
For immediate release

26 April 2017

Third Energy statement in response to the illegal action by protestors at Kirby Misperton

Third Energy condemns, in the highest possible terms, the actions of a small group of protestors who blockaded access to our KM-A site at Kirby Misperton, trapping a number of people on the site.

On Tuesday 25 April, staff from Third Energy, along with contractors working for Third, went onto our site to conduct routine monitoring and testing equipment as part of our regulatory compliance programme. Our staff and contractors undertake such activities on all our sites regularly and have done so for over twenty years. Monitoring and testing is a very important part of ensuring the safety and integrity of our wells.

During the early afternoon, our people became aware that protestors were gathering at the access point to the site, and discovered that they had locked the gates, using chains and padlocks in addition to using their cars to block the site entrance. A number of people were effectively imprisoned by this action for over seven hours in extremely cold conditions and with no access to food.

The protestors, who shouted insults and abuse, deigned to allow our staff and contractors off site at 9:30pm in the evening, “slow walking” them through Kirby Misperton, causing additional distress and disruption to both local residents and our people. All of this action was gleefully captured by the protestors for social media and their identities are clearly apparent through the postings.

Rasik Valand, chief executive of Third Energy, said: “This illegal action is calculated to cause distress to our staff, and our contractors, who are only trying to go about their daily, legitimate work, and will continue to do so. In fact, they were conducting activities required by regulatory bodies, one of the key aspects of additional protection that public and protestors have wanted. Third Energy respects people’s right to lawful protest, but this is not lawful and prevents people from going about their legitimate work, indeed imprisoning them on site. We call on the police and authorities to take the strongest possible action to ensure this sort of mob rule by a minority, which we have seen in other parts of the country, doesn’t come to Ryedale.”

Third Energy has been producing gas and energy in Ryedale in a safe, discreet and environmentally sensitive way for more than two decades, and the first well was drilled at the KMA site in 1985. We work closely with local residents, local businesses, local councils and the regulators. We look forward to being able to develop our operations in the future in the same safe, discreet and environmentally sensitive way.

Contact:

Jason Nisse/Andrew Turner: 0207 680 6500

For more information consult the Third Energy website at www.third-energy.com