



Brockovich throws weight behind Shell to Sea cause

By **Enda Feeney**

ERIN Brockovich, the campaigner immortalised in an Oscar-winning film, yesterday urged oil giant Shell to reroute its controversial gas pipeline in the west of Ireland.

The former legal clerk, who famously took on a massive power company accused of toxic leaks, gave her whole-hearted support to the campaigners opposing the development in north Co. Mayo.

Miss Brockovich said that **'No compromise on safety'**

the pipeline must be relocated if it would affect local residents' health or property, a claim which is denied by Shell.

She said: 'There is no compromise when it comes to health and safety and Shell should respect that.'

Miss Brockovich, who was portrayed by actress Julia Roberts in the 2000 hit movie, won a multi-million dollar legal battle against energy firm PG & E for families affected by contaminated water in a Californian town.

Miss Brockovich said she believed that a compromise could be reached between campaigners and Shell after discussing the matter with Irish Environment Minister and Green Party leader John Gormley.

The Shell to Sea demonstrators oppose attempts to lay a pipeline which will transport untreated and odourless gas from the Corrib gas field to an inland refinery because of health and environmental fears.

Miss Brockovich said: 'I completely understand their concerns.'

'I deal with issues in the United States where pipelines have been put in, they've leaked and created health problems.'

She added: 'That is always a

family's concern, and they should be concerned and I'm glad that they are.'

Miss Brockovich is in Dublin to speak about the benefits of eating organic food.



Campaigner: Erin Brockovich has lent her high-profile support to protesters



Award: Julia Roberts won an Oscar for playing Erin