

Dáil Debate October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019

**LNG and fracked gas for Ireland?**

**Briefing for TD's.**

The Irish Government are planning to go to Brussels tomorrow to table support with the European Commission, Projects of Common Interest, for a Fracking Gas Terminal in Shannon 'Shannon LNG' and the reversal of the flow in the existing gas pipe that connects us with Scotland, so that we could become exporters of fracked gas across Europe.

It is imperative that fracked gas terminals are removed from the Projects of Common Interest list

- **If Ireland banned fracking because of public health and environmental risks, Why Are We Taking Fracked Gas from United States now?**
- **Yes it is Fracked Gas that would be used in 'Shannon LNG'! Even though yesterday AN Taoiseach said he wasn't sure. New Fortress Energy, the company who would build the plant, have stated this to their investors, to the US Securities Exchange Commission AND they are currently trying to build the LNG export facility in Pennsylvania where 99% of gas extracted is from fracking.**
- **This process of having the 'Shannon LNG' terminal on the European Commission's meeting agenda for the Projects of Common Interest (PCI) has been shrouded in secrecy and anti-democratic decision making. If approved it will have access to significant funding, fast track planning and can override environmental impacts as it will be deemed to be of the highest public interest.**
- **Confusing 'Energy Security' with 'Gas Security' is dangerous, and shows a complete disregard for climate science. Energy security for Ireland must come from further investment in renewables, storage, and electricity interconnection.**
- **Minister Bruton said yesterday he had asked for a review of Energy Security. He absolutely needs to wait until that review is complete before he commits to significant funding for gas terminals and risks stranded assets and carbon lock in for many decades to come.**

More Detail.

*If Ireland banned fracking because of public health and environmental risks, Why Are We Taking Fracked Gas from United States?*

- In 2017, Ireland banned fracking. Other countries including France, Germany, Bulgaria have banned fracking and states including New York, Maryland and Vermont citing public health and environmental risks.
- It is widely recognized now that fracking is dangerous and has serious public health and environmental damage. The Physicians for Social Responsibility and Concerned Health Professionals have compiled the over 1,500 scientific studies about fracking that overwhelmingly show harm. [here](#)
- The areas of Pennsylvania where the fracked gas feeding the "Shannon LNG" terminal. In recent months, a renowned newspaper in Pennsylvania, the



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, has investigated and found least 67 diagnoses of extremely rare cancers in children in just 4 rural, heavily-fracked counties of the state. Health professionals are very alarmed. [Here's the story:](#)

- The parents of these sick children are pleading with their state government to help and conduct a full investigation. Why would Ireland want to [be involved in this?](#)

*Yes it is Fracked Gas that would be used in Shannon LNG! 99% of gas in Pennsylvania is Fracked.*

- On October 3, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar stated on the floor of the Dáil during "Leaders Questions" that the gas used on the 'Shannon LNG' would not be sourced from just fracking - this is blatantly NOT TRUE.
- We know from the corporation - New Fortress Energy - seeking to build the 'Shannon LNG' terminal that the gas is from fracking in Pennsylvania because they said that to their investors and in their filing to the US Securities and Exchange Commission. See their direct quotes from their SEC filing here:
  - New Fortress Energy LLC Filing at the US Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2018 "Hydraulic Fracturing. Certain of our suppliers employ hydraulic fracturing techniques to stimulate natural gas production from unconventional geological formations (including shale formations), which currently entails the injection of pressurized fracturing fluids (consisting of water, sand and certain chemicals) into a well bore. Moreover, hydraulically fractured natural gas wells account for a significant percentage of the natural gas production in the U.S.; the U.S. Energy Information Administration reported in 2016 that hydraulically fractured wells provided two-thirds of U.S. marketed gas production in 2015". [Page 49](#)
- New Fortress Energy is trying to get planning permission in Pennsylvania to build two plants to liquify the fracked gas in order to ship it here to Ireland. This is also stated in the SEC filing here:
  - New Fortress Energy LLC Filing at the US Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2018 "We are an integrated gas-to power company that seeks to use "stranded" natural gas to satisfy the world's large and growing power needs"[...] "We are currently developing two liquefiers in the Marcellus area of Pennsylvania, each of which is expected to have the capacity to produce approximately 3 to 4 million gallons of LNG (which is the equivalent of 250,000 to 350,000 MMBtu) per day, and intend to develop five or more additional liquefiers over the next five years. "[Page 9](#)
- New Fortress Energy has stated that the fracked gas will come to the Gibbstown, PA liquification plant directly from fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale in Bradford County PA. As noted in the [newspaper article](#) about local opposition in Pennsylvania to the plant.
  - "LNG would be shipped to the Gibbstown port via truck from a new liquefaction plant being built in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, amid the abundant natural gas supplies of the Marcellus Shale, according to a Securities and Exchange filing by the plant's developer, New Fortress Energy. The plant, costing an estimated \$750-\$850 million, would have a capacity of 3.6 million gallons a day and could serve markets in the Northeast by truck, the company said in a statement."



- “Environmentalists said during a conference call with reporters that an LNG export terminal would endanger public safety by risking an explosion; boost fracking for natural gas by opening up overseas markets...“We’re looking at massive public safety impacts from Bradford County all the way to South Jersey,” O’Malley said.
- [According](#) to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, most of the gas coming from Pennsylvania - which New Fortress Energy wants - is from fracking otherwise known as unconventional drilling. 99% of gas is from unconventional means, i.e fracking.

According to the US Pennsylvania's gross natural gas production, primarily from the Marcellus Shale, reached nearly 5.5 trillion cubic feet in 2017, and the state was the nation's second-largest natural gas producer after Texas.

*This process of having the 'Shannon LNG' terminal on the European Commission's meeting agenda for the Projects of Common Interest (PCI) has been shrouded in secrecy and anti-democratic decision making*

- The 'Shannon LNG' terminal is a controversial issue in County Clare and Kerry that will have massive impacts on the environmental in the Shannon Estuary. The previous version of this project, which was proposed by a different corporation, is over. What the new corporation New Fortress Energy is proposing is different and is required to go through a planning process with public participation. It currently does not have any permits. How can Ireland put it on the PCI list when none of the permits are approved? This is anti-democratic.
- TD Smith has been asking Minister for Communications and Climate Action Richard Bruton for weeks for the date of the European Commission's meeting and was never given the exact date.
- A local campaigner only obtained the date through an AIE request of the Irish Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.
- The [European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators \(ACER\)](#) which reviews these projects before they go on the PCI list for recommendation, found that all the proposed fracked gas projects including the 'Shannon LNG' terminal are “projects which did not prove that their overall benefits outweigh costs”.

**\*\*\*Given all the info we have 'Shannon LNG' must be removed from Friday's European Commission PCI list.\*\*\***

