

HAVANT HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION SITE

BRIEF SUPPORTING STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The purpose for this Section 73 application (variation of condition) is to allow Northern Petroleum (GB) Limited (NP) more time to carry out the drilling and testing phases of consent No. 08/53384/002 at the Hulbert Road site and either restore the development or commence discussion regarding a longer recovery production phase with the relevant Planning Authority.

HISTORY

a. Construction

Following receiving planning consent (16.03.2009) the Havant site construction started in the late summer of 2009 with the 278 highway/entrance access works. Following the completion of the access and site soil stripping, the actual site construction was delayed due to bad weather until the spring of 2010. The site construction was finally completed in late spring of 2010 and the site was left locked and secured pending the drilling operation. Although the construction of the access point and the site was carried out over a long time period due to bad weather the actual work only took 8 weeks. The current consent period of (3) year expires on the 20th October 2012.

b. Drilling

As the drilling of the Havant Exploration site has not taken place within the current consented period NP would like permission for a further (2) years to complete the drilling process, test the well and restore or consider further approvals following a hydrocarbons discovery.

The reason that the drilling has not taken place are as follows:-

1. Following the construction NP were involved with a nearby drilling operation at their Markwells Wood site at Forestside, West Sussex and following a short overrun the contracted drilling rig was unable to drill the Havant well due to other contractual commitments overseas.
2. Due to the success/discovery of their Markwells Wood well and the lack of rig availability NP decided to concentrate their time and man-power on moving the Markwells Wood success forward to the testing phase.
3. Following the delays NP option to lease agreement with the landowner expired which resulted in the renewal of the option which resulted in further delays.
4. NP are now currently looking for and to engage a drilling rig which is expected to take place during 2013.

CURRENT OPERATIONS

a. The site has been left locked and secured following the construction period with a limited amount of maintenance consisting of fence repairs, grass cutting and weed control.

GENERAL

a. Ecology

The site has been monitored by NP ecologist to ensure that any ecology issue relating to the site remain in place and have been adhered to. A pre-application inspection report carried out by Ron Allan of EPCG Ltd can be found at the rear of the application.

b. The Subject of the application

To allow time to complete the drilling and testing programme, consider the results and then either restore the site or seek planning for additional works beyond the test, NP require an additional (2)years of the current planning consent granted under Application 08/53384/002.

If the testing indicates that there is sufficient commercial recoverable hydrocarbons to justify further activities, such as appraisal drilling or a production development of the discovery, NP would discuss proposals with Hampshire County Council considering submission of any additional planning application(s).

If the drilling and testing is unsuccessful and confirms that there is insufficient hydrocarbon productivity to warrant economic recovery, the company may consider drilling an additional well, a side-track out of the existing well or abandon the site and restore it. The additional (2) years will allow time for either of the above considerations.

During the construction phase or since that time the site or the operators have received no complaints or adverse comments.