

# “Review of the Security of Energy Supply of Ireland’s Electricity and Gas Systems”

## A Contribution to the Consultation Process

My name is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I have a Degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master’s Degree in Industrial Engineering, both from University College Dublin

Since retiring, I have maintained an active interest in Ireland’s energy systems and in the measures needed to combat Climate Change by converting from fossil fuels to electricity from renewable sources – wind and solar. I have installed seven solar panels on the roof of my house.

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The plans for converting to renewable energy have been blown off course, the latest issue being the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It now seems most unlikely that 2030 Targets will be realised, and 2050 may not be the end of installing and perfecting the new energy system

Until the new system has been completed, tested and proved reliable, Ireland must have a secure energy back up system. Natural gas will facilitate an orderly transition to renewable energy. It will be used in ever-decreasing amounts as more and more such systems are commissioned, but supplies of gas and the corresponding electricity generation capacity must be maintained until 2050 and perhaps beyond that, as a stand-by in case of a breakdown or interruption of supply of electricity from renewable sources.

Before looking for supplies of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) it may be worthwhile to explore other possibilities. The cheapest gas is likely to come from local sources. Because gas supplies will be needed until 2050 (as set out above), it might be worth granting Exploration Licences to the companies interested in an extension of the Corrib field and to those involved in the Seven Heads prospect off the Cork coast. If either or both are successful, there would be fifteen or more years of production to pay off the cost of getting gas flowing.

Negotiations with Ireland’s current suppliers of North Sea gas might allow for an extension of current contracts and possibly for increased quantities, particularly before other gas supplies are secured.

The Corrib field still has ten years supply of gas. The Operators might be prepared to vary rates of offtake to suit circumstances ashore. An agreement might be reached with them to increase offtake rates. It might be possible to store extra (emergency) gas in the Corrib field, all with the Operator’s agreement, of course.

LNG is inherently more expensive than any of the above. If none of them prove fruitful, it will be necessary to contract for supplies of LNG. Instead of installing a short-term, costly Floating Storage and Regassification Unit (FSRU) in this country, it might be worth approaching British Gas (BG) and exploring the possibility of unloading the LNG into the UK gas system on their South coast (e.g. Milford Haven). The amount of gas delivered there would be witnessed and recorded, and the same amount delivered from Moffat into the Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) system at no cost to GNI (or maybe a small ‘handling charge’)

There would be a cost saving to BG as most of their gas has to travel from Scotland and through the length of England, to their main gas markets. Gas landed on their South Coast would cost less to deliver. Moreover, gas from Moffat is not “fracked”.

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