

To: energyconsultation@decc.gov.ie

Subject: Submission re: Draft document, *Review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems*

Comments:

These draft documents deal only with energy security and only with natural fossil gas as a source of energy generation. This does not take into account that Ireland's strengths lie in wind, offshore and perhaps tidal energy and fails to mention the many other sources of clean electricity generation that would enable Ireland meet the increasing demand for energy, notably electricity, while, at the same time, meeting our international and European decarbonisation commitments...

The area of Energy is now so complex, so urgent and of such potential value to Ireland that it warrants a Department and a Minister of its own to develop a clear Policy and Plan going forward. This Plan should focus firmly on what is in the national interest and insist that incoming investors, in, for example, data centres, are required to respect the national interest, by, for example, paying extra to access the Grid at peak times of usage.

Such a National Energy Plan will need to put Ireland's commitments to reducing carbon emissions at the forefront of every decision. This draft energy security document does not mention Ireland's environmental commitments – not even in a short Foreword - and this is disconcerting, since the documents are issued by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Specifically, the mention of a floating liquefied gas terminal at Shannon flies in the face of Ireland's ban on fracking as a method of extracting gas. Liquefied gas to Shannon would likely be fracked in the USA, possibly in Philadelphia. Building infrastructure to support fossil fuel use is a retrograde step, all such infrastructure serves a dangerous, near obsolete industry when Ireland could instead speed up Government and private investment in the wind offshore energy that is renewable and saleable as a valuable export.

Energy security is certainly very important and is served by having several methods of energy supply. Locally, the presence of solar panels on the roofs of public buildings and farms, schools and houses would carry the message that energy, in the form of electricity, is in secure supply. Local areas would feel energy secure if the locals knew they could supply energy to the grid and/or attended meetings to know who owned, ran and maintained local wind turbine/s. Even better if the locals had shares in their community turbine/s..The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland builds energy security by acting locally to help communities manage their energy usage and access energy-reducing Plans and technologies. I hope the work of the SEAI in local communities will expand from managing the demand for energy to deciding how best to supply it.

Thank you,

