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Oil and Gas Authority
4th Floor
21 Bloomsbury Street
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Your ref:

22 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Surrey County Council, County Planning Authority Consultation Response

For: Petroleum Licence PL235

Operator: Angus Energy
Facility: Brockham Oilfield, Old School Lane, Brockham

Thank you for your letter received on 1 August 2017 and the opportunity to comment on the application that Angus Energy Weald Basin No.3 Limited ('Angus') have made to the Oil and Gas Authority ('OGA') to re-enter and complete (make it capable of flowing hydrocarbons) the Brockham X4Z ('Brx4Z') horizontal sidetrack well including the production of hydrocarbons (the 'Operations').

In your letter of 1 August 2017 the OGA comment that Angus considers it has planning permission to carry out the 'Operations' under the following planning permissions: MO86/1112, MO92/0969 and MO06/1294. You ask for Surrey County Council in its role as the County Planning Authority (CPA) to provide comment on Angus's assertions.

As you are aware, and as your letter states, there has been, and continues to be, a disagreement over whether planning permission exists for Brx4Z. This relates to the exploratory nature of Brx4Z which was drilled in January 2017 and also to Angus's stated intentions to produce from Brx4Z. For the avoidance of doubt, the CPA considers that no planning permission exists for the side track Brx4Z as an exploratory well or for production from it. The CPA sets out below its understanding of the planning permissions listed in your letter of 1 August as follows.

Planning permission MO86/1112

Planning permission MO86/1112 is for "*Construction of a well site and access road, the drilling of one exploratory borehole and the testing of any hydrocarbon bearing structure encountered*". It was granted planning permission in May 1987. The planning permission is time limited (Condition 2) requiring all structures, plant and machinery to be removed within a period of one year from commencement of drilling operations or within 6 months of the completion of flow testing whichever is the earlier.

The well was drilled during August – October 1987. The well drilled has been known as Brockham 1 ('Brx1'). Subsequent permissions have sought to retain Brx1 for the purposes of evaluation of the findings of Brx1. As far as the CPA are aware, Brx1 did not produce oil.

The CPA does not consider that this planning permission authorises the production of hydrocarbons from Brx4Z as it solely relates to the drilling and listing of Brx1.

Planning permission MO92/0969

Planning permission MO92/0969 is for “*Retention of existing well site to further test the existing oil bore and drill up to 5 additional wells and install production and road tanker facilities*” granted January 1995. Condition 2 of MO92/0969 limited the life of the planning permission to:

- i. a maximum of 15 years from the commencement of drilling; or
- ii. 12 months from the completion of flow testing of the first bore unless a scheme for the transportation of oil (required under Condition 3 of that permission) had been submitted and approved

Whichever the sooner.

The CPA consider that this permission has time expired as:

- a) No scheme of transportation was ever provided to the CPA for approval as required by Condition 3. Consequently the permission would have expired within 12 months from the completion of flow testing of the first bore;
- b) Even if a scheme for approval as required by Condition 3 had been approved, 15 years from the commencement of drilling operations expired in 2013, 15 years after the first flow testing occurring in 1998.

The CPA does not consider this permission authorises the production of hydrocarbons from Brx4Z as this permission has time expired.

Planning permission MO06/1294

Planning permission MO06/1294 is for “*the continued use of 1.2ha of land for the production, treatment and export of crude oil from an existing well site without compliance with Condition 4 of planning permission ref: MO01/1288 dated 11 December 2011 such that the development shall cease and site restoration be completed by 31 December 2036*” granted May 2007.

It is worth noting that when planning permission MO06/1294 was granted only two well heads existed at the wellsite and four wells had been drilled: Brx1, Brx2, Brx2Z and Brx2Y.

Brx4 was not drilled until July 2007 and was the subject of a separate permission, MO07/0161 (granted in June 2007¹) which was “*for the installation and operation of a drilling rig on an existing well site for: a) workover programme of existing well², and b) the drilling of a new well³, for a temporary period until 31 December 2008*”.

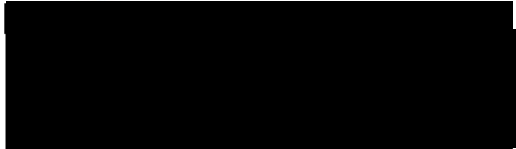
The CPA does not consider that the 2007 permission ref: MO07/0161 authorises hydrocarbons production as it post dates MO06/1294 and therefore cannot, as a matter of fact, derive authority from it. The CPA considers that the permission for drilling and retaining Brx4 expired in December 2008.

¹ Brx3 was drilled at this time also (July 2007) as a side track to Brx1 for water injection

² Brx1

³ Brx4

I trust the above is helpful. Should you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Planning Case Officer, Samantha Murphy.



Planning Development Team Manager
Planning and Development Group

