

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

Dear Mr. Montagu Smith,

**Unanswered Questions about Crawberry Hill and West Newton**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April we received an e-mail response to our previous letter to you, sent by e-mail on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Thank you.

Unfortunately the Rathlin team who replied on your behalf do not seem to have read or understood the questions so we have only received one indirect answer to our second question. We appreciate your confirmation that you have not yet been able to operate at Crawberry Hill because you have not yet provided acceptable responses to the Environment Agency following your breaches of regulations at West Newton A.

In December 2012 you submitted an additional statement in support of your planning application for Crawberry Hill. It concluded:-

**Community**

*Although our activities in the local area may well prove to be very short term, Rathlin is most concerned to have the best possible relationship with all our neighbours. We welcome every opportunity to explain everything that we will do – and, just as importantly, what we will not do- in the course of our operations.*

Given that your head office is in London, your local office is in Willerby you live in Northamptonshire and the person responsible for your communications lives in Bilton, your comment that you will not enter into detailed correspondence with people who do not live locally is hard to understand.

Given the large area of the East Riding covered by your licence to explore, we trust you appreciate we consider ourselves to be your neighbour, especially as we live between the two existing well sites in the East Riding. In addition our drinking water is provided from the aquifer underneath Crawberry Hill so we welcome your wish to take every opportunity to explain everything you will do – this is your chance!

**Question 1.**

Your team did not answer the question. How many well sites do you intend to create? Is it:

- a. Up to seven? E.G. up to six at West Newton and one at Crawberry Hill.
- b. Three? As you originally stated in the public meeting at Walkington.
- c. Up to twelve? E.G. Up to six at West Newton and up to six at Crawberry Hill?
- d. As many as 50? This is what has been announced in Ryedale North Yorkshire by a company which started with an exploration programme identical to yours.
- e. Not sure – it depends. Which is the answer your team gave.

**Question 3.**

If, as Mr. Menzies has stated, your “ .... 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.” it really would be helpful to know when and where these meetings took place. To help your team put together the information they simply have to fill in the following table.

Community	Meeting location	Date	Time	Number attending
Bishop Burton				
Walkington				
Watton				
West Newton				
West Newton				

We trust this will not be an unreasonable or too arduous task for you or your team to complete.

Given your stated willingness to take every opportunity to explain everything do you not think it would be helpful to set up a public meeting for East Riding residents?

You could address any misunderstandings of your previous statements and those of Tom Selkirk.

You could go on to explain your current strategy in the light of current developments including:

- United Nations statements about the need to keep 80% of existing know fossil fuel reserves in the ground if we are to avoid catastrophic global warming.
- The sharp and enduring fall in the prices of oil and gas since your started exploration here.
- The practical difficulties you have experienced at West Newton A and during seismic testing which seem to indicate that the geology of the area is more problematic than anticipated.
- Anticipated new regulations following on the Infrastructure Act including changes to the trespass and public footpath laws and regulations and the very recent change to the planning arrangements for deep geological disposal of fracking waste and radioactive waste.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jon and Val Mager.