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From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday 24 October 2022 21:39
To: Energy Consultation
Subject: Security of Energy Supply Submission

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as an interested member of the public regarding the review of the security of energy supply of Irelands electricity and natural gas systems. After reading the consultation document and the technical report I have outlined my concerns below.

There is no energy security without energy sustainability - energy security risks are far outweighed by the risks of climate disruption. As part of the European Green Deal and European Climate Law, the EU has set itself a binding target of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. As an intermediate step towards this goal, the EU has increased its 2030 climate ambition and is committed to cutting emissions by at least 55% by 2030. The Programme for Government (PfG) commits Ireland to a 51% reduction in total emissions by 2030, relative to 2018 levels, and to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The PfG also included a commitment to ending the issuing of new licenses for exploration and extraction of gas and sets out the Government's opposition to the importation of fracked gas. The Climate Action Plan 2021 increases the share of electricity demand generated from renewable sources to up to 80% by 2030.

In the Review of the Security of Energy Supply of Irelands Electricity and Natural Gas Systems Consultation Document, it is stated that data centres and other large industrial bodies are expected to be the main driver of the projected rise in overall electricity demand over the next 10 years. Ordinary citizens and their individual electricity use is not projected to drastically increase or decrease in the next 10 years. It is proposed that we will meet the increased demand from industry with natural gas and temporary LNG terminals. Gas is described as a 'transition' fuel because it emits less carbon dioxide than coal or oil when it's burned. However, unlike coal, natural gas leaks throughout the supply chain and emits high levels of methane into the atmosphere. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with at least 86 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. The extent of methane leakage means conventional gas has no climate benefit over coal or oil. Further, LNG is estimated to be 20% more emissions intensive than short-distance gas on a full life-cycle basis. This is due to methane leakage (as well as the additional energy required) in the process of liquefying, transporting and regasifying the LNG.

The majority of the shortlisted gas and electricity security of supply mitigation options that are mentioned in the document are estimated to be difficult to achieve by 2025 but possible by 2030. They would need significant amounts of investment in infrastructure over the coming decade. As per legislation outlined above, we need to have rapidly transitioned away from greenhouse gas emitting fuels to a strong renewable energy sector by 2030. Why should we then instead rapidly invest in gas-based infrastructure that supports a model of energy production that will drastically increase greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to catastrophic levels of global warming? To support industry growth? At what cost? The capital that would be invested in gas infrastructure could instead be rapidly invested into the renewable energy sector where we will not be dependent on imports that leave us vulnerable to the shock scenarios discussed in the document and the unpredictability of global energy markets where we will be further exposed to energy insecurity and price rises.

The most secure source of energy for the future is indigenous renewables supported by storage.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission.

Kind regards,

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