

UKOG Gains Extension to Isle of Wight Licence

UK Oil and Gas announced today in their RNS that they have successfully won a two year extension until 2023 – **despite no work having been carried out since 2016 when the licence was issued** <https://drillordrop.com/pedl331/>

Frack Free Isle of Wight is concerned that the Oil and Gas Authority, which manages the licensing, is breaching its own rules. According to legislation a licence for an initial term for exploratory drilling is supposed to last for five years, then fall away if no well is drilled. This licence was due to expire in 20/07/2021 and no planning permission preparation has yet been submitted for initial analysis. This extension has obviously been demanded by UKOG to give them further time to raise appropriate funding and prepare their plans so that they will not over run the expiration date.

This granting of the licence extension shows how ridiculous the licensing system and related legislation is for onshore oil and gas. Oil & Gas companies seem to be able to continue to blight local communities by threatening to drill for oil and gas, even if they've failed to make adequate preparation to meet the existing time limits of their contract. It would seem that the Oil and Gas Authority now have the right to overrule legislation to suit the licensee.

UKOG is having to take similar steps at their heralded Horse Hill site, which has seen delays over the past year. The company has worked incessantly to combat problems on site and to balance fluctuating share prices to gain the financial stability from their investors to plan to go into full production by drilling four more wells.

They have also begun to extend their efforts to go to full production at their Broadford Bridge site without achieving success from their appraisal wells and with no apparent field development plan for production. <https://drillordrop.com/2019/07/03/onshore-licence-moves-to-production-without-drilling-a-successful-well/>

As far as our licence PEDL 331 is concerned the three existing sites of Arreton Main, North and South, UKOG now claims there is a "further large undrilled anticlinal structure, the Arreton East Prospect, another look-alike to the Arreton discovery and lying further to the east along the same geological trend."

UKOG also confirm the prospect of carrying out " its stated multi-well drilling campaign."

If UKOG proceed with their plans it will involve unconventional, horizontal or slanted drilling with appropriate stimulation techniques, meaning environmental impacts that are very worrying. "Further significant upside in both prospects is calculated to lie within the underlying Inferior Oolite sequence." means they plan to drill deeper into the strata (below 10,000 m) and has implications for the use of well stimulation for strata fracturing to achieve maximum flow of the targeted sequence.

To the east of Arreton is the region of Newchurch, with homes, farmland and the Garlic Farm under which they will presumably plan to drill multiple horizontal wells into the underlying geology. A plan to drill in the Arreton South Prospect could see wellsites close to Godshill and Rookley and horizontal wells drilled under the AONBs in order to achieve, according to Stephen Sanderson CEO of UKOG, a similar plan to Horse Hill with "back to back wellsites" to maximise economic production. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0Nybav_Icc

Over 1300 people are already concerned enough about the original plans and have signed a petition [No Drilling In Arreton](#) about the threat to drinking water"

If you haven't signed it please follow the link above and do so now.