



**A number of residents around the Lough have health & safety concerns regarding the CO2 tanker that is now parked up in Warrenpoint Harbour.**

**As you have committed to providing more transparency to the residents in this community could you please provide answers to these questions?**

Firstly, the CEO of the Port would be happy to personally accommodate the Love Your Lough Chairperson to a covid-safe tour of the port in June 2020 subject to government guidelines. A meeting would help give us a better understanding of the health and safety concerns that you refer to above. Also, it would be useful for you to see at first-hand the environmental benefits of locating the CO2 facility in the port. It would also be an opportunity to discuss with the Harbour Master of how arrival times of vessels coming into the port are scheduled.

**What is the purpose of the Co2 tanker being parked up at Warrenpoint Harbour?**

The vessel will service road tankers for the onward distribution around the Island of Ireland. The justification for Nippon Gases' CO2 terminal is to allow direct bulk import to serve the existing market in the island of Ireland for liquid carbon dioxide. The investment in the new facility will improve the security of supply for the market and remove the need for road tankers to cross the Irish Sea by ferry, yielding significant environmental and logistic benefits. In order to meet the supply requirements of the Irish market, and our obligations to customers and partners, Nippon Gases have initiated a direct ship to road tanker supply system. This is an arrangement that has been proven to be safe and reliable in numerous locations across Europe.

**If this tanker is to operate as a vessel for transferring the Co2 gas to lorries is there an operating license required for this?**

There is no operating licence required to transfer the product from the vessel to the road tanker. This is carried out by trained ship's crew and trained road tanker drivers.

**What health and safety measures have you taken to ensure that this tanker provides no risk to the residents, employees of the port, marine life of the lough?**

A number of measures have been carried out including:

- The ship is subject to Port State Control by the UK Maritime Coast guard Agency (MCA) in its capacity as a Liquefied Gas Carrier CO2. The next MCA inspection is scheduled for February 2021.
- The ship is class certified by DNVGL, one of the four major members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). The most recent periodic class survey was completed in March 2020.

- The operations have been risk assessed by Nippon Gases' and the Ship Operating teams.
- The operations will be carried out by trained personnel (both ship's crew and road -tanker drivers) only.
- The transfer system has an automated safety system incorporating flow and pressure measurement that close automatic shut-off valves if a drop in pressure, due to a leak, has been detected.
- The control room on board will be manned at all times throughout the operation.
- There are various manual emergency stop facilities on board. These override all other controls.
- There are two separate storage tanks on the ship.
- The haulier has a dedicated team of tanker drivers, all of whom are trained in the operation of the system.
- The ship to tanker connection point is manned and observed throughout the transfer operation.
- The tanker route has been planned and communicated to ensure safe passage through the port.

**How long do you foresee this tanker being in operation in Warrenpoint harbour?**

This procedure will be in place until autumn 2020 when the storage facility is due to be completed.

Please also find attached a copy of a statement issued by Nippon Gases which has been posted onto our website.