

Bishop Burton and Walkington Liaison Committee (Crawberry Hill)

Bishop Burton Village Hall

21 May 2013

Notes of Meeting

Attendees: David Montagu-Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - DM-S
Margaret Hebb (Bishop Burton Resident) - MH
Jason Chester (Bishop Burton Resident) – JC
Peter Rolinson (Walkington Resident) - PR
David Oxtoby (Chair, Bishop Burton Parish Council) - DO
Tom Selkirk (Project Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - TS
Philip Silk (Planning Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - PS
Jonathan Foster (HSE Manager, Moorhouse Drilling and Completions) - JF
Caroline Foster (Field Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK)) - CF
Simon Taylor (Rathlin Communications) - ST

Apologies: John Castle (Walkington Resident) - JCstle
David Drew (Chair, Walkington Parish Council) - DD
Cllr Phyllis Pollard (Chair of Planning Committee and Ward Councillor) - PP

1. Welcome and Introductions:

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

DM-S explained that the meeting would follow the usual format, however, he said that details of the sub surface findings cannot be shared with members of the liaison committee (or anyone else) because the information is commercially sensitive. Resident representatives said that they appreciated that this is the case.

2. Notes from the Previous Meeting 16 April 2013):

The notes from the meeting on 16 April 2013 were approved by DM-S as an accurate record of what was discussed. Attendees were reminded that the notes are always posted on Rathlin's website (www.rathlin-energy.co.uk) after the meeting. The site is updated regularly with the latest news about Rathlin's projects and liaison group members and the public are were asked to check the site regularly for up-to-date information.

3. Operations Update:

TS explained that, as of the time of the meeting, that drilling operations had been continuous for 45 days. He said that Rathlin was pleased to report that there had been no accidents or reportable incidents at the site since operations started. He said that this phase of operation would be completed within the next 4-5 days.

He explained that site logs combined with the actual samples will all be analysed and in 30-60 days' time there would be a clearer picture about what is below the surface. He said that with the main drilling rig being mobilised to West Newton within the next week to 10 days, it was likely that both sets of data will be reviewed at the same time so as to get a fuller and more detailed picture of the geology across the area.

PS explained that noise monitoring equipment had been in place from the mobilisation stage right through April and May. He said that the interchangeable weather conditions - rain and wind - had, to some extent, affected the results during certain periods. He said that, as with the conductor drilling operations, the monitoring was conducted over five minute intervals. He explained that despite the inclement weather, the readings showed that daytime and night time noise levels were well within the agreed limits (well below the 42dB Laeq night time limit specified under the planning permission).

PS said that the KCA rig was quieter than most other rigs in the UK (100dB compared to the average 106dB sound power level, which was used in the noise assessment (27dB at the nearest property - 1,000m; 200m same as the background noise level)). Resident representatives noted, from the site visit in April, that it was a very good operation and that the crew went about their business in a very calm manner. JF said that they had years of experience working with that particular rig.

PR said that no-one in Walkington had mentioned noise at all. Indeed, resident representatives said that the operations had gone largely unnoticed.

On air emissions, PS said that he still had more work to do on assessing the latest set of figures, but that early indications were that levels were again within the limits and the initial benchmark. He confirmed that Environmental Scientific Group has done the work during three stages - prior to operations (baseline), mobilisation and rig set up and during drilling operations and that he was pleased with their performance and the results received to date.

He explained that no methane had been detected on all four sides of the site. H2S monitoring shows a maximum of 0.6 parts per billion (ppb), although on average it was 0.4 ppb (this is below the Health Protection Agency threshold of 8 parts per billion). ESG have stated that these levels of H2S are likely to be associated with agricultural activity as they have been present throughout the monitoring period. ESG have also monitored for BTEX and VOCs - he said that there had been a slight increase in Benzene (5micrograms per cubic metre) from the baseline - which is likely to be associated with vehicle movements during the mobilisation phase and the prevailing wind direction.

Otherwise all seems fine. Once more data has been received and the well data and climatic conditions have been reviewed in relation to the results then a better picture can be established.

On the ground water monitoring, PS said that the four week monitoring cycles had continued throughout the operations (although there was a one week gap from the Conductor rig being removed and the man rig being installed).

He said that the round 4 results were very similar to those from previous periods. He explained that there are still large levels of turbidity and chloride in the Walkington Wold borehole as was previously the case.

In the round 4 results, URS identified Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) in one of the duplicate samples. PS explained that this was odd as two samples had been taken from the same source and only one showed TPH. URS reviewed the results in conjunction with the laboratory and also collected additional samples from the borehole. The additional samples did not have any TPH present. It was therefore concluded by both URS and the laboratory that the contaminant was not present in the groundwater, but had been introduced into the sample at a later date. It is considered that it is likely to be a petroleum wax, similar to lipsalve.

PR asked why the Walkington borehole figures were so high. PS said that URS had concluded that the closeness of the road was a key factor – primarily due to salt spreading over the winter months. The EA had also agreed with this reasoning.

PS then circulated the Round five statistics, which showed very similar results.

4. Any other business:

TS took resident representatives through the next steps. He explained that the current planning approval gives Rathlin the right to drill two wells. He said that core samples and well logs will now be evaluated alongside information associated with previous assessments at Broomfleet, Spaldington and more recently, West Newton. He said that future activity, if any, would become clearer once a full analysis from the exploratory work to date had been undertaken.

He said that if hydrocarbons are thought to be at a specific reservoir interval then that will be explored further. He said that the current application allows for further testing which is an unobtrusive process – a small crane, production tanks, separator and a flare stack. TS said that if something is of interest and thought to be commercial, a further location from a testing perspective may be sought. He explained that the testing and analysis process could take up to six months.

TS said that the main rig is likely to be demobilised and moved in the next 10 days or so. He said that it will be transferred and installed at West Newton. As a consequence there will be further traffic movements in the area (six lorries operating between the sites, with approximately 14 movements). He said that the lorries will all take the same route out of the site and the same route back again – he restated that no vehicles would pass through Bishop Burton or Walkington. He explained that all lorries will depart at separate times (with at least a 5-10 minute gap).

JC asked what will be left at the site. JF said that the cellar will be covered with a grating and left secure.

DM-S asked if there have been any noticeable problems or reports of issues with drivers/lorries. Resident representatives said that no problems had been reported.

DM-S said that the team is close to the end of work associated with this phase of operations but it is important that resident representatives continue to feedback during the demobilisation process.

JC thanked Rathlin, on behalf of resident representatives for its openness and honesty during the operations. He said that the company had worked tremendously hard to do the right things and to keep the community informed via the liaison group. He said that the Rathlin team had been 'spot on'. This view was seconded by other resident representatives.

5. Date and time of the next meeting:

DM-S said that a further meeting would be called when there is more to report. He said that PS would send an email out at the appropriate time.

DM-S concluded by reminding resident representatives that further updates about the project will be available via Rathlin's website: www.rathlin-energy.co.uk. He asked that lines of communication remain open should anyone want or need anything in connection with the company's work.