

Derbyshire County Council
Development Control
County Offices
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Our ref: LT/2017/122238/01-L01
Your ref: CM4/0517/10
Date: 22 June 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

CONSTRUCTION OF A WELL SITE AND CREATION OF A NEW ACCESS TRACK, MOBILISATION OF DRILLING, ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT AND CONTRACTOR WELFARE FACILITIES TO DRILL A VERTICAL HYDROCARBON EXPLORATORY CORE WELL AND MOBILISATION OF WORKOVER RIG, LISTENING WELL OPERATIONS, AND RETENTION OF THE SITE AND WELLHEAD ASSEMBLY GEAR FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD OF 5 YEARS ON LAND ADJACENT TO BRAMLEYMOOR LANE, NEAR MARSH LANE. BRAMLEYMOOR LANE, MARSH LANE

Thank you for referring the above application which was received on 1st June 2017.

Environment Agency Position

The Agency has no objections to the proposed development but wishes to make the following comments.

Groundwater Comments

The proposed exploration well is not situated on a Principal Aquifer or within a Source Protection Zone.

Requirement to formally notify the Environment Agency of an intention to drill an exploration well

Before constructing or extending any borehole intended to be used for oil or gas exploration or extraction, operators need to submit a notice of intention under section 199(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003) to the Environment Agency. This applies to boreholes at both new and existing sites.

An operator must serve the notice at least 28 days before drilling commences by submitting the necessary form (WR11) and supporting information to us (see below). However, it is recommended that the notification is provided to us as soon as possible in order to avoid delays (i.e. in case additional information is needed).

We will review the information provided and decide if it will be necessary to serve a conservation notice. The operator must provide sufficient information to show that they will not cause interconnection of aquifers, that fluids used for drilling will not pollute groundwater and that the works will not impact legitimate users of groundwater or groundwater dependent features.

WR11 Form

Operators who want to construct or extend a boring to explore for or extract minerals must complete a WR11 form. The form and supporting guidance can be found on the GOV.UK website [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drilling-for-minerals-notice-of-intent-form-and-guidance>].

Environment Agency
Trent Side North, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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In addition to completing the form, the operator must provide supporting information to us in the form of a method statement.

The method statement should describe the proposal in detail and the measures that will be taken to protect groundwater resources (See below).

A Conceptual Site Model (CSM) and Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA) should support the method statement.

Supporting Information - Method Statement

The operator must provide enough information to enable a judgment to be made about whether we are satisfied that water resources will be protected and for us to decide if a conservation notice under Section 199(2) of the Water Resources Act 1991 should be issued, or not.

The operator must show that the work will be carried out in a way that protects water resources. This should be based on the HRA and conceptual understanding of the site, which has usually been prepared at the planning or permitting application stages. If not, the operator will need to complete this to demonstrate that they have a thorough understanding of the risks and the mitigation measures are sufficient to protect groundwater resources.

The method statement should include (but not be limited to):

- Information on the geological, hydrogeological and hydrological setting along with a CSM (if a HRA has been prepared for either planning or permitting then this may be sufficient to support the method statement).
- The drilling methodology including timings, details of the drill method, drill fluid and muds and casing (and tying in of) for each geological unit (including information on all additives and chemicals which may be used during installation).
- A detailed (and site specific) description of the borehole construction along with the final well design (including location, depths and casing details).
- Details of how the different geological units will be protected from pollution (including from the impact of turbidity) during the drilling (for example from the release of drill fluid or from causing aquifers to become connected).
- Details of the site surface and confirmation of pollution prevention measures to be taken
- Details of any monitoring which will be carried out during the works (for example groundwater, surface water and drill fluid returns).
- Confirmation of the program for borehole integrity testing.

Permitting Requirements

Advice to LPA/applicant

This development will require an Environmental Permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 from the Environment Agency. I can confirm that Ineos have recently applied for a standard rules permit SR2015 No1.

Advice to applicant

If any controlled waste is to be removed off site, then the site operator must ensure a registered waste carrier is used to convey the waste material off site to a suitably permitted facility.

We would welcome a copy of the decision notice once this planning application has been determined.

Yours faithfully

Sustainable Places Team – East Midlands

Direct e-mail planning.trentside@environment-agency.gov.uk