

Leo Varadkar, TD, Taoiseach
Government Buildings
Merrion Street
Dublin 2
3 October 2019

Dear Taoiseach Varadkar,

RE: Please remove Shannon LNG from the Projects of Common Interest List

We, the undersigned NGO's and individuals from Ireland and the United States, request that you remove the 'Shannon LNG' terminal and all fracked gas infrastructure projects from the European Union Projects of Common Interest (PCI) list for the Friday, October 4th meeting. Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is disastrous for climate change, dangerous, and relies on fracking in the U.S. that harms people and the environment.

Ireland showed international leadership by banning fracking in 2017. As shown throughout the five year campaign by Irish citizens to stop this extraction process, fracking inflicts irreparable harm on public health, water, air, land and our shared climate. If Ireland uses U.S. fracked gas, Ireland will be responsible for facilitating continued harm to U.S. residents from drilling, fracking, and associated infrastructure for decades to come.

We know that the gas that would be used in the 'Shannon LNG' terminal would come from fracking because the corporation proposing to build it, New Fortress Energy, has stated this to its investors and reported it to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.¹ Additionally, the company plans to build two plants in the fracking area of Pennsylvania to liquify stranded fracked gas in order to transport and export it the 'Shannon LNG' terminal.² One of the proposed plants in Gibbstown, PA is controversial with community opposition.

Health professionals and scientists in the United States have been documenting the public health harms of fracking and related infrastructure for years now.³ The vast majority of more than 1,500 peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that drilling, fracking, and infrastructure including LNG are dangerous and harmful. In recent months, a renowned newspaper in Pennsylvania, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, has investigated and found least 67 diagnoses of extremely rare cancers in children in just 4 rural, heavily-fracked counties of the state. Health professionals are very alarmed.⁴

Furthermore, fracking is devastating to the climate. Drilling, fracking, and infrastructure released large amounts of methane, a type of carbon that is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period. The science is now clear that natural gas is not a "transition fuel" -- it is a

¹ New Fortress Energy LLC Filing at the US Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2018
https://marcellusdrilling.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/s002392x7_s1.pdf

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https://marcellusdrilling.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/s002392x7_s1.pdf

³ "The Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking"
<https://www.psr.org/blog/resource/compendium-of-scientific-medical-and-media-findings-demonstrating-risks-and-harms-of-fracking>

⁴ <https://newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/childhood-cancer-pittsburgh-pennsylvania-canon-mcmillan-pollution/> and
<https://newsinteractive.post-gazette.com/fracking-and-health-2/>

steep cliff to climate catastrophe. There is widespread scientific consensus that on-going investment in fossil fuel exploration, extraction, and delivery infrastructure is incompatible with global and domestic climate objectives of limiting warming to the 1.5 °C limit (IPCC, 2018 Summary for policy makers⁵ and recent studies highlight the significant climate pollution associated with the extraction of gas by means of fracking⁶.

In addition to the fact that the 'Shannon LNG' terminal would devastate public health and the climate, this process is anti-democratic. The 'Shannon LNG' terminal has not received the proper planning permits. It is outrageous to give any project PCI status before it gets proper permits and that the public is able to comment on the proposal -- which the Shannon LNG project has not. Additionally, the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) which reviews these projects, found that all the proposed fracked gas projects including the 'Shannon LNG' terminal are "projects which did not prove that their overall benefits outweigh costs"⁷. Lastly, the meeting of the European Commission in which the 'Shannon LNG' terminal could receive PCI status has been steeped in secrecy and only through a freedom of information request did a local resident obtain the date for the meeting giving the appearance that it is being hidden from the public.

Given this determination in addition to the other points raised in this letter the 'Shannon LNG' and other gas projects must be removed from Friday's European Commission PCI list.

Sincerely,

Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation Dwaine Perry
Michael Moore
Mark Ruffalo

Good Energies Alliance Ireland
Fracking Free Clare
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
The Shalom Center
Guernsey County Citizens Support on Drilling Issues
Earth Action, Inc
Protect All Children's Environment
Safety Before LNG
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Coalition to Protect New York
Rootskeeper
FreshWater Accountability Project Ohio
Northwest Activists Ireland
Concerned Health Professionals of Ireland

⁵ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/>

⁶ <https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/compendium-6.pdf>

⁷ https://www.acer.europa.eu/Official_documents/Acts_of_the_Agency/Opinions/Opinions/ACER%20Opinion%2019-2019%20on%20Gas%20PCI%20list.pdf

Young Friends of the Earth
Athens County's Future Action Network
Plymouth Friends of Clean Water
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Dunderberg Gallery
Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
Sustainable Medina County
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Corl
Love Leitrim
Radioactive Waste Alert
Good Energies Alliance Ireland
Leitrim People Before Profit
Lancaster Against Pipelines
Friends of the Earth Ireland
An Taisce Climate Committee
Not Here Not Anywhere
Electric Bike Trails
Stop Climate Chaos Coalition
Leitrim Tourism Network
Bucks Environmental Action
The Organic Centre
FracTracker Alliance
Physicians for Social Responsibility Philadelphia
350.org
NY Water Action
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Communities for Climate Action
Frack Action
Friends of the Earth Ireland
Extinction Rebellion Ireland
Cool Planet Champions
Food and Water Watch
Food and Water Watch Europe
Elected Officials to Protect New York