

## **Crawberry Hill Community Liaison Committee Meeting**

**7pm on 19 May 2014**

**Undisclosed Location**

### **Notes of Meeting**

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

**Apologies:** None

#### **1. Welcome**

DM-S opened the liaison group meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. JT was welcomed on behalf of Humberside Police. DM-S explained that JT had asked to attend the meeting to update the liaison group about the recent arrival of 'anti-fracking protestors' at both well sites. He reminded the community liaison committee members that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited **is not** hydraulically fracturing and that the company is only targeting the conventional reservoirs from a production perspective. DM-S said that any suggestion to the contrary is inaccurate. He also reminded resident representatives that neither of the wells at West Newton or Crawberry Hill had been designed/engineered for horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

DM-S asked resident representatives if they had a copy of the notes from the last meeting date 25 February 2014. Everyone confirmed they had and they were approved as an accurate representation of what was discussed at that meeting.

#### **2. Operations Update**

TS gave an update on the forthcoming operations. He explained that the Environment Agency permits had now been approved. He reminded the liaison committee that this work involved a two flow tests in the sandstone and carbonate sections of the well and a mini fall-off test.

He explained again what the mini fall-off test involved. He said that the well will be pressured up to the point where the rock would become permeable to fluid and then will be shut in to monitor the pressure fall off. No hydrocarbons or other formation fluids be will recovered during this test. Once the test has been completed the zone will be plugged and abandoned.

TS said the Environment Agency determined that there would be the need for two water boreholes for monitoring at both of the sites. To date, where monitoring has taken place, it has been in existing local/nearby water boreholes.

He explained that the Environment Agency had asked Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited to drill two dedicated water boreholes at each site. He said that these would be around 65m in depth. TS said the operation would involve a five metre high mast and that it would take around a day to drill and then a day to cast and concrete. He said that both wells would be secured to avoid tampering.

Additionally, he explained that new fencing would be put up for the protection purposes – especially as more people were now taking an interest in what is happening at the site.

JF said that the fence would be erected under the local authority's permitted development rules because planning permission would not be needed for the type of structure that Rathlin Energy (UK) had in mind (likely to be 2m fencing). He said that discussions had taken place with a local fencing contractor and that the barrier would be installed as soon as possible.

TS said that the necessary equipment would be mobilised to the site and that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited was discussing the timings and logistical arrangements with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Humberside Police. He said that in the meantime, it would just be business as usual with ongoing monitoring of the well head, emptying the site perimeter ditches and site safety and security. He said that security would be increased now that protestors are setting up camp nearby.

With regards to the actual testing programme, TS explained that the Environment Agency permits provide for Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited us to undertake its ongoing testing programme. He said that of the two flow tests, one was of much more interest than the other. Referring to the previous meeting [25 February 2014], where a detailed breakdown of the intended operations was given, TS went through testing operations again explaining how each test would be carried out and what residents could expect.

TS said that a smaller amount of equipment will be brought to the site than was mobilised during the main drilling operation.

TS reminded resident representatives that a work-over rig, similar to the one that had been initially used to drill down to a depth of around 200m during the drilling operations, would be used.

He said that the work-over rig would be truck mounted, the mast would be approx. 22 metres high and that it would have a mud pump and a blow-out prevention system. He then explained that a wire-line and logging unit would also be used to lower the necessary well logging tools into the wellbore to record a variety of cased hole logs.

TS said that the wire-line and logging unit would have a winch system used to lower the necessary tools into and out of the well. He then explained how, with pin point accuracy, they would be lowered into the well and how the tests would be undertaken by setting off small charges that perforate the casing to communicate with the rock formation behind.

He said that the mini fall-off tests will be conducted first and after the data is gathered the zone would be plugged and abandoned. The testing would then move upwards to undertake the flow tests in each formation separately.

He said that 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.

TS then went on to talk about the surface testing equipment. He reminded resident representatives that this would include:

- A choke manifold
- A sand knock out system
- A three phase separator system
- Storage tanks
- A flare

He then talked resident representatives through how:

- Fluid flows from the well
- Pressure is monitored and regulated
- The fluid is separated into three phases – oil, water and gas
- The oil and water flows through the system into storage tanks
- The gas flows to the flare stack where it is incinerated

He reassure resident representatives that the team would closely and continually monitor:

- The pressure at the testing point and at the surface
- The flow rate
- The liquids rate
- The flow times
- The temperature
- All samples

He reminded resident representatives that this would enable Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited to build up a picture of whether the flow rate was commercially viable. He also said that this would help the team to better understand the reservoir properties, i.e. the extent of the reservoir, its permeability and if there is any water contact.

TS reiterated that flaring would probably last for between seven and ten days per flow test. He also said that once again, air monitoring would be continuous throughout and that the Environment Agency would continue to monitor activities at the site.

TS said, that all being well, the operations would last for between six and eight weeks in total. There would then be a demobilisation and further assessment of findings period.

TS said that he could not be precise on a start date at this stage as the team were still in the process of sourcing the required equipment and sorting out the logistical arrangements. He said that in all likelihood there would be two phases. The equipment for the water wells and fencing first and then the testing equipment, etc. later.

TS said that Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited has every intention of abiding by the rules within its stated traffic management plan in terms of the logistical arrangements of getting equipment to and from the site. However, the arrival of protestors added a slightly different dimension and that things might need to be changed at short notice if advised to do so by Humberside Police and in consultation with the highways team at East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

From a security perspective, TS said that there were currently roving patrols in place, but that when the site is fully established full time security will be installed.

TS said that the team were aware and conscious of the need to keep disruption to an absolute minimum and that everything possible from Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's perspective would be done to keep traffic, noise and light impact to a minimum.

No other matters were raised or discussed re: the operations.

### **3. Any Other Business**

JT, a police officer with some 27 years' experience who in recent years has worked primarily as a 'community beat officer', said that she had been nominated to represent Humberside Police as one of the site liaison officers for Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's operations.

She explained that another dedicated protest liaison officer had also been nominated and that person's role will be to liaise with the protest groups. Julie's role is to speak with villagers and the company and that Humberside Police's main priority is peaceful protest facilitation. She then handed out business cards and invited villagers to contact her if there was anything that concerned them with regards to the protests that were now beginning to gather momentum.

JT said that there would probably be a slight increase in community policing patrols, but reassured residents that Humberside Police's objective is to ensure as little disruption to peoples' lives as possible.

She explained that there would always be a proportional response to any reported issues. She said that anyone with any concerns should contact 101 in the usual way and 999 in the event of an emergency. She said that her and her colleagues' role is the facilitation of a peaceful outcome for everyone.

JT explained that she had a duty of care re: highway safety and that she intended to speak with East Riding of Yorkshire Council highways and further consultation with Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited about this.

Resident representatives expressed concerns that most of the protestors they had seen seemed to be coming from outside the area and that some people had been worried by the protestors' approaches. JT reminded resident representatives that the protestors claimed to be here to peacefully protest, but where there were any concerns or issues/incidents that residents should contact 101 and/or 999 immediately. She then handed out her business cards so that resident representatives, in their capacity of community representatives, could contact her directly if need be.

Resident representatives then asked some additional questions. Below, are the notes from that discussion, which was led and noted by MH (in her words):

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q - Has Rathlin broken its licence conditions by drilling deeper than permitted?**

**A -** Rathlin completely refutes this. They have drilled to 2,750m as permitted by their licence.

**Q - Why does Rathlin in their EA application say they are fracking?**

**A -** The application asks whether they are injecting aqueous liquid into the rock, the example given in the EA form is fracking. Yes they are injecting liquid (Salt water) but they are NOT FRACKING. They are conducting a mini fall-off test.

**Q- Is this just semantics - Rathlin are Fracking the Bowland Shale?**

**A –** No. Hydraulic Fracturing operations fractures the rock, continues to pump fluid and sand to propagate the fracture and then keeps the fracture open with sand.

The fall-off test does NOT fracture the rock. It pressures the rock to the point where any natural fractures open. The well is then shut in and monitored to see how quickly the pressure reduces. This gives an indication of formation pressure and the amount of oil/gas reserve.

**Q - Why do Rathlin care what is in the Bowland Shale if they are not going to frack?**

**A -** Bowland Shale is recognised as both a source rock, potential reservoir rock and potential sealing rock. Rathlin's test will provide information about all three of these characteristics. This is the "exploration" stage and Rathlin are looking to understand as much as possible about the oil and gas system in the basin.

**Q - Rathlin are merely an exploratory company. They will sell the information to others to frack won't they?**

**A -** Rathlin has the licence and has no intention to sell the licence. Their parent company (Connaught) has and does successfully operate producing wells abroad without incidence (some hydraulically fractured). Thus they have the required expertise and would not sell the information to others. However, both Crawberry Hill and West Newton are conventional targets and have been drilled as such. If oil/gas is present it will be extracted conventionally using the company's experience and expertise in conventionally extracting economically recoverable oil and gas. Crawberry Hill and West Newton are NOT fracking targets they are conventional oil/gas well.

**Q - Is it possible that the well casing may have failed since it has been out of use for a while?**

**A -** The well has been left in a mothballed state, during this period regular monitoring of the wells has been conducted. Rathlin will conduct a programme of monitoring to ensure the integrity of the well before starting work.

**Q - Isn't it just a matter of time before the casing fails and the aquifer (water table) is contaminated?**

**A -** No. The well has been constructed with the latest technology and when left for periods measures are taken to ensure that it does not deteriorate.

In respect of well failure rates in the UK, Rathlin directed us to the UKOOG site. Here it can be seen that a ReFINE and Durham University report just published highlights that there has been only been a couple of recorded well integrity failures out of 143 wells active in the UK since 2000. These failures were picked up through monitoring and remediated.

**Q - Could radioactive water could end up in our rivers etc.?**

**A –** No. Rathlin is required by their permits to appropriately store and dispose of any water. They have an agreement in principal with a waste treatment plant licenced to treat such water. Any radioactive material, if it is present, is naturally occurring from the earth (Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material – NORM). No radioactive material is added to any products used in testing.

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

DM-S suggested that the next meeting be held once the next phase of operations were completed. Resident representatives agreed. He thanked resident representatives for their proactive input and reminded them that Rathlin Energy (UK) intended to be a good neighbour at all times. He also said that the company is accessible 24-hours a day, seven days a week and urged anyone with any concerns to get in touch.

He said that further updates are available via Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's website: [www.rathlin-energy.co.uk](http://www.rathlin-energy.co.uk) and reminded resident representatives about the 24-hour emergency number: 0800 1959154.