ANNEX A
Information held by the Department in terms of FOI/EIR request 2015/05487

- *E-mail from HSE to DECC et al. from 16 July 2015*

From: Peter Brown REDACTED
Sent: 16 July 2014 08:19
To: Figueira Duarte (Energy Strategy Networks and Markets); Tony Grayling REDACTED; REDACTED@environment-agency.gov.uk
Cc: REDACTED(Energy Development); REDACTED@environment-agency.gov.uk; Toole Simon (Oil and Gas Authority); REDACTED (Oil and Gas Authority); Speed Stephen (Energy Development); REDACTED@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Re: Meeting re well annular pressure

Duarte, Tony,

A good idea. I'll check who is available from the wells team.

Regards

Peter

- *E-Mail from DECC to HSE et al. from 16 July 2015*

From: Figueira Duarte (Energy Development) REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 07:24 AM GMT Standard Time
To: Grayling, Tony REDACTED; Peter Brown REDACTED; REDACTED@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Cc: REDACTED (Energy Development) REDACTED; REDACTED@environment-agency.gov.uk>; Toole Simon (Energy Development) REDACTED; REDACTED (Energy Development) REDACTED; Speed Stephen (Energy Development) REDACTED
Subject: RE: Meeting re well annular pressure

Tony

Thanks for agreeing to host. From our side can REDACTED invite REDACTED, REDACTED and me. We might not all be able to come but there will be a couple of us.

Duarte

Duarte Figueira | Head, Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil
tel: REDACTED email: REDACTED

Department of Energy & Climate Change | 3-8 Whitehall Place | London SW1A 2AW

- *E-Mail from DECC to HSE et al. from 15 July 2014*

From: Figueira Duarte (Energy Development) REDACTED
Sent: 15 July 2014 10:23
To: Grayling, Tony; Peter Brown REDACTED
Cc: REDACTED (Energy Development); REDACTED; Toole Simon (Energy Development); REDACTED (Energy Development); Speed Stephen (Energy Development)
Subject: Meeting re well annular pressure

Tony/ Peter

I thought it would be useful if once the present FoI and correspondence on Balcombe and Preese Hall respectively are out of the way we could have a meeting to a) fully understand the causes and potential remedies (including what the industry may do) of the annular pressure issues in both cases and b) consider handling and anything else going forward.

I've just had a very clear telephone explanation from REDACTED on the annular pressure incidents and it may be helpful to have a technical presentation on this from HSE to kick off the meeting. Would Peter be willing to arrange for REDACTED or REDACTED to do this?

I am happy to host but it may be better to have the meeting in one of the regulators – can EA oblige?

We would want to bring along a small number of OUGO and Led colleagues.

Many thanks

Duarte

Duarte Figueira | Head, Office of Unconventional Gas and Oil
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Department of Energy & Climate Change | 3-8 Whitehall Place | London SW1A 2AW

- *E-Mail from HSE to DECC from 2 June 2014*

From: REDACTED@hse.gsi.gov.uk REDACTED
Sent: 02 June 2014 10:34
To: Figueira Duarte (Energy Strategy Networks and Markets); REDACTED (Energy Development)
Cc: Peter Brown REDACTED; REDACTED@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: HSE update on Preese Hall following 23 April Shale Gas Strategy Meeting

Duarte/REDACTED,
At the 23 April Shale Gas Strategy Meeting I took an action to update you both on the HSE activity at Preese Hall.
Apologies for the delay but I had to ensure that there was no ongoing regulatory activity which could be compromised by updating colleagues external to HSE.

I know Peter provided a brief verbal update to Duarte but the description below will hopefully prove a useful summary.
Happy to discuss further if necessary.
Regards
REDACTED

REDACTED
REDACTED
Hazardous Installations Directorate (HID)
REDACTED, 5S.2 Redgrave Court
Health and Safety Executive
 REDACTED| VPN: REDACTED
REDACTED
Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, L20 7HS
www.hse.gov.uk

Preese Hall Status

Well operations were suspended in December 2012 when cement was inserted into the production casing and a steel bridge plug inserted above the cement. Since that time the well has been monitored by the operator (Cuadrilla). A small (377 p.s.i.) annulus pressure (a pressure between the borehole casing and the well) was detected via a digital pressure transducer. It is believed through discussion with the operators that this pressure originates from the ingress of gas present in the Kinder Scout formations (Millstone Grit) into the borehole casing.

In accordance with existing planning consent arrangements the abandonment operations and site restoration are scheduled for completion by 31st July 2014.

HSE (specialists and a policy representative) and the Environment Agency conducted an inspection of the Preese Hall site on 30th April 2014. The inspectors also visited the site at Annas Road. During the inspection Cuadrilla presented the inspection team with their cement evaluation logs for the sections in question and their revised abandonment plans and schedule.

To address the annulus pressure Cuadrilla proposed that a section of the 5 ½" production casing will be section milled at the 9 5/8" casing shoe to enable a rock to rock cement bond.
An additional cement plug will be placed above this to comply with the Oil and Gas UK guidelines on well abandonment.

Once this revised abandonment programme has had internal approval and been examined and approved by their Independent Well Examiner, it will be submitted to HSE as a material change to their well abandonment programme as required by Regulation 6(5) of the Borehole Sites and Operations Regulations 1995. HSE will continue to monitor the abandonment procedure via the weekly well operations reports submitted by operators to comply with the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1996.

No formal enforcement action was taken by HSE during the inspections. HSE did give verbal advice for conventional health and safety matters relating to activities ancillary to the well operations - the location of showers and eye washes for the chemical mix area, the bolting of flanges and the use of lifting equipment.