

West Newton Liaison Committee

7pm on 24 April 2013

Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield

Notes of Meeting

Attendees: David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S
John Hodgins (President, Connaught Oil and Gas Limited and a Director of Rathlin Energy Limited and Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) - JH
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - TS
Philip Silk (Planning Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - PS
Jonathan Foster (HSE Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - JF
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF
Mat Martin (Construction Manager, Petroleum Safety Services Limited) - MM
Ron Jagger (Resident of Burton Constable) - RJ
Don Fields (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council) - DF
Steve Croft (Representing Withernwick Parish Council) - SC
Geoff North (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council) - GN
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

Apologies: Karen Parker (Representing Ellerby Parish Council) - KP

1. Welcome

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

DM-S asked attendees to introduce themselves and the organisations they represent. John Hodgins introduced himself. John is the President of Rathlin's parent company, Connaught Oil and Gas Limited and a director of Rathlin Energy Limited and Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited. Based in Canada, John has 36 years' drilling experience.

2. Operations Update

PS was asked to lead on this agenda item. He gave an update on the planning conditions:

- Traffic management plan and the use of holding areas (submitted and discharged)
- Dilapidation survey (submitted and on-going monitoring)
- Foul discharge and disposal approved by the Environment Agency (conditions discharged)
- Noise management plan submitted (submitted and conditions discharged)
- Dust management plan submitted (submitted and conditions discharged)
- Restoration scheme – approved by the council

He also said that the Section 62, relating to the passing places along Piper's Lane, was now complete and that this had been approved.

Site Construction Update

S62 Highway improvements (installation of passing places): MM said that the work was now completed and showed pictures of the construction process and the finished laybys. RJ said that there had been some soil slippage alongside his field and that this has damaged a short stretch of his wheat crop. DM-S apologised for this and thanked RJ for bringing the matter to Rathlin's attention. JF said he would sort this out directly with RJ.

Well-site entrance: MM showed a range of pictures of the work in progress and an explanation was given as to what was happening. He said that this phase of works was now completed. Resident representatives commented on how well it all looked, stating that it was significantly better than many newly installed supermarket car parks.

Topsoil strip: MM showed a number of detailed pictures that gave a clear view of the work that had been undertaken. He explained that the weather had been kind from a construction perspective and that the team had found it a relatively straightforward job. He also showed where the cellar would be sited. RJ asked if works went down to the land drains level. JF said no, although where the ditches had been excavated the land drains had been affected. Pictures were also shown of the perimeter ditches.

Geo-fabric and impermeable membrane installation: again detailed pictures were shown. Work on this part of the site construction was completed on 23 April 2013. Resident representatives asked why the company had gone to such lengths to install the impermeable membrane. MM said that it was entirely precautionary, designed to contain any kind of spillage (even down to the very smallest leak from a domestic vehicle). He said that Rathlin had given a commitment to protect the local landscape and that this was an example of the lengths they were going to.

Installation of the geo-grid and stone working platform: MM said that this work was well underway (about 70 per cent complete at the time of the meeting). He showed some pictures of the work in progress. He said that he expected everything to be completed with this phase of the works by mid-week of the following week. He said that vehicle movements will reduce significantly by the end of that week too.

MM then took resident representatives through the forward programme:

Week 4

- Continue stoning operations (approximately 40 loads 800 tonnes per day).
- Continue and complete piping and backfilling of perimeter ditch.
- Install surface conductor and construct main drilling cellar.
- Commence installation of septic tank to South West corner of site.

Week 5

- Complete stoning operations (approximately 25 loads 500 tonnes) to complete main drilling footprint and car park area.
- Complete septic tank installation.
- Form (16x10m) reinforced concrete surface slab to drilling cellar to support the base of drilling rig.
- Install perimeter fencing and entrance gates.
- Clear site ready for first phase of drilling operations.

RJ asked where the stone was from. MM said that it is delivered by train to Hull Docks before being transported from there to the site. All commented on what good quality stone it was.

DM-S asked if there were any questions, queries from the local communities. RJ said there had been some interest in what is happening but no complaints. He said that the lorry drivers had been 'fairly obliging'.

DF said that he had been monitoring activities very closely over recent weeks and that he was happy with the way things are progressing.

RJ asked why Rathlin had decided to call the site West Newton when it's not actually in that village. TS explained that it was originally chosen as a geophysical/geological reference point.

JF then talked about the conductor setting operation. He explained that the objectives are:

- To complete the operation safely and with minimal environmental impact
- Prevent damage to the aquifer
- Drill a vertical hole to a depth of +/- 75m (60m below sea level)
- Install 26" Casing from surface to depth (+/- 75m)
- Cement Casing and provide a competent casing shoe below the aquifer, isolating the aquifer in advance of drilling the next hole section (24" hole section)

He then talked through the near surface geology using pictures to show the expected land formation.

Pictures were also shown of the drilling strings and casing along with an explanation of the reverse drilling process. JF then went on to show some picture examples of a conductor drilling rig and the proposed water tanking system.

JF said, that in terms of the operations, he would expect:

- There to be 10 vehicle loads of equipment plus the Rathlin/Moorhouse Office Accommodation
- 12 Hour day operations with contingency for 24 hours if required
- The sound power level to be consistent with what was modelled in the Noise Impact Assessment

DF said that he had seen the lighting on the Crawberry Hill site and asked if the North and South facing lights on the main rig when that arrives could be shielded in any way so as not to adversely impact on the villages in those directions. JF said he will look into the lighting but stressed that safety at the site needs to be the key consideration. Resident representatives said that they understood this point, but if something could be done it would be appreciated.

GN asked how long each drill rig would be on site. JF said the conductor rig would be on site for around 14 days and the main rig would be in place for around 50 days

PS said at the next meeting there will be a more detailed update on the main drilling rig activity.

3. Any Other Business

DM-S asked if there was anything else that Rathlin could address. Resident representatives said that there was nothing specific at that stage. D-MS asked again for feedback and urged resident representatives and the local community to let the company know if there were any concerns whatsoever (e.g. traffic, lighting or noise). He said that Rathlin wanted to be in a position to respond quickly if there were any issues at all.

Resident representatives said that villagers had commented on politeness of workmen and some hadn't even noticed any work taking place.

TS asked if resident representatives had any idea what the rocks are like near surface (10m). Resident representatives said that it is very random – some areas very stony others less so. RJ said that it seems more stony the further north you go.

Resident representatives asked what progress had been made at Crawberry Hill. TS said that the main rig is in full operation now and that it is currently at 1,100m. He said that a community and stakeholder visit took place the previous week and that no concerns raised; indeed it was mostly very positive. He explained that so far everything had been smooth and mentioned that some of the workers have been with the rig since it was built – which meant they were very familiar and comfortable with it.

Resident representatives asked how many operations Rathlin currently has underway. DM-S said: West Newton, Crawberry Hill and a site in Northern Ireland. TS said that seismic testing had taken place near Keyingham, but the company is not pursuing that at the moment. JH said that there were also on-going operations in Western Canada.

It was explained that there is generally a one in ten chance of discovering a commercial find.

4. **Date and time of the next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 May 2013 at 7pm at Densholme Care Farm, Great Hatfield.

Further updates will be available via Rathlin's website: www.rathlin-energy.co.uk

24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154.