
Date :

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Minister Arlene Foster
Dept Enterprise, Trade and Investment,
Netherleigh, Massey Ave,
Belfast, BT4 2JP

Please treat this matter as **URGENT**

Dear Minister Foster,

If Tamboran wish to stay in the process in Northern Ireland they will most likely have to get an extension to their work programme and possibly even to Petroleum Licence PL2/10.

Will you as Minister be making this decision or will you abdicate to your department ?

I personally fail to see, how a licence or work programme can be extended given that the Assembly voted for a Moratorium on shale gas exploration, and also there is no policy at the Executive level on the matter. Granting any extension would therefore in my eyes be both against the will of the people of Northern Ireland as expressed by their political representatives in the Assembly, whilst also adopting a unilateral policy on exploring for shale gas in Northern Ireland.

You yourself stated that Tamboran were exploring for shale gas in a Radio Ulster Evening Extra Interview on Monday 4th August 2014.

There are other matters which come to mind also. It is now apparent that Tamboran had ample time to drill this borehole regardless of any decision by Minister Durkan. They first contemplated this publicly in September 2011, and got their work programme changed in May 2012. They have already had one extension to their work programme – I don't believe they deserve another. Indeed one wonders at the due-diligence which was carried out when granting the extension in March 2014 as this information was all available at the time.

My understanding is that Tamboran's competency and core values should also be questioned. Given the reports of Pollution by Eastern Star Gas/Santos in the Pilliga region of Australia, and the tie in to Tamboran, and Tamboran board members (Patrick Elliott and Dr David King were both founders of Eastern Star Gas and Tamboran, while Santos are now Tamboran's partners in Australia) we believe there are serious questions to be asked about Tamboran's suitability as a licensee. Tamboran also chose a quarry site which they knew to be unlawful as their test drill site; hardly a measure of good judgement.

An Assembly question indicates that the Geological Survey Of Northern Ireland (functionally aligned with your Department) only attended Tamboran's public meeting out of all the other current licensees. There appears to have been significant hand holding by DETI throughout the history of this licence, yet even still Tamboran seem incapable of meeting the terms of the licence.

Given the information presented, the whole sorry saga of this licence, I believe the decision must be a Ministerial decision and it must be negative in relation to any further extension of the work programme or the Petroleum Licence.

Please treat this as URGENT.

Yours Sincerely

Name _____

Signature _____