

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The pipeline, at five times the usual pressure, would be built over unstable bogland, with a history of landslides and in very close proximity to people's homes. It would be 70m from the nearest home, 30m from a public road and three families would have to cross over the pipeline every day to leave their houses.

A recent, independent safety analysis by US-based pipeline consultants Accufacts found: "The Corrib pipeline is not a 'normal' pipeline, given its potential to operate under exotically high pressures and because of unknown gas compositions associated with gas field production. This can seriously increase the **likelihood of pipeline failure.**"

Accufacts' analysis states: "pipeline routing should be at least 200 metres away from dwellings and 400 metres away from unsheltered individuals to avoid massive casualties and/or multiple fatalities."

ENVIRONMENT

The refinery will be a large combustion plant, with nine chimneys, some 140ft high, releasing carbon dioxide and methane. 16 houses are within a 2km radius of the plant. Air and water emissions from the refinery would **pollute** the local environment.

Carrowmore Lake is the source of the regional water supply, and will be on the receiving end of emissions from the proposed refinery at Bellanaboy. Broadhaven Bay is where Shell plans to pump the waste from the refinery: including lead, nickel, magnesium, phosphorus, chromium, arsenic, and mercury. This bay provides livelihoods for local communities through **fishing**.

Shell claims there is "no evidence that Broadhaven Bay is of particular importance to whales and dolphins", contrary to the findings of a UCC study (commissioned by Shell). The UCC research team recorded over 220 sightings of seven **whale and dolphin** species, plus sightings of two seal species in the Bay and off north-west Mayo.

THE GREAT GAS GIVEAWAY

The Irish state has facilitated Shell in this project. In 1975 for oil and gas exploitation in Ireland the terms were between 8% to 16% production royalties to the state and a 50% tax rate. In addition there could be up to 50% state participation in the exploitation of any find, as the establishment of a state energy company was planned. Also, gas was sold to state companies at a reduced bulk discount.

Successive governments between 1985 and 1992 whittled this away to a situation where there are **no royalties**, no state participation and a 25% tax rate. Furthermore there is a 100% tax write-off, meaning multinationals can count their production, development and exploration costs as 'tax' and hence pay less tax or conceivably no tax.

Laws were changed to allow Shell to use private land through a Compulsory Acquisition Order. State-owned forestry was sold to Shell for the refinery site. Essentially this is a **great gas giveaway**, while



Locals and camp members blockade the refinery at Bellanaboy

underfunded public services go down the tube. The privatisation of natural resources is no aberration, when the same is planned for An Post, Dublin Bus, Irish Rail and Aer Lingus, with inevitable impacts on jobs and services; indeed, the downgrading of the public health service is to the advantage of the private sector. Big business enjoys very low tax rates and the super-rich benefit from tax evasion amnesties, while more than 85% of income tax is paid by PAYE workers.

Resistance



Since June 2005, Shell has been forced to suspend work on the project, due to **direct action** taken by the local people and the Rossport Solidarity Camp. Construction sites at Bellanaboy and Rossport have been successfully picketed by the local community every day since June 2005.

At Shell's behest, five local men, who became known as **The Rossport Five**, spent 94 days in jail for breaking a High Court injunction when they denied Shell access to their and their neighbours' farmlands to lay the pipe.

Fishermen threatened to blockade one of the world's largest pipe-laying ships, the Solitaire, if it attempted to lay the offshore section of the pipeline. **Rallies, protests and pickets** took place across Ireland and overseas. Public pressure forced Shell to request the lifting of the injunction and the Rossport Five were released at the end of September.

THE STRUGGLE AHEAD



However, Shell plans to start work again in **2006**. This project cannot be allowed to go ahead. So come and add your passion, ingenuity and imagination to a diverse collective effort, which has defeated Shell and the state thus far and with you, can continue to do so.

This is a major opportunity to defeat a highly dangerous project, and the struggle so far has already been an **inspiration** to many people all over Ireland. **Victory** will have a significant radicalising effect, not just on a remote corner of Mayo, but across the island.

What is happening in Rossport is one front in the **struggle against the subordination of our lives** in the interests of big business and private profit: a victory here will be a step further on the road to victory everywhere.

The aim of the camp is to lend practical support to the local community's struggle and to provide a base for protestors who are not from the area.

We can win, we will win, but we need you.

Rossport Solidarity Camp



The Rossport Solidarity Camp was set up in June 2005 on the route of the proposed pipeline. The function of the camp is to **stop Shell**: it is not a place to just hang out. The camp is great fun and is a source of new friendships, but it also involves a lot of **commitment** and hard work.

As well as joining the local community in effective blockades and pickets, we also organised gatherings at the camp with talks and actions, music and street theatre.

The camp is **organised non-hierarchically** with regular meetings where everyone is treated as equal, regardless of gender, age or experience. People from all walks of life are welcome: no camping experience necessary!

GUIDELINES

To ensure the smooth running of the camp, we have agreed a set of guidelines:

- Alcohol and drugs are not permitted on the camp.
- Sexual harassment will not be tolerated: we have a Positive Spaces Policy for dealing with problematic behaviour.
- Everyone on the camp is treated as equal and work is shared equally.
- We are pursuing our goals through non-violent direct action.
- Everyone on the camp is accountable to the camp; we don't carry out individualist actions.
- We use a collective decision-making process; everyone in the camp contributes to decisions.
- We try to leave as light an ecological footprint as possible. This includes recycling or composting our waste.