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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.

