

West Sussex County Council
Development Control
County Hall Tower Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RH

Our ref: HA/2019/121694/02-L01
Your ref: WSCC/071/19
Date: 18 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Hydrogeological risk assessment submitted: remove drilling fluids and carry out an extended well test. This proposal is a two-stage activity:

- 1) pumping out previously used drilling fluids to ascertain any oil flow (up to 4 weeks)**
- 2) should oil be seen to flow, an extended well test would be carried out over a period of 3 years.**

Lower Stumble Exploration Site off London Road, Balcombe, RH17 6JH

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above application.

Environment Agency Position

We are pleased to see that a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment has been submitted in support of this planning application as requested in our original response dated 11th November 2019. We have reviewed the report and are satisfied with the findings and recommendations with respect to the requirements of the planning regime. We **therefore remove our objection** due to lack of information.

Advice to Local Planning Authority/Applicant

Environmental Permitting Process

Please note that additional work will be required as part of the environmental permitting process to ensure that the operations at the site are in accordance with Environmental Permitting Regulations 2008.

This would include, but may not be limited to:

- Ensure that a suitably robust and comprehensive, groundwater monitoring strategy is in place.
- Ground truth a number of the risk assessment conclusions in the report.
- Provide a detailed Construction Quality Assurance report confirming proposed engineered containment and contamination controls are installed correctly and

Environment Agency
Environment Agency Depot Canal Walk, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7LP.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Cont/d..

- provide robust pollution controls.
- Confirmation on the construction of pre-existing contamination control being suitably robust and fit for the intended purpose.

The following details are also likely to be required as part of the environmental permitting process:

- Details of the inspection of the existing containment measures.
- Details of any remediation or replacement of the containment measures.
- Details of future inspection and maintenance.

The need for an environmental permit is separate to the need for planning permission. The granting of planning permission does not necessarily lead to the granting of a permit. The applicant is advised to contact our National Customer Contact centre on 03708 506 506 with regards to this work.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Miss Hannah Brothwell
Sustainable Places Advisor

Direct dial 02084745865

Direct e-mail hannah.brothwell@environment-agency.gov.uk

cc Heatons