

# Comment for planning application WSCC/046/23

Application number

Name

Address

Type of Comment

Comments

**Legality of this Application**  
Firstly, UKOG's plans to use the site for geothermal energy exploration has no relevance to this licence. Any plans for an additional borehole would require a separate planning application not an addition to the current one.

**Meeting conditions of exploration licence**  
Additionally, UKOG have still not restored their Broadford Bridge site in the 6 years that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) have given to them to do so. Restoration of the site is a requirement of its exploration licence. But despite the failed exploration at Broadford Bridge (they failed to extract any oil of any value, formation damage, cement bond problems), they have still convinced West Sussex Planners they need more time despite four previous extensions. It is not clear if their 'plans' for converting the Broadford Bridge site to Geothermal Energy production involves the existing well on site. The largest single disadvantage of geothermal energy is that it is location specific. Geothermal plants need to be built in places where the energy is accessible, which means that many areas will not be able to exploit this resource.

**Potential earthquakes and other environmental disasters**  
Geothermal energy also runs the risk of triggering earthquakes, and The Weald is heavily faulted. This is due to alterations in the Earth's structure as a result of digging. This problem is more prevalent with enhanced geothermal power plants, which force water into the Earth's crust to open up fissures to greater exploitation of the resource.

**Corrosion of the casings during the life of the well renders the casing very fragile and unlikely to cope with the high temperatures associated with geothermal energy causing damage in the multimillion-dollar range. Heating and cooling an old casing would develop compression and tensile stresses resulting in fractures and leaks which could result in environmental pollution.**

**Climate change**  
Predictions on the adverse effects of global warming are increasingly mounting, and any impact on climate change is a legitimate reason for local government authorities to refuse these types of applications. It is important to act responsibly now and stop hydrocarbon extraction and any impact from methane emissions in Sussex.

Received

Attachments