

UBU Rossport Solidarity Motion

This Union Notes:

1. That Shell are trying to build a 9 km over-land high pressure production gas pipeline and gas refinery in Rossport, Ireland to exploit the Corrib gas field, which is in the Atlantic ocean.
2. The Irish government has bent over backwards to facilitate this construction, by cutting the mandatory state stake in drilling projects and state royalties. (Footnote 1)
3. The nearest inhabited houses to the current pipeline route are barely 70 metres away and the public road is 30 metres away. At 345 bar pressure, according to the Health and Safety Authority, fatal effects from a rupture could extend to up to 527 metres away. Yet the owners of these houses have been threatened with legal action for opposing Shell.
4. The refinery, should it be built, will pollute the air with Radon gas, along with oxides of Nitrogen, Methane, Sulphur Dioxide, and the Carbon Dioxide output equivalent to over 10,000 cars every year.
5. Waste from the refinery is to be dumped into Broadhaven bay, with the outflow of the waste pipe only 500 metres from the limits of an E.U. designated Special Area of Conservation. Shell attempted to bury a report it had commissioned that showed the impact of this planned development. (Footnote 2)
6. The construction involves removing thousands of tons of peat. This has led to aluminium polluted water contaminating the nearby lake. Despite this, it is claimed to be 10 times cheaper than building a processing platform at sea.
7. That protesters have delayed work on the site for 18 months. However, on 3rd October Garda (Irish Police) arrived in large numbers at the site to try and force a way for Shell's contractors onto site, and have acted aggressively towards protesters ever since. (Footnote 3)

This Union Believes:

1. That preserving the environment is of the utmost importance, and that we should be looking for ways to reduce fossil fuel dependency, rather than to increase supplies.
2. That no company should be allowed unfettered access to natural resources against the will of the surrounding population. That Shell is unjustified in its insistence on a land-based gas terminal given the ecological risks and social impact that it already having.
3. That while a boycott might seem in proportion to what Shell is doing, we can neither maintain two boycotts, nor justify overthrowing our Esso policy.

This Union Resolves:

1. To write to Shell and the Irish Government calling for construction to stop, and to the Rossport Protest Camp to tell them of our support.

2. To provide a leaflet to anyone collecting minibus keys explaining Shell's actions and encouraging them to avoid Shell garages.

3. To support the forthcoming "Rossport Solidarity" tour and invite them to visit Bradford.

Proposer Sophia Coles-Riley 05000713

Secunder Graham Martin 03003710

Assentors (incomplete, but here's the first few)

LC Russell-Moyle 05001372

Lavinia Crossley 04004266

Katie Jennings 05016091

H Tweddell 02003238

C Bischoff 05012981

B Wells 04002293

R Brunkalla 06015919

R Orton 05020386

Jen Fox 05006237

Mateusz Muarski 05018743

Tansy Newman Turner 04004611

Sara Rushworth 030132130