

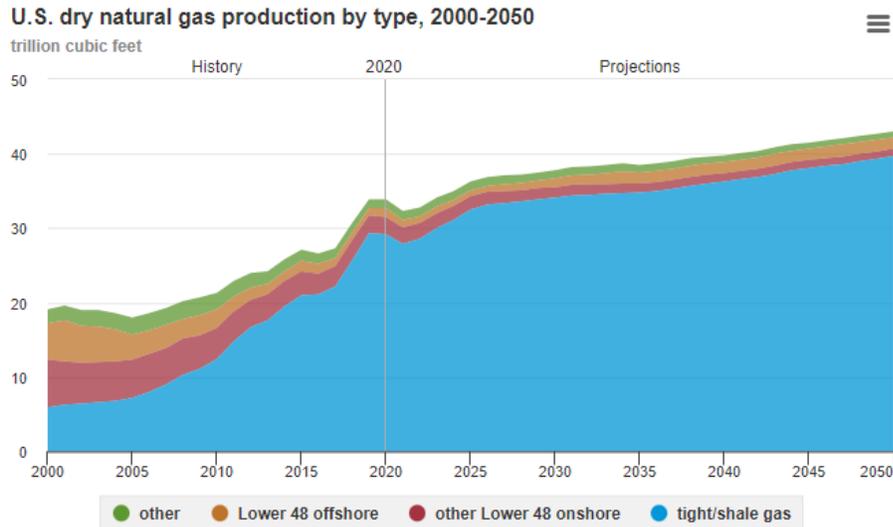
11th August 2022

Dear Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister Ryan,

We, the undersigned organizations from Ireland and the United States, write with deep concern about the recent statement made by Taoiseach Micheál Martin in Kerry about giving consideration to liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports. Taoiseach Martin stated that, "LNG that uses fuel that's not derived from fracking is consistent with the Programme for Government. Personally in that context [without fracking], then I think we'd have to give consideration to LNG." We strongly disagree.

We are also concerned that Tánaiste Varadkar recently met with the American Founder and CEO of New Fortress Energy, Wes Edens, while the proposed Shannon LNG terminal is under review. While New Fortress Energy is now claiming that they won't use fracked gas, this is contrary to their business model. We have outlined our concerns below and request a meeting as soon as possible in order to discuss this in more detail.

First, there is only one LNG terminal which has applied for planning permission in Ireland and that is New Fortress Energy in the Shannon River Estuary. While New Fortress Energy is now claiming that they would use gas from conventional drilling, their entire business model is based on getting fracked gas to market with highly dangerous transport mechanisms including trucks on public roads and old rail cars. They use these methods of transport to avoid seeking regulatory permits for pipelines from more stringent U.S. federal agencies. New Fortress Energy has also stated that it will use fracked gas for LNG in its own [submission](#) to the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. In the U.S., New Fortress Energy is seeking permits to export fracked gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania to Ireland. Furthermore, most gas from the United States is from fracking tight/shale gas formations, as this figure from the U.S. Energy Administration Information shows.



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2021 Reference case*, February 2021
Note: Other includes Alaska and coalbed methane.

The public health harms from fracking in Pennsylvania and the United States have been severe. Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Concerned Health Professionals of NY recently released a [report](#) that outlines the over 2,000 scientific studies and reports, which overwhelmingly show problems with fracking and related infrastructure, including water contamination, air pollution, and public health harms. Ireland rightly banned fracking because of its environmental and public health impacts and should reject this terminal for those very same reasons.

Second, gas exacerbates the climate crisis whether it is fracked or not. Gas extraction releases significant methane emissions, which are over 80 times worse for the climate than carbon dioxide. The liquefaction, transportation, and regasification process releases even more emissions, [making LNG as bad for the climate as coal](#). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations, and top climate scientists have warned that it is vital to get off gas and reduce methane emissions.

Third, LNG is volatile and extremely dangerous, and transporting it puts communities at grave risk. If it spills, the liquid can turn into rapidly expanding vapor clouds that can flash-freeze human flesh. LNG is highly flammable and burns so hot that it can burn people a mile away. Using LNG endangers communities at the point of gas extraction and along pipeline, truck, and rail routes. Such risks must equally be considered for communities near the proposed LNG terminal in the Shannon Estuary.

Lastly, Ireland is in [no way reliant](#) on gas from Russia. This is the reason why a few weeks ago, Ireland was exempted from EU commitments to reduce gas use by 15%. There is no LNG that is consistent with the 2021 Programme for Government and Ireland's climate and energy commitments, including the Government's national climate targets, agreed carbon budgets, and sectoral emissions ceiling for the energy sector.

In closing, Ireland has the opportunity to lead Europe and the world in renewable energy and on climate change. Locking Ireland into long-term gas usage with LNG directly undermines the Government's climate and energy commitments. LNG infrastructure takes 3-5 years to build and would lock Ireland into dirty fossil fuels for decades. We ask that you meet with the impacted residents from Pennsylvania and leading experts from the United States to expand on the points above and ensure you fully understand the risks and harms associated with LNG imports. We call on you to categorically commit to opposing LNG imports.

Sincerely,

Afri
Animals Are Sentient Beings
Ballinderreen Bee Wild
Bergen County Green Party
Berks Gas Truth

Better Path Coalition
Broadstone Residents Association
Broome Tioga Green Party
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Chispa Texas
Citizens United for Renewable Energy (CURE)
Clare Environmental Network
Clare Organic Farmers
Clare PPN
Climate Land Leaders
[Color Brighton Green](#)
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania
Conejo Climate Coalition
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
éiRe Says No to Mining Assembly Group
Ennistymon
Extinction Rebellion Galway
Extinction Rebellion Ireland
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Feasta
Food & Water Watch
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice
Frack Action
Fracking Free Clare
FreshWater Accountability Project
Fridays For Future Dublin
Friends of the Earth Ireland
Future Generations Kerry
Futureproof Clare
Galway Against Gas
Glendree Organic Farm
Good Energies Alliance Ireland
Green New Deal Virginia
Human Dimensions TV
Irish Peace and Neutrality Alliance
Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light
Kinvara Climate Action
Love Leitrim
NCAD Sustainability Society
The National Council for People with Disabilities
New Yorkers for Clean Power
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
Not Here Not Anywhere
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)

One Future Dublin South West
Orange RAPP
Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales
People Before Profit Limerick Branch
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Project A
Refugee and Migrant Solidarity Ireland
Resolution Media Fund
Sane Energy Project
Save the Boyne
Seneca Lake Guardian
Sentient Rights Ireland
Sisters of La Retraite
The Last Plastic Straw
Third Space Galway
United North Metro Denver
Voter Climate
Wall of Women
We the People
Young Friends of the Earth Ireland