNG import facility is absolutely essential to our future.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim O'Brien', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim O'Brien, Chair of the ICSF, www.ICSF.ie.
(Email: jim@jimobriencsr.com, mobile 087-246-3889).