

STAR ENERGY LIAISON GROUP

Minutes from the meeting, held Thursday 24th May 2007, 6.30pm At Albury Village Hall

Present: Jonathan Lord (Chairman) (Blackheath Village Society)
Patricia Allen, St Martha Parish Council
Keith Childs, Guildford Borough Council
Michael Baxter, Albury Estate
Dr Paul Lister, SaveBlackheathCommon
Nick Morris, Wonersh Parish Council
David Wright, Guildford Borough Council
Nick Wenman, Chairman, Albury Parish Council
John Brockwell, Albury Parish Council
David Small, Brook Residents Association
Rob Kelly, SaveBlackheathCommon
Niall Breen, Blackheath Village Society
Gordon Franks, Park Road Residents Association
Robin McKie, Commercial and Lands Director, Star Energy
Roger Pearson, Group Operations Director, Star Energy
Adrian Fernando, Business Development Director, Star Energy
Barrie Hedges, Communications Advisor, Star Energy
Paul Dacombe, Star Energy
Joanna Cadman, Clerk to Albury Parish Council (minute taker)

1. **Apologies** were received from Andrew Povey (County Councillor), Nicola Savage (SaveBlackheathCommon).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 23rd January** were agreed.
3. **Presentation from Star Energy for Gas Storage at Albury**

AF showed a series of slides relating to the proposed gas storage project, which had also been presented to Ripley Parish Council and Parish Councils from the surrounding areas the previous Monday.

There are three separate consent applications being considered; (a) Phase 1 gas storage in the Purbeck reservoir, which is the present source of gas for the existing plant on the Albury wellsite; (b) Appraisal drilling to assess whether the formations below the Purbeck contain gas and have rock properties suitable for gas storage; (c) Phase 2 gas storage, which depends on the results from the appraisal well(s).

The consent applications will include a total of up to four gas storage development wells for phase 1, which are in addition to up to two appraisal wells in (b) above. SE hoped to need only one appraisal well, but as another

might be needed, it was necessary to apply for two at this stage. The same criteria applied to the development wells: that SE plans to drill only three wells, re-using one appraisal well. Four wells would ensure an adequate flow rate. These would require nine weeks drilling time for each well, although it was expected that drilling would be quicker once one well had been drilled and SE knew what problems they might encounter in the drilling process. The intention was also to re-use the appraisal wells as development wells where possible, so reducing the total wells drilled.

Drilling: From existing site using long reach drill. While wells would be 2,300 ft in depth, the drill would actually travel some 10,000 ft. The drilling rig is newly built, and SE's contractor was currently working on the noise attenuation. The rig is 29 ½ metres high. (Demand for oil and gas means that drilling rigs are in great demand, and it has taken longer than expected to import and assemble the rig and ancillary equipment.) When drilling is completed and rig removed, minimal equipment will remain.

Phase 1: capacity: 6 billion cu.ft. from existing strata

- a) Wellsite. It would not be necessary to widen the access road, as the rig would be brought to the site in smaller loads than were required for previous rigs.
- b) Five-mile pipeline to proposed site for gas processing facility, about 800m east of HM prison at Send, where the gas would be dried and compressed. A site selection study had identified this site at Furze Copse, which was well screened by woodland and allowed further screening if necessary. The closest house was 500 metres away, and the site was outside the AONB.
- c) One-mile pipeline from the processing site to Scotia Gas Networks Ripley AGI.
- d) Temporary pipe store – removed when pipe had been laid.

The fenced off corridor for the pipeline construction would be 26 metres in width. The trench for the pipe would be 1.8 metres deep by 1.5 metres wide. The pipe, 30" in diameter, would be installed during a six-month window (the 17-mile Humbly Grove pipeline had been installed in four months) and would be sufficiently large to transport phase 2 gas, so there would be no need to dig again. The pipeline would be installed between March and September, because of the ground conditions, and the route of the pipeline would be restored within the same year. SE would expect to bore under all roads, streams and the railway.

Route of pipeline would be from Sherborne Farm, along Staples Lane, across

the A247 at East Clandon, west of East Clandon, cut across Ripley Lane, across the land at the back of the prison and up to Furze Copse. It would run along the side of the railway for 300 to 400 yards.

Existing wellsite has a landtake of 2 hectares, and has operated over last 13 years. Phase 1 of the new facility would require an increase in the hardstanding of 0.25 hectares. The total site would be 2.25 hectares, taking into account phases 1 and 2.

Appraisal drilling application

- Application will be made for two additional wells to be sited within the existing Albury wellsite

Phase 2 gas storage capacity: up to 24 billion cu.ft from underlying strata.

- There can be no prediction of the number of wells required until the results of the appraisal drilling are known
- The pipeline and gas processing facility land-take are selected to be able to accommodate the phase 2 requirements
- A new 47 km pipeline would be required from the gas plant to Tatsfield.

Expected programme

1. Re-apply to Surrey County Council for the appraisal drilling by summer of this year. Planning committee will meet September/October. Apply to DTI for phase 1 gas storage consent during the summer of this year.
2. Between two and four weeks to prepare wellsite.
3. Drilling and testing up to two wells at nine weeks for each.
4. Expect a natural break at this point between January and July 2008 when (if consent is granted) the phase 1 wells would be drilled at nine weeks per well.
5. Phase 2 is not expected to commence until 2009/10 and would be subject to a successful appraisal programme and a separate application for consent.

SE emphasized that there were no plans to use Blackheath for either a wellsite or gas plant.

SE had looked at a number of sites for the gas processing plant as they wanted to reassure themselves that they were using the best possible site. There would be a great deal of work to do to get another site to a similar level

of preparedness as the Albury site. (NW requested a copy of the evaluation.) An EIA is being undertaken on Phase 1, and this would be circulated to a large list of consultees. The scoping report would give more information on the project and the environmental issues, and would be used as part of the overall assessment.

SE believed that Albury was the very best site to drill from, and also believed that they had found a very good site for the gas processing facility outside of the AONB, but pointed out that they could not take the whole operation out of the AONB, because that was where the gas field was naturally located.

4. **Questions**

1. DW considered that there had been a great deal of movement and accommodation on the part of SE, and that this should be recognized. He advised that the neighbouring Parish Councils were expected to be included in SCC's list of consultees, which was not usually the case.
2. DW understood that the people who had attended the meeting in Ripley needed more information than they had received on the night, as they were not completely sure what was happening. AF advised that a presentation was planned for each parish that was affected, and each parish would receive information specific to their area.
3. SE was asked how the White Paper would affect their plans. AF advised that the White Paper looked at the national infrastructure and the formation of an independent planning commission. Indicative time table was that legislation would be laid before Parliament before the end of this year and could be on the statute books by the summer of 2008. A national statement would have to be developed, consulted on and agreed, the indication from the DTI was that the Independent Planning Commission might be up and running by the summer of 2009. As a new commission, it would have some major projects to deal with first. RP indicated that this timescale would be outside that of the Albury Gas Storage Project.
4. Well at Shalford: SE confirmed that it was impractical to locate a well site at Shalford with a gas plant outside the AONB given that the plant had to link to the gas distribution network.
5. DS asked if there were plans to compensate the community for the inconvenience it was going to suffer. RMcK believed that the large capital investment SE was to put into the area would provide for a significant payment in local authority rates and thereby contribute towards the county's finances.

5. **Any Other Business**

1. DW said that it would be helpful to have the time table written down. AF said that the difficulty would be in the uncertainty about when planning would be determined.
2. It was requested that minutes from these meetings should be circulated earlier. SE confirmed that the bottleneck was at their end.

6. **Changes on Committee**

- Niall Breen would be main representative for Blackheath Village Society, with Nick Harrison as substitue.
- Roy Hogben to replace Keith Childs, as new Borough Councillor.
- There should be a representative from Park Road.
- Nick Wenman now Chairman of Albury Parish Council.
- John Brockwell Parish Council representative.

JL thanked Mrs von Radowitz for hosting the meetings in the past.

7. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held in the first half of July, a date to be agreed.

SE confirmed that they were happy for the minutes from these meetings to be distributed to other parties and publicised.