

**How does Nippon Gases react to the unrest this weekend, at which police were in attendance, when members of the public attempted to block the lorry carrying canisters to drive into the storage facility? Is this something that's happened at your other facilities before?**

Nippon Gases (NG) have not experienced a negative reaction at other similar facilities across Europe and were definitely surprised by the response to the arrival of the storage vessels this past weekend. However we welcome the opportunity to comment on the criticisms.

In the first instance a port is the proper location for such infrastructure as it facilitates the most effective and normal supply chain; the product is delivered in bulk by ship, stored in a properly designed and managed facility and then delivered directly to customers across Ireland. The model is applied at multiple ports around Europe delivering product to many thousands of customers. The process is tried and tested, and safe.

Secondly, the facility has passed all of the stages of the formal planning process, including the approval by the Environmental authority. The process has been open to public scrutiny and the specific planning and environmental conditions have been met by WHA and NG.

**- The picture below appears to show that one of the tanks has a significant amount of rust on the exterior. Is this safe? Why is this tank in an apparent state of disrepair?**

The specific tank pictured is one of four re-deployed from the NG shipping fleet. The "poor visible condition" is cosmetic as the pressure tank is surrounded by 200mm of polyurethane foam insulation and a 2mm aluminum cladding. The cladding and insulation is disrupted when the tank is removed from the ship and transported. What appears to be rust is discolouration of the insulation. The external appearance is not relevant in relation to the integrity of the pressure vessel, which is in excellent condition and definitely fit for purpose. As required by law, all of the tanks at Warrenpoint will be re-certified in accordance with current Pressure Systems Safety Regulations before use, and at regular intervals afterwards. The disrupted insulation and cladding will be replaced with new when the facility is close to completion. Please see Image Below.

**- A local politician has said the following:**

**'There is no doubt that these huge cannisters are an eyesore in one of the most scenic parts of Northern Ireland, and begs the question how such a development has been allowed to proceed without a full public consultation. In recent days local campaigners have brought to my attention Health and Safety Executive reports which raise significant concerns around the hazards of carbon dioxide storage. In particular, the case of a storage facility in Germany which involved the catastrophic failure of a CO2 storage vessel which killed three people and caused over \$20 million in damage.'**

Although carbon dioxide storage is not considered as a major hazard by the EU or the UK Health and Safety Executive HSE; the referenced HSE discussion paper has been used by NG as the basis for the internal facility Risk Assessment RA. If in the future the UK HSE decided to add carbon dioxide to the scope of major risk products, then NG are confident that the Warrenpoint facility would be compliant.

In regard to the 1988 incident at Procter & Gamble, Worms, Germany; the global Industrial Gases industry has learnt the lessons of the P&G Worms incident (not unique to CO2 storage). The specific causes of the Worms incident are not applicable to Warrenpoint and the conditions that led to the failure of the vessel could not occur at Warrenpoint.

**How does Nippon Gases respond to the claims that the facility is an eyesore, and that it is unsafe? What measures are taken to ensure there are no accidents around the CO2 storage facility ?**

Nippon Gases are certain that the facility will be safe. The terminal has been designed in accordance with all relevant national and international standards and subject to independently chaired Hazard and Operability (HAZOP) and Safety Integrity Level (SIL) studies. NG have extensive experience of operating similar facilities across Europe without incident for many years.

With regard to "visible impact " : NG are not able to adapt the facility significantly other than to comply with the planning conditions and be conscious of the underlying requirement to be as unobtrusive as possible.

The public and their **representatives** were consulted throughout the formal planning process that included the normal neighbour notification procedures. In the final analysis the council quite properly agreed with the planning decision to approve the application for an import facility within an operating port.

There are also rigorous landscaping conditions that will ultimately screen the tanks, and NG will fully comply with these conditions. Indeed, NG believe that the "visual impact" of the facility from some critical views is already less than projected at the time of the application.

NG understand that any new installation may cause concerns within the local community and sincerely wish to communicate in order that where possible, these concerns can be alleviated.

*Nippon Gases Europe is not a new company, it is the new brand of a company that has been operating in Europe since the nineteen fifties. Currently it operates in 13 countries, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, with more than 100 industrial production sites and around 2,800 employees. Nippon Gases is in the top four of the industrial gases companies in Europe and has been a member of the European Industrial Gases Association EIGA since 19--. EIGA has awarded Nippon Gases with its Annual Safety Award for best personnel safety performance 14 times in the last 16 years. This award is the consequence of Nippon Gases priorities: safety, compliance, environment, people excellence and customer focus.*

**Image of Tank after Replacement of Installation & Cladding and View from A2 when trees mature**

