

Minded to determine notice and reasons for proposed licence conditions

To: Gas Networks Ireland, [REDACTED]

Re: **MUL240034:** Marine environmental surveys within two areas of the Shannon Estuary adjacent to the townlands of Cahiracon and Tarbert to provide high-quality baseline data that can contribute to a reliable basis for site selection for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve.

Date: 20/06/2025

By Electronic mail only: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) for the above licence. Pursuant to section 119(6)(b) of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 ("the Act"), MARA hereby gives notice to Gas Networks Ireland that it is minded to grant the above licence with conditions. The reasons for the proposed licence conditions are set out below. A copy of the proposed licence which MARA is minded to grant to the applicant is enclosed which should be read in conjunction with this notice.

The applicant may provide supplementary material in view of the reasons set out in this notice only, which MARA will consider before making a final determination on the licence application. Any supplementary material must be furnished to MARA at licence@mara.gov.ie by the **11/07/2025** at the latest. MARA will not accept any supplementary material after this date.

For the avoidance of doubt, no decision to grant the licence shall be considered to have been made until MARA makes a final determination on the licence application.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Karen Creed

Director of Maritime Authorisations.

Proposed conditions to be attached to the Licence:

The Particulars Schedule

TERM

Reason: To ensure the orderly administration of licensed maritime usages in the maritime area.

Condition 4

COMMENCEMENT OF THE PERMITTED MARITIME USAGE

Reason: To ensure the proper management of the maritime area.

Condition 5

COMPLIANCE WITH THE LICENCE AND THE ACT

Reason: To ensure that the Holder carries out the Permitted Maritime Usage in accordance with the licence and the Act.

Condition 6

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Reason: To provide for the attachment of conditions to the licence which the Grantor considers necessary and appropriate to the particular circumstances of the licence granted to the Holder.

Condition 7

CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

Reason: To ensure the Grantor is informed of any material change of circumstances within the meaning of Section 136 of the Act.

Condition 8

INDEMNITY

Reason: For the necessary protection of the Grantor in light of possible risks arising from the Permitted Maritime Usage.

Condition 9

INSURANCE

Reason: To ensure that there is sufficient insurance cover for the Holder to undertake the Permitted Maritime Usage.

Condition 10

TERMINATION OR EXPIRY OF THE LICENCE

Reason: To set out the legal position and obligations of the Holder on termination of the licence.

Condition 11

FORCE MAJEURE

Reason: To clarify the events that excuse non-performance of the Holder's obligations under the licence.

Condition 12

INSPECTIONS

Reason: To ensure the Grantor can evaluate compliance of the Holder with its obligations under the licence and the Act.

Condition 13

DOCUMENTATION

Reason: To provide appropriate controls on the maritime usage activity to ensure protection of the marine environment.

Condition 14

EXERCISE OF RIGHTS

Reason: To clarify the manner in which the Holder must exercise the rights granted under the licence

Condition 15

NOTICES

Reason: To set out the manner in which notices must be served by the Holder upon the Grantor under the licence.

Condition 16

AMENDMENTS TO THE LICENCE

Reason: To state for the avoidance of doubt that any amendment to the licence must be undertaken in accordance with section 125 of the Act.

Condition 17

SURRENDER OF THE LICENCE

Reason: To state for the avoidance of doubt that any application to surrender the licence must be undertaken in accordance with sections 126 and 127 of the Act.

Condition 18

AUTOMATIC TERMINATION

Reason: To state for the avoidance of doubt that the licence will automatically terminate on the occurrence of any of the events provided for in section 144(1) of the Act.

Condition 19

TERMINATION FOR BREACH

Reason: To state for the avoidance of doubt that the Grantor may terminate the licence for breach in accordance with section 144A of the Act.

Condition 20

GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

Reason: To clarify that the Holder must submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish Courts in respect of any dispute and the provisions of this licence shall be construed in accordance with the laws of Ireland.

Condition 21

This licence is for the purposes of licensing under the Act and nothing in this licence shall be construed as negating the Holder's statutory obligations or requirements under any other Law. Reason: To clarify the scope of the licence.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Condition 22

The Permitted Maritime Usage shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars submitted in support of the application for this Licence.

Reason: To clarify the scope of the licence and ensure protection of the marine environment.

Condition 23

The Holder shall, a minimum 14 days prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage, arrange for the publication of a Marine Notice with the Marine Safety Policy Division, Department of Transport. This Marine Notice shall include details of the Licence Holder and the Licence Number as granted by MARA.

Reason: To ensure safe navigation

Condition 24

The Holder shall not damage or interfere with any third party's property, infrastructure or fishing gear while conducting the Permitted Maritime Usage.

Reason: To minimise impact on other users of the marine environment.

Condition 25

Prior to the commencement of the Permitted Maritime Usage the Holder shall consult with Shannon-Foynes Port Company to plan and schedule the Permitted Maritime Usage in order that any potential disruption to port operations is managed.

Reason: To ensure the orderly undertaking of the proposed maritime usage.

Condition 26

The Holder shall ensure that all vessels engaged in this Permitted Maritime Usage conform to Irish Certification standards for vessels, as required by the Marine Survey Office.

Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment.

Condition 27

The Holder shall take all reasonable practical measures to ensure that all vessels used in the Permitted Maritime Usage are free of invasive marine species on their hulls and in their ballast water and that all vehicles and equipment used are free of invasive marine species.

Reason: To ensure protection of the marine environment.

Condition 28

Accidental events: The Holder shall ensure that there is an oil pollution emergency plan on-board any survey vessels. This plan should specify:

- i) Information on the location and detail of spill response resources on-board.
- ii) Information on crew training in relation to oil pollution response.
- iii) How crew will interface with other site investigation operators, where applicable.

Reason: To provide appropriate controls on the Permitted Maritime Usage to ensure protection of the marine environment.