



PRESS RELEASE

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Chief Minister's Reaction to the LNG Safety Reports

Following the receipt of safety reports from HSL and Lloyd's Register and the signing of an agreement with Shell, the Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC, said,

'I am delighted that the safety reports from the experts at the Health and Safety Laboratory who understand LNG and who apply the most stringent rules have found that there is no risk to any residential area with the Shell LNG proposal. The planning process now commences. At the same time, the building of the new Power Plant gets underway on Monday. The exploratory piling has now been completed. This represents real progress.

This afternoon I briefed GONHS, the ESG, and the Representatives of the Group of Concerned Residents of Waterport Terraces and Harbour Views and gave them copies of the unedited versions of the reports of HSL and Lloyds. I also informed the unsuccessful contenders and I then rang the Leader of the Opposition, Daniel Feetham and explained to him that the Safety Reports were now available and what they provided. I sent him copies of the reports because, unlike the way in which he handled the release of the alarmist Lloyds report, I did not want him to have to wait to read the reports in the media. I invited him to now confirm that he is satisfied that there are no consequences which could affect residential areas, even in the highly unlikely event of things going wrong.

We have to get this decision right for Gibraltar. HSE and Lloyds' assessments show the Shell LNG proposal is safe and the right one for Gibraltar.

Our experts at the GEA and in the Ministry for the Environment have got it right all along. Despite the huge pressure of the public debate, they stuck to their views on the safety of the LNG proposal and the storage facility proposed for the North Western end of the North Mole. I want to thank Manolo Alecio and his team, Liesel Torres and her team and from the financial assessment aspect, Albert Mena and his team, for their hard work in getting this decision right.'