## Comment for planning application WSCC/046/23

Application number Name

WSCC/046/23

Mrs Sylvia May MBE

Address

Type of Comment Comments

27 The Avenue Totland Bay Isle of Wight

Objection

The application by UKOG to retain the failed Broadford Bridge oil site and delay the site's restoration to enable possible investigation for geothermic energy purposes, should be rejected.

Broadford Bridge is a documented failure. The UKOG site was tasked for restoration 6 years ago by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) as a requirement of its exploration licence. But despite the failed expectations at Broadford Bridge, UKOG have employed delaying tactics over more than 100 months to restore the site. Doing so they are in breach of the requirements of the original application. The Weald is well documented for its faulted geology and valuable underground aquaducts. The risks of seismic events and water pollution from UKOG's oil drilling were major reasons for the thousands of objections for UKOG's original application to drill for oil.

UKOG was forced to admit that active drilling at their Horse Hill had site caused seismic shifts and earthquakes in Newdigate. This was confirmed by research from a group of experienced geologists and earthquake seismology specialists at the time.

Since that date UKOG's faulted and risk laden application to drill two possible sites here on the Isle of Wight was rejected unanimously by the planning committee for very similar reasons.

Despite having permission to drill additional wells at their Horse Hill the site, UKOG has used the financial impacts of the Horse Hill Supreme Court challenge as a reason for their inaction and being reluctant to restore Broadford Bridge .

I believe this has more relevance to this extension application than UKOG's spurious excuse to POSSIBLY use the Broadford Bridge site for geothermal energy exploration. I am sure that new and informed geological research would reject the ability to use the existing redundant wells on the site for this purpose, which should be made safe as required by the terms of the original licence. A completely new planning application should then be submitted for any other purpose. Basically, it is my opinion that, due to UKOG's cash flow issues, it regards the restoration of Broadford Bridge is an unaffordable expense and the reason for their renewed application to delay. I believe they have no care for the impacts and distress they have forced on the local community and the environment of the site.

It is time that this matter was put to rest and I urge the members of the Planning Committee to reject this application for delay and demand the immediate restoration of the site so that inhabitants of Broadford Bridge and the surrounding environs can finally put the issue to rest.

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**Attachments**