

Mr Mike Vine
West Sussex County Council
Development Control
County Hall Tower Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RH

Our ref: HA/2010/109145/01-L01
Your ref: WSCC/027/10/BA
Date: 25 February 2010

Dear Mr Vine,

**TO UPGRADE EXISTING STONED PLATFORM AND DRILL AN
EXPLORATORY BOREHOLE FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION**

**LOWER STUMBLE HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION SITE, LONDON
ROAD, BALCOMBE, HAYWARDS HEATH, WEST SUSSEX, RH17 6JH**

Thank you for your consultation request regarding the application above.

Environment Agency Position

The proposed development will only be acceptable if the following 2 planning conditions are imposed to minimise the impacts on the environment.

Condition 1

Development shall not begin until a surface water drainage scheme for the site, based on sustainable drainage principles and an assessment of the hydrological and hydrogeological context of the development, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall subsequently be implemented in accordance with the approved details before the development is completed. The scheme shall also include details of how the scheme shall be maintained and managed after completion

Reason

To prevent the increased risk of flooding, to improve and protect water quality; to prevent pollution of controlled waters by ensuring the provision of a satisfactory means of surface water disposal, to improve habitat and amenity, and ensure future maintenance of the surface water drainage system in accordance with South East Plan Policy NRM4, PPS23 and PPS25.

Condition 2

Drainage from areas identified as high risk, e.g. loading bays and waste storage areas, shall not be discharged to any watercourse, surface water sewer or soakaway. The applicant should consider the risks associated with these areas, and incorporate appropriate pollution prevention measures at the design stage.

Reason

To prevent pollution of controlled waters by ensuring the provision of a satisfactory means of surface water disposal. It is not acceptable for Hazardous (List 1)) Substances to enter groundwater as this would contravene the Groundwater Regulations (2009).

Advisory Information

If the site is further developed as a production facility, an Environmental Permit will be required. It is advised that applicant carries out pre-application discussions with the agency prior to any permit application being submitted.

Any fluids recovered during testing such as water or light oils would be removed from site by tanker and disposed of at an authorised facility.

Any arisings from site will be stored and taken away from the site to an authorised facility.

Pollution Control on site is afforded by an impermeable membrane bunds preventing liquids from penetrating into soils and groundwater beneath the site.

Pollution Spill kits should be on site so that if any spills occur they can be dealt with.

The drilling operation mainly uses water as a drilling fluid. The application does not state that they will be using Oil Based Muds (OBM). If OBM is used, we would like to be reconsulted on the application.

Based on the on the above information, the risk to Controlled Waters is minimal, but we have advised conditions in line with a precautionary approach, and so that these infrastructure and activates can be controlled.

I trust that the above comments are satisfactory but if you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Kate Attrill
Senior Area Planning Liaison Officer

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