Member Wicklow County Council,

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Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Submission to Review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems consultation.

The Departments paper is a disaster for Ireland. It makes us completely dependent on the UK to import gas, including fracked gas. Ireland spent centuries trying for political independence, 100 years becoming successfully economically independent we should not revert to fuel dependency on the UK. That is the policy appropriate to a colony. Energy independence is essential.

The review does not consider many likely shocks:

- Pipelines blown up and out of action for a year, only 30 days considered. To repair the pipes blown up in the Baltic will take at least a year.
- It considers that large amounts of gas or electricity can be imported at will, it explicitly does not consider several countries in shock at the same time, a likely situation in the UK, France, Germany.

Paper wants complete reliance on the UK without any commitment. There is likely to be some, currently small amount, of fracked gas in the UK imports. The UK has just agreed to frack gas on land so a substantial amount of imports will be fracked in future, it cannot be separated from well gas. This is contrary to specific commitments in the Programme for Government.

Some scenarios in the paper envisage a third of Industrial Supplies not being met, This will put off the larger job creators which have made the country successful.

A floating LNG terminal is ruled out because it will contain fracked gas!! Nonsense. It is easy to specify in contract or planning law (and to check it) that it must all be well gas, not fracked. Holland has got one in place, with connection pipes in 7 months. Germany will have 2 this year within 10 months of starting.

## The solution is to:

- Quickly get a floating LNG terminal and regular supplies. This will have to be a long term
  contract as nobody is going to supply when these are scarce unless we commit to taking it
  when plentiful, See the Economist article of 24th September 2022. This should enable coal at
  Moneypoint to be stopped.
- Press on quickly with the proven & cheap technology of bottom based offshore windfarms.
   On the East coast in shallow water. Also Solar. More experimental generation should be tried but not depended on in bulk, floating wind, biomass, hydrogen, etc.

• Explore for gas in our waters. This will support Ireland, Europe & Ukraine. We have got great support from the EU in disputes over Brexit and we should support them if there is more gas in Irish waters.

The Departments Security of Supply Paper wants short term solutions to avoid stranded assets when renewables eventually take over. It ignores the fact that stranded assets will be somewhere, Qatar, UK or Ireland. When there are shortages these places will not supply us with gas unless we have a long term contract to take it even when there is a surplus. Otherwise they will not make the substantial investments needed.

The Economist feature 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

This is a very good summary of the world energy market and gives a very different scenario to the Department.

Only 37% of gas contracts are on the spot market, the rest are long term contracts, usually a decade or more, which have security of supply. Asia, especially Japan, has gone for long term security, whereas Europe is short term with no security of supply.

By the end of 2023 a fifth of the worlds regasification barges will be in Europe and 5 more land based LNG plants are being constructed there. Long term contracts for LNG are required for security with places like Qatar.

