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Planning & Development  
Group  
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14 September 2016

Dear Mr Tidswell-Pretorius

**Site: Brockham Oil Field, Feltons Farm, Brockham**  
**Proposal: Additional drilling operations at Brockham Oil Field**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 August 2016 but received here at in the County Planning Department on 17 August 2016. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter. I did send an email to you on 24 August 2016 confirming I would respond by this week.

From reading your letter I understand that Angus Energy Limited wish to undertake additional drilling operations at the site which would include the partial abandonment of the existing wellbore and then to "side track" and drill a new well under the provisions of the planning consent you cite, ref: MO08/0894. You wish to know what information the County Planning Authority would require of Angus Energy Limited to commence this work.

Firstly I would like to request clarification of which borehole you are seeking the partial abandonment of and to then 'side track' from i.e. is this Brockham 1(BRX-1) or Brockham 2. For the purposes of this letter, I am assuming it is Brockham 1.

Having looked back through the files for Brockham Oil Field, I am afraid to say the planning permission you refer to, MO08/0894, does not grant planning permission for the drilling of an oil well. In fact, MO08/0894 is for the "Construction of a concrete hardstanding of some 1841 square metres" (dated September 2008) which was at the request of the Environment Agency to ensure any potential spillages at the site were captured and did not percolate into the groundwater.

I believe the correct planning permission for the drilling of a well is MO07/0161 which was for "Installation and operation of a drilling rig on an existing wellsite for: Workover programme of existing well, and B) the drilling of a new well, for a temporary period until 31 December 2008" granted in June 2007. This application sought permission to install a drilling rig to carry out a workover programme on the existing Brockham 1 (BRX-1) well and then secondly to drill a new well (BRX-3) to enable the continued production of oil from the site. The drilling of BRX-3 was to allow the full exploitation of the reservoir within the permitted production timescale of 2036 (MO06/1294).

It should be noted that planning permission MO07/0161 was subject to 15 conditions of which condition 4 'Duration' is the most important with regards to your request. Condition 4 says the following:

*“The development hereby permitted shall cease on or before 31 December 2008 [Officer underlining], by which date all buildings, plant, machinery (both fixed and otherwise) and any engineering works connected therewith, on or related to the application site (including any hard surface constructed for any purpose), shall be removed from the application site and the site shall be returned to its former condition, as permitted under MO06/1294 for the continued production of oil. Notwithstanding the requirements of this scheme, any plant or equipment required to make the site safe to a specification agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry in accordance with the Petroleum (Production) Land areas Regulations 1994 or any subsequent Regulations may remain in position.”*

According to file records, the permission was commenced on 9 July 2007 (letter dated 9 July 2007 from Midmar Energy Limited to Surrey County Council).

As such, I believe that the relevant permission you are seeking to carry out further work under is MO07/0161 which was a time limited permission which duly expired on 31 December 2008. Consequently Brockham Oil Field should be operating in accordance with planning permission ref: MO06/1294 which is the use of an existing wellsite for the production and export of crude oil. Therefore, I do not consider that Angus Energy Limited have planning permission to undertake additional drilling operations at the site under planning permission MO07/0161 nor MO06/1294. Should Angus Energy Limited wish to carry out a ‘side track’ a fresh new planning application seeking planning permission will be required.

If you wish to progress an application I would strongly encourage you to undertake pre-application discussions. The County Planning Authority charges for some of this work and the arrangements are set out on our website: <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/planning/planning-applications-register/the-planning-process/making-a-planning-application/pre-application-discussions-for-planning-applications>

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Murphy  
Principal Planning Officer  
Minerals, Waste & County Development