

Planning & Regulatory Committee 27 April 2022

## **UPDATE SHEET**

### **MINERALS/WASTE MO/2021/2103**

**DISTRICT(S)** MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Brockham Wellsite, Land at Felton's Farm, Old School Lane, Brockham, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7AU**

**The retention of the BRX4 well for reperforation to allow for appraisal and production of hydrocarbons for a temporary period.**

## **CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLICITY**

### ***Consultees (Statutory and Non-Statutory)***

Environment Agency – The Environment Agency have raised no objection to the proposal.

- They note that the Portland Stone Reservoir is already accessed via the existing BRX2-Y well and that there are no proposals to alter existing site drainage or containment provisions within the well pad where BRX4 is located.
- The works proposed by this planning application require an Environmental Permit and are not covered by any other existing Environmental Permit on the site.
- The existing Environmental Permit only allows for Angus Energy to produce oil from the Portland Sand formation via the BRX2-Y well and from the Kimmeridge clay formation via the sidetrack well of BRX4 (known as BRX4-Z). But the permit does not currently cover production from the Portland formation via BRX4.
- The applicant would be required to apply for a new environmental permit or a variation to the existing Environmental permit prior to carrying out works involving the production of oil from the Portland Stone perforation of BRX4 as proposed by this planning application.

Lead Local Flood Authority – No objection

- As there is no change to the drainage strategy or Surface Water drainage system we would have no further comments.

Save Surrey Countryside –

- Fossil fuel applications should be refused.
- The proposal could have adverse environmental impacts.
- Adverse effects of climate change.
- The proposal is against Surrey's Climate Change strategy.
- There are 122 objections to the application including from Mole Valley and therefore is against residents wishes.
- The proposal is against Surrey County Council Policy.

#### ACE Tillingbourne Group –

- Surrey should reject applications and renewals of permissions for fossil fuel extraction.
- The proposal is not in keeping with Surrey's climate change strategy.
- The proposal has potential for contamination.
- The hours of operation for the production phase will lead to 24/7 pollution
- No engineers report for injecting water into the ground.
- No environmental statement included in the application.
- Residents have objected overwhelmingly to the application.
- Environmental groups have objected to the proposal.
- Mole Valley District Council have objected to the proposal.

#### Weald Action Group

- There is no demonstrable need for this development.
- There is a lack of evidence that increasing indigenous hydrocarbon production will reduce imports of oil or oil products as the applicant claims.
- marginally increasing onshore hydrocarbon production will not make any noticeable contribution to helping maintain the security of energy supplies.
- There is no current Government Energy policy that supports a view that there is a strategic need for further exploitation of onshore oil.
- Rebounding from the drop in need due to Covid restrictions, oil demand increased during 2021 but the long-term trend for fossil fuel demand is one of decline.

One additional representation has been received objecting on the grounds of:

- Site activity to date and since under the new control of Angus Energy
- The risk of pollution to our local ground water
- No ongoing ground water maintenance

These comments are not considered to raise new material issues and have been covered by the existing report.

#### **Add Informative**

The applicant is reminded that they will be required to contact the Environment Agency to acquire the appropriate Environmental permit for the works permitted.

#### **Amend informative**

Amend wording of informative 4:

In determining this application the County Planning Authority has worked positively and proactively with the applicant by: assessing the proposals against relevant Development Plan policies and the National Planning Policy Framework including its associated planning practice guidance and European Regulations, providing feedback to the applicant where appropriate. Further, the County Planning Authority has: identified all material considerations; forwarded consultation responses to the applicant; considered representations from interested parties; liaised with consultees and the applicant to resolve identified issues and determined the application within the timeframe agreed with the applicant. The applicant has also been given advance sight of the draft planning conditions and the County Planning Authority has also engaged positively in the preparation of draft legal agreements. This approach has been in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021.

**Amend Condition Reason:**

Condition 8:

This is a pre-commencement condition as to ensure the routes to and from the site are agreed for HGV access to prevent harm to the amenity of neighbouring residents.

Condition 17:

This is a pre-commencement condition to ensure the safety of the site operatives prior to the commencement of works.

Condition 18:

This is a pre-commencement condition to ensure that an appropriate scheme of surface water management is agreed prior to the commencement of development to reduce the risk of flooding once development begins.

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