



NEWSLETTER 2 - 2017

EKAF UPDATE

The EKAF committee met on March 22nd. Although there is currently no threat in East Kent, we continue to support other campaign groups, in particular the Surrey campaigners. Committee member Di Jones in particular has been closely involved in helping the Surrey groups get established and she updated those present on the current situation. Of particular concern is the draconian injunction issued against the Leith Hill protection camp which has now been disbanded. One of the conditions of the injunction is that it cannot be published on any social media or website but I understand that no activity that could possibly be interpreted as opposition or protest is permitted around the drill site or on any of the approach roads. The injunction remains in force until January next year.

Committee members John & Maryline Buckingham are also closely involved with the Surrey campaign and they now manage Bore Free South which has its own website at the following link: <http://www.borefreesouth.org.uk>

At the meeting, despite the current absence of drilling applications, all were agreed that EKAF should remain extant as a campaign group and that the committee will continue to meet quarterly and issue a quarterly newsletter.

CONSULTATION

The Environment Agency is inviting comments on permit applications by Europa Oil & Gas for its exploration well site near **Leith Hill** in Surrey. The consultation runs until the **16th May** and full details are on the DoD website at the following link

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/04/06/consultation-opens-on-permit-applications-for-europas-leith-hill-drilling-site/>

The consultation can be accessed directly at the following link:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/rh5-6hn-europa-oil-and-gas-limited/>

Another EA consultation concerning Cuadrilla's application at **Balcombe** is open until **25th April**:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/rh17-6jh-cuadrilla-balcombe/?utm_source=General+Mailout&utm_campaign=9443f4b08e-Sussex+Round-Up&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6c071d9784-9443f4b08e-129392497

GENERAL NEWS: UK

David Smythe update

Update on David's Academic freedom of expression denied by corporate lobbying

<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Emeritus-Professor-David-Smythes-update.pdf>

Green light for drilling in Derbyshire. No environmental impact study required!
<https://drillordrop.com/2017/02/28/derbyshires-first-shale-gas-plan-clears-initial-hurdle/>

Lancashire: Legal challenge against the Government's overruling of Lancashire County Council's rejection of Cuadrilla's drilling application dismissed by a High court judge.
<https://drillordrop.com/2017/04/12/dismissal-of-legal-challenge-against-lancashire-fracking-site-more-details-and-reaction/>

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/04/15/residents-surprise-at-blocked-legal-challenge-over-roseacre-wood-fracking-site/>

UKOG seeks more sites for drilling in Weald

My concerns expressed in the last newsletter appear to be being confirmed as UKOG announce that they are seeking more drilling areas in the Weald and Purbeck Wight basins

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/03/01/ukog-seeks-further-oil-and-gas-sites-across-southern-england/#more-39407>

UKOG determined to drill on the South Downs despite objections from the Environment Agency
<https://drillordrop.com/2017/04/07/ukog-stands-by-its-oil-plans-for-the-south-downs-despite-ea-objection/>

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/04/06/environment-agency-objects-again-to-ukogs-south-downs-oil-drilling-plans/>

Further delay to iGas' planning permission at Misson in Nottinghamshire
<https://drillordrop.com/2017/03/31/fifth-delay-to-igas-shale-gas-site-at-misson-notts/>

This delay is due to concerns over iGAS' financial viability. This is a valid concern since the iGAS share price has now fallen to around 5p from a high of £1.50 three years ago!

ANGUS Energy breached permit conditions at Surrey's Brockham site
<https://drillordrop.com/2017/03/28/brockham-oil-site-breached-permit-condition-document-reveals/>

A recent article in Utility Week reported that Three quarters of the UK's biggest shale gas deposit may be unrecoverable
<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/75-of-UK-shale-resources-not-recoverable.pdf>

FRACKING MYTHS AND FACTS

Concerned Yorkshire Residents Against Fracking have produced a well researched 10 point analysis of fracking Myths and facts which can be read at the following link:

<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Fracking-myths-and-facts.pdf>

Investors blind to future and still investing in fossil energy

A thought provoking article in the Independent questioned the logic of investors continuing to invest in fossil fuels

<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Investors-blind-to-future.pdf>

OTHER NEWS

USA: Bakken shale play in dramatic decline

The highly respected Forbes magazine has published a long and very well researched report on the decline of the Bakken shale reserves which is well worth reading. However, if you haven't got the time to read the whole article the conclusions are:

'.. all major Bakken producers continue to lose money at current wellhead prices. If observations presented here hold up, there may be nowhere for the Bakken to go but down. Higher oil prices may not help much because the best days for the play are behind us. Future profits were sacrificed for short-term objectives that lost the companies and their shareholders money. The early demise of the Bakken should serve as a warning about the future of other tight oil plays'.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/arthurberman/2017/03/01/the-beginning-of-the-end-for-the-bakken-shale-play/#41d62e041487>

Despite the reality of the Bakken decline, Bakken Resources inc. is a company offering shale investment opportunities yet their website clearly states the reality of shale production!

"Our long-term strategy is heavily dependent on the acquisition of new oil and natural gas assets to replace produced reserves. Shale oil and natural gas well production declines quickly after initial production. In fact, nearly 60% of a well's lifetime production occurs during the first four producing years; declining production equals declining revenue. Therefore, it is mission critical to acquire new reserves."

Basically this reveals that the only way that the fracking industry is sustainable is through a continuous programme of drilling new wells and attracting new investors which, since it's eventually unsustainable, effectively makes fracking a ponzi / pyramid type enterprise!

<http://www.bakkenresourcesinc.com>

Oil companies were fully aware of the catastrophic effects of global warming over 25 years ago:

Shell

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/28/shell-knew-oil-giants-1991-film-warned-climate-change-danger>

And EXXON

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/08/exxon-climate-change-1981-climate-denier-funding>

USA's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reverses policy on water contamination

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/13/us/reversing-course-epa-says-fracking-can-contaminate-drinking-water.html?smid=fb-share&_r=1

RENEWABLES NEWS

As many have feared, evidence is growing that our post Brexit government is bowing to the wishes of the powerful fossil fuel lobbyists and in addition to abandoning all renewable projects are actively undermining existing renewable projects despite the fact that , as the technology has advanced, wind and solar are now producing energy at commercially competitive rates. These following two reports therefore make alarmingly depressing reading!

Government effectively kills off solar energy generation

<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Government-Kills-off-Solar-energy.pdf>

Government 'preparing to scrap EU's green energy targets after Brexit

<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Government-plans-to-abandon-EU-energy-targets.pdf>

On a brighter note, a tidal energy project in Scotland has now, after many years of development and testing, providing energy into the National Grid.

<http://www.scotrenewables.com/news/100-press-release-the-world-s-most-powerful-tidal-turbine-hits-peak-power>

The other glimmer of hope is that the oil majors are now starting to embrace green energy with Shell (possibly as a result of their disastrous Arctic failure) leading the way.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ceraweek-shell-shell-idUSKBN16G2DT>

China is also investing heavily in renewables:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/jan/05/china-invest-renewable-fuel-2020-energy>

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