



BROCKOVICH URGES SHELL TO BACK DOWN

US campaigner wants pipeline rerouted

By **JOHN MITCHELL**

ERIN Brockovich — the American campaigner immortalised in the Oscar-winning film of the same name — has urged oil giant Shell to reroute a gas pipeline in north Co Mayo.

The former legal clerk, who famously took on a huge US power company accused of toxic leaks, gave her wholehearted support to the Shell To Sea campaigners opposing the development.

"There is no compromise when it comes to health and safety and Shell should respect that," she said.

Compromise

"If it is family land or some type of heritage land or preserved land, they've got to go around it.

"If a company like Shell needs to be in a location and there are residences you need to move them," she added.

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

However, she is confident a compromise can be reached between campaigners and Shell after talks with Irish Environment Minister and Green Party leader John Gormley.

She also said a 10-day hunger strike by campaigner Maura Harrington was not the most effective way to reach a resolution.

Ms Harrington, a retired school principal, called off her drastic action yesterday when a pipe-laying ship left Irish waters.

"I would want her to eat," said Ms Brockovich.



STAR: Julia Roberts in Erin Brockovich

"I clearly understand it's her way of making a very, very strong statement about something she feels strongly about, but I would want her to eat."

Concerns

The demonstrators oppose attempts to lay a pipeline which will transport gas from the Corrib gas field to an inland refinery due to health and environmental fears.

"I understand their concerns," Ms Brockovich said.

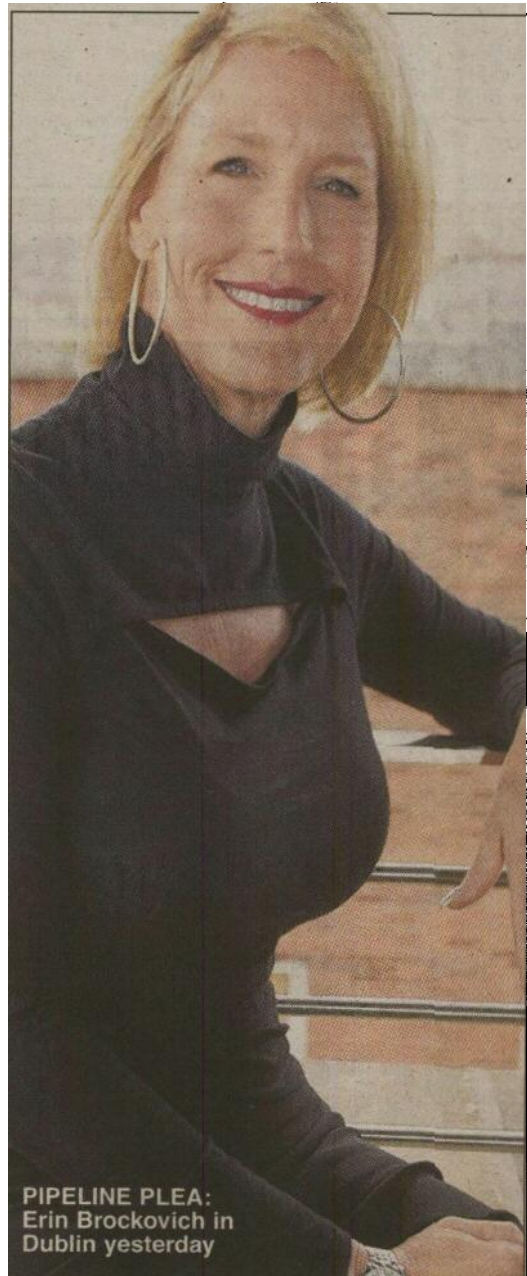
ia Roberts
rockovich

She is in Dublin to give a lecture at

University College Dublin today as part of Glenisk Organic Dairy's celebrations for National Organic Week.



STAR: Julia Roberts
in Erin Brockovich



PIPELINE PLEA:
Erin Brockovich in
Dublin yesterday