

news release

10 July 2017

Environment Agency minded to approve application at Horse Hill oilfield

The Environment Agency is minded to approve the application for a bespoke environmental permit at the Horse Hill oil and gas exploratory site in Surrey.

The application is for a bespoke Environmental Permit to drill a new well, drill a side track to the existing well and to carry out flow testing. Horse Hill Developments Limited have also applied for a Standard Rules Permit to store oil on site. In deciding whether or not to issue the permits, the Environment Agency will take into account all relevant considerations and legal requirements.

Before the Environment Agency grants the bespoke environmental permit there will be a further consultation period, which closes on 4 August 2017, to allow people to comment on the application. Further information on the bespoke application, a copy of our draft decision document and details of how to comment can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rh6-0hn-horse-hill-developments-limited-environmental-permit-draft-decision-advertisement>

An Environment Agency spokesperson said: "An environmental permit sets out stringent conditions that a site must adhere to. We will not issue an environmental permit for a site if we consider that activities taking place will cause significant pollution to the environment or harm to human health.

"Although we are minded to approve the application for the bespoke permit we are still in the determination process and a final decision has not yet been made. We want to hear from the public and understand peoples' views on the application. Everybody has the chance to see what the bespoke permit may look like and to raise any additional concerns before we make any final decision."

Ends

All media enquiries: 0800 141 2743

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Notes to Editors

For further information on how we determine applications and the time scales involved please see the following links.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-public-participation-statement>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/onshore-oil-and-gas-exploration-and-extraction-environmental-permits>

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