

**Annotated copy of the letter sent to Rathlin on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 with the responses provided by e-mail from the Field UK team on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.**

To David Montagu Smith, Chairman, Rathlin Energy UK Ltd.  
From Jon and Val Mager: 17 Park Avenue, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU17 7AT  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

Dear Mr. Montagu Smith,

You have in the past commented that many of the critics of your activities in the East Riding have not bothered to contact you for the facts. In the pursuit of open and transparent communication perhaps you could answer the following questions in the context of increasing confusion about exactly what your intentions are.

**How many well sites and exploratory boreholes do you plan to create in the East Riding?**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 the East Riding Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration wrote to local residents,

"Long term Plans

*As with any company exploring for minerals, Rathlin Energy remain hopeful that petroleum will be encountered in commercial quantities during its exploratory operations in the East Riding of Yorkshire. These intentions have been made clear from the outset both in the planning application and in the extensive public consultations they have undertaken, pre- and post-planning permission being granted."*

At Walkington Primary School on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011 you addressed a public meeting. When asked how many wells might be expected you replied there would be **no more than three in a 30 kilometre area.**

The current position is that you have planning permission for well sites at Crawberry Hill and West Newton A and have applied for a third at West Newton B. This would appear to be consistent with your statement in December 2011, i.e **up to three well sites with a possible 6 boreholes.**

However, at the liaison meeting between Rathlin and local West Newton residents on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Tom Selkirk ( Project Manager, Rathlin Energy) was asked how many wells could there be in the West Newton area? Tom Selkirk stated, for the first time on public record, *"We have always said there could be **up to six wells.**"*

You may now understand the confusion. Is it your plan to have up to 6 wells in the West Newton area in addition to Crawberry Hill, i.e. **up to 7 wells with a possible 14 boreholes?**

Or do you also plan to have up to 6 wells in the Crawberry Hill area as well, **implying a total of 12 well sites and 24 boreholes?** Are there still plans for well sites to explore near **Lund, Garton and Ottringham** as stated on Connaught's website last year?

It would be extremely helpful if you could clarify the situation because obviously Mr. Menzies and Mr. Selkirk can't both be right if what you said at the Walkington meeting was true.

**Answer on your behalf sent by the Rathlin Energy (UK) Team 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

- 1. This is an exploration project. The final outcomes are, by definition, dependant on the results of exploration. With each encouraging exploratory well we could envisage an appraisal well. Any additional development drilling would be based on the results of the appraisal drilling and the size of the prospect.**

### **What is the reason for further delay at Crawberry Hill?**

At the Crawberry Hill liaison meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 Tom Selkirk gave a detailed explanation of the planned well testing. He explained,

*"... it would take up to six weeks and that the service rig and wire-line logging unit may move between the two sites during the testing phase."*

After the High Court hearing to remove Crawberry Castle you regained secure access to Crawberry Hill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 but nothing more happened there.

One possible explanation is that the difficulties you encountered at West Newton during August and September meant that you could not move the rig between the two sites as planned.

In any case, you had to apply for an extension of planning permission at Crawberry Hill. At the Planning meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 you stressed that work at Crawberry Hill would start "immediately" you received planning permission. The Chair of the Planning Committee agreed and introduced an amendment to allow you only 12 months stating this would be "in the interests of everyone concerned."

The notice of decision was sent to you in the last week of October 2014 but there was still no action to commence well-testing. Five months have passed and you only have seven months of your planning permission left.

At the planning meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 you also urged ERYC to remove the Protection Camp on the verge at Crawberry Hill and the Director for the Environment, Nigel Leighton, carried out your request on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at a reported cost of £81,000 to the public purse. Still no action by your team to move on site.

It really would be very helpful if you could spell out why delay continues. You hint at the real reason in the notes of the Crawberry Hill Liaison meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 where you refer to the ongoing investigation by the Environment Agency into 14 breaches of regulations by Rathlin at West Newton A. You stated that the testing phase at Crawberry Hill could not start until, at the earliest, the first quarter of 2015. Is the continued delay because you cannot agree a safe way to flare gas from the site? Surely, as an experienced professional, you were aware of this issue when you promised the Planning Committee you would start work "immediately" once planning permission was confirmed?

<b>Answer sent on your behalf by the Rathlin Energy (UK) Team 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015</b>
<b>2. We are in the process of addressing the Environment Agency's (EA) pre-conditions. We will start work when these are addressed and we are ready to do so.</b>
<b>Comment: Thank you for confirming that you have not yet been able to find a solution acceptable to the Environment Agency to address the breaches of regulations at West Newton A. and this is the reason why you are currently not allowed to operate at Crawberry Hill.</b>

### **How many public meetings have you held?**

Finally, it would be helpful if you could confirm how many public meetings you have held since you obtained your licence from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

It seems that since the new regulations, following the moratorium on fracking, which required you to submit applications to the Environment Agency for permissions to explore and dispose of waste, you have become less willing to hold open public meetings since you were able to resume operations in April 2014.

Given the delays at West Newton B and Crawberry Hill would you not agree that an open public meeting where you could fully explain your current position in the context of your continuing discussions with the Environment Agency, the significant fall in world oil and gas prices and the clear statements from the United Nations about the need to keep 80% of existing fossil fuel reserves in the ground to avoid catastrophic climate change?

In any case, in order to avoid unfair criticism, it would be very helpful if you could arrange for a list of the dates and venues for all the public consultation meetings you have held.

**Answer sent on your behalf by the Rathlin Energy(UK) Team 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**3. We have held five public meetings so far (Bishop Burton, Walkington, Watton and two at West Newton). More than 500 people attended these meetings which were publicised through leaflets and the local media. We have also held 30 community liaison meetings between Crawberry Hill and West Newton. Our programme at Crawberry Hill has not changed – we intend to test the well within the planning authority's/EA's rules. In view of this we have nothing new to report at this time. As and when we anticipate announcing any new potential well sites, we will arrange further public meetings as appropriate.**

Thank you for your attention, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Jon and Val Mager