

Summary

This briefing provides the background for the two documents on the Citizen Space KM8 information page which relate to Third Energy's KM8 well site:

- Hydraulic Fracture Plan
- updated Waste Management Plan

Pre-Operational Conditions

The permit for operations at KM8 granted to Third Energy in April 2016 includes a number of pre-operational conditions that have to be met before the operator can carry out the hydraulic fracturing operations.

Pre-operational condition 2 requires our approval of a written Hydraulic Fracture Plan. This plan sets out how the operator will control and monitor the fracturing process.

It will also need approval from the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA).

The Assessment Process

We are currently carrying out a detailed technical assessment of the submitted Hydraulic Fracture Plan and relevant information detailed in the updated Waste Management Plan. We need to ensure that there are no unacceptable risks to the environment, in particular to groundwater.

We need to know how operators will manage where fractures will go and how they will control the risks to well integrity if there is a potential impact from a seismic event. We also need to know where the hydraulic fracturing fluid will be left behind underground, so that we can define the extent of the mining waste facility. These assessments may require further changes to both the Hydraulic Fracture Plan and Waste Management Plan.

We will publish a summary of our decision on the KM8 Citizen Space information page when our assessment is complete.

The OGA manages the risk of seismic activity and will be making their own separate assessment in line with their regulatory remit.

Useful Information

The Environment Agency Oil and Gas Sector Guidance is available on:

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