

**22 October 2017**

**Update statement re break-in at KMA well site – 22/10/17**

### **PROTESTORS RESCUED FROM RIG BY SPECIALIST TEAM**

At 10.25 am this morning a highly experienced rescue team completed the safe rescue of two protestors from the workover rig on a well site in Kirby Misperton. Third Energy took the decision to bring in the team from Specialist Group International because of serious concerns for the welfare and safety of the two protestors occupying the rig.

Following a site safety briefing from Third Energy, the team made a detailed risk assessment of the situation and established the physical condition of the two protestors. This included talking with them directly and also encouraging them to leave the rig voluntarily.

The removal of the female protestor was completed in 60 minutes and the male was safely removed 30 minutes later. The two protestors were brought down from 60 feet to ground level using a technical rescue system due to the wind conditions.

Commenting on the operation Third Energy director, Alan Linn, said

“We are relieved that the two remaining protestors have now been brought down from the rig. Their actions put both themselves and people working on the site in jeopardy. Setting off an emergency flare on a live gas site – essentially an open flame – was exceptionally reckless.

However, I am pleased that we were able to ensure their safety overnight by providing them with proper harnesses and also hot drinks. I would like to commend the rescue team for their professional and sensitive approach to resolving this situation.”

The workover rig will now be demobilised as planned.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. After being brought to ground level, the two protestors were handed over to the police who were at the site during the rescue operation
2. The protestors were informed that the operation would be filmed on body cameras worn by the rescue team. The operation was also recorded by Third Energy's site CCTV
3. Peter Faulding, Chief Executive of Specialist Group International led the operation. This was a well-rehearsed procedure for their team. They have carried out every major protestor removal operation since the Newbury Bypass in 1996, with a 100% safety record.
4. At circa 6.30pm on Saturday evening, the site team explained to the activists the effect of high winds on the free hanging block, adjacent to their position on the monkey board, and the potential risk of injury. The activists agreed to Third Energy bringing the block down to secure it.
5. During a welfare check on Saturday night, the protestors informed staff on site that they were very cold so Third Energy provided insulated overalls for them to wear and insulated mats. At 6.45am this morning they requested hot drinks which site staff supplied. When it became apparent on Saturday afternoon that the protestors were not wearing any form of safety harness or fall arrest



device Third Energy took the decision to supply them with industry standard safety harnesses with twin lanyards to ensure they had the capability to secure themselves. Third Energy also provided hot drinks on Saturday afternoon and through the night.

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