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Weekly Situation Report

Oil and Gas Activism



Date: 09 October 2016

Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Contact: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Threat Level

The assessed level of threat from issue-motivated group (IMG) activism and protest directed towards oil and gas Industry clients is currently assessed at LOW for onshore and offshore operations (see the explanation of TCIL's Threat Methodology at the end of this SitRep).

Explanation

This Situation Report (SitRep) summarizes recent relevant protests and activities by IMGs and activists opposed to operations both onshore and offshore by the Oil and Gas Industry over the past week. It looks at risks to current Industry operations and events, and at trends and developments both domestically and overseas (where relevant). It is based on open and public sources of information.

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Location of Greenpeace Vessels

09 October

Greenpeace International has currently deployed its flagship, the Rainbow Warrior III, to Catania on Sicily's east coast (see photo below).

The vessel has been hosting open days, and the ship's ocean campaigner, who is a New Zealander, has just left the vessel to make a visit home. Like a number of senior Greenpeace staff, she has a home on Auckland's Waiheke Island.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace's polar equipped vessel, the Arctic Sunrise, is tied up at the port of Delfzijl in northeast Netherlands; while Greenpeace's largest campaign vessel, the Esperanza, is in the North Sea, heading for Port Said in the Middle East.



Wellington Group Crowd Sourcing

08 October

The Wellington issue motivated group, Oil Free Wellington (OFW), says it is putting

together a collaborative zine for the Wellington Zinefest on 19 November, with the theme of 'living climate justice.'

The Wellington Zine Fest is an annual event, which has been held in the Capital since 2011, and which focuses on DIY publishing. This year (like the last) the festival has sold out all its stall spaces a month in advance.

OFW says it is crowd-sourcing content from anyone involved in climate change or social justice movements across New Zealand, and will prioritise content from indigenous and marginalised communities.

It says it welcomes "creative responses in the form of art, writing, poetry, prose, song lyrics, and anything else we can photocopy and cram into a two-dimensional, folded paper zine."



Far North Petition Relunched

07 October

Following the announcement of the 2017 Block Offer, the Hokianga Environmental Protection Group says it is relaunching its petition opposing exploration for oil and gas off the Northland coast.

The group says part of the motivation for the relaunch is because it feels the Far North District Council has ignored the group's overtures asking it last year to oppose the 2016 Block Offer for offshore prospecting permits.

Last year, the group submitted a petition to the council asking it to oppose the 2016 Block Offer. That petition attracted 600 signatures from Far North locals and supporters, but the group says the council has "buried it in bureaucracy" and the petition has never been discussed or considered by councillors.

That petition has since gone on to attract almost 8,000 signatures (7,927 as at 09

October 2016). In a message to the 713 members of the Hokianga Environmental Protection Group's Facebook group, the organiser said, "Some of you may remember that about a year ago we presented this petition to Far North District Council asking them to adopt a position of opposition to Deep Sea Oil.

"Each year the Government announces 'block offers' for petroleum exploration. Individuals cannot make submissions on these block offers and the means of consultation with the public is by asking local authorities. So each year FNDC are invited to submit on the block offers and for the past two years at least have stated that they are 'generally supportive of the block offer process.'

"So here we are, almost a year on from submitting a petition of over 600 signatures and FNDC haven't even given a formal response to our petition but seem to have just tried to bury it in bureaucracy. We think this is completely unacceptable and will try again following the local elections but in the meantime are re-launching this petition to show them the opposition to Deep Sea Oil has not gone away.

"There are many reasons for opposing Deep Sea Oil exploration off our coast not least that we need to move away from fossil fuels because of climate change. Other councils have stated their opposition so why can't FNDC?

"So if you've already signed this petition you can't sign again but you can distribute it to others to sign. If you've not signed please do. It would be great if we could get a few more hundred signatures to send in. So please sign/share and encourage others to sign." See: <http://tinyurl.com/zambxjb>



Push for Auckland Council Divestment

06 October

The Auckland-based issue motivated group 350 Aotearoa is supporting an online petition by an Auckland anti-oil and gas activist calling on the Auckland Council to divest from investments in any organisation associated with fossil fuels.

350 Aotearoa says, "Auckland Council has investments in coal, oil and gas - the very industries that are wrecking our planet."

It wants the Auckland Council to follow the example of the Dunedin and Christchurch City Councils and divest from any funds that invest money in industries associated with fossil fuel extraction. The campaign has an influential backer within council - the deputy mayor (see photo below) and has attracted more than 1000 signatures.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/hy3ftce>

CLEAN UP AUCKLAND COUNCIL!



"IT IS UTTERLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR OUR CITY TO HAVE ANY INVESTMENTS IN FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES."

-PENNY HULSE
DEPUTY MAYOR OF AUCKLAND



Deepwater Horizon Movie Released

06 October

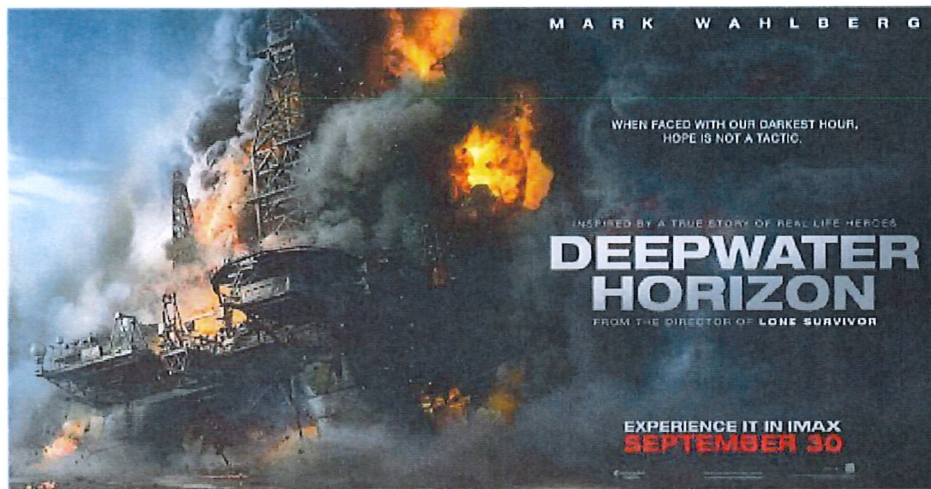
Greenpeace International is piggybacking on the release of a new Hollywood dramatisation of the Deepwater Horizon disaster to promote its opposition to deep sea oil exploration. The movie opened at New Zealand cinemas on 30 September.

Greenpeace has also used the release of the movie to promote opposition to BP's proposal to begin deep water exploration drilling in the Great Australian Bight by drilling two wells, 2km deep.

It is a proposal that has been delayed by Australia's Oil and Gas Regulator who has sought more information on BP's environmental plan and set a one month deadline for the company to provide further details.

Greenpeace, however, argues that throughout the movie, "we witness the ominous pressure building beneath the waves. Even the rig workers call the oil a 'monster', not knowing it's about to burst from its lair to wreak havoc upon them. That same monster and that same villain could soon be on their way to Australia's southern shores. BP has hired a rig even bigger than the Deepwater Horizon, and they want to drill in the Great Australian Bight at depths even deeper and in conditions even stormier."

See here for a link to the movie's trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yASbM8M2vg



Far North Environmental Hui

05 October

Hapu of the Te Rarwa Iwi have organised a two-day environmental research hui (17-18 October) at the Korou Kore Marae at Ahipara (see photo below) aimed at what they say is "bringing together people with an interest in te taiao o Te Hiku o Te Ika to share and learn with each other; iwi, communities and researchers." There is no registration fee to attend this event.

Day one will provide historical perspectives of environmental management; Te Hiku relationships and collaborations post settlement. There will also be discussion on climate change factors in kaimoana depletion, and Lake Tāngonge restoration considerations. Other topics covered in the first day include Te Hiku environmental vision/strategy; reconstructing environmental change; wetlands as natural archives of environmental change; Nga Roto Tapokapoka restoration; early horticulture by Maori; lake cores holding landscape modification and vegetation change records; and toheroa ecology and oral history.

Day two will focus on local environments as living laboratories for schools; climate change and Māori society; and the development of an enviro-economic platform for Te Hiku. The remainder of the day will focus on Maara whenua inter-generational sustainable living and kaitiaki practices; and a establishing a Te Hiku environmental vision/strategy.



ChCh Council Opposition to Block Offer

04 October

Although post-election the new Christchurch City Council has yet to meet to discuss its position on offshore exploration, going on past performance, it would seem unlikely to be any change to the council's almost unanimous opposition to the 2017 Block Offer. The risk of an oil spill, the danger to local endangered species, and the lack of public consultation were just some of the 46 points the city council argued in submissions against the Government's oil and gas block offer last year.

As consultation opens on the 2017 Block Offer this year, some city councillors say they are questioning if the Government will listen at all to what they say. The 2017 Block Offer will open up a new 210,884 sq km area of ocean below Banks Peninsula for oil and gas exploration tenders next year.

The Minister of Energy and Resources has declined to answer questions as to how much weight he would give to the city council's submission when making his decision on the 2017 Block Offer.

He said only that he would consult with the council to "identify areas of significance or sensitivity."

He also did not answer questions about what advice he had received about the risk of a spill. However, he said all bids received would be put through an involved assessment process, checking their systems, finances and compliance history.

"Exploration in this area is not new and the Canterbury and Great South Basins have seen exploration activity since the early 1970s," he said.

Many of the city councillors have gone on record saying they were worried regions like Canterbury would take on all the risk and earn very little reward if companies were allowed to drill, despite assurances there would be benefits for the region.

The council has collectively adopted a position in opposition to offshore exploration. Prior to this week's local body elections, the Christchurch Star canvassed all councillors and the mayor on the subject and received the following responses:

Mayor Dalziel: The council has collectively adopted a position in opposition to these permits being issued due to the significant consequences of an oil spill.

Councillor Buck: Totally against it and I expect the city council will oppose it. The risks are so high and the rewards are actually zero to the region. You risk massive environment damage - this is very close to a marine mammal sanctuary.

Councillor Turner: I'm opposed to drilling activity in the marine sanctuaries, which is particularly relevant to waters off my ward of Banks Peninsula.

Councillor Jones: I don't support anything that doesn't have a robust risk management plan in place. From what I have heard in council, it sounds like we would not be able to manage a spill. So I would be open to listening, but only if there is something new in this case.

Councillor East: I voted to support the Government's decision last year. But I may have a slightly different opinion this year. I'm ambivalent this year. With the price of oil at the moment and the advancements we're seeing in things like storage, it's questionable whether we will actually need it in the near future.

Councillor Livingstone: The risk is too high in terms of a potential catastrophe. And also, is it a future we want to work towards? We want to work towards a more sustainable future. It comes back to that whole cost-benefit ratio.

Councillor Gough: I support initiatives which help grow our local economy. However, I am yet to be convinced that the benefits would necessarily markedly outweigh the risks. It's not to say that benefits are non-existent - because that simply isn't true. However, those in the decision-making position will clearly need to analyse the risk versus reward as our national brand could ultimately be what's at stake if they get it wrong.

Councillor Chen: Why tourists come to New Zealand is because we have environmental assets. They come to see our natural environment, agricultural, horticultural and seashore assets. If this is damaged, it will damage the New Zealand economy. My personal view is to go against the Government proposal.

Councillor Lonsdale: We have to look to the future and the risks to our marine life and pristine shorelines are too great. The future of energy is not in petroleum and - noting

that transportation uses 64 per cent of all oil produced - with the rapid development of better performance electric cars and driverless cars, the need to own a car may be much like needing to own a horse in the future.

Councillor Cotter: We don't really know what the benefits to our local area, or to New Zealand, are going to be when the oil prices are so low and the profits would probably go overseas anyway. So it seems we are putting ourselves at a high risk for little gain. We've spoken as a council and that's all we can do, so it's up to the people now.

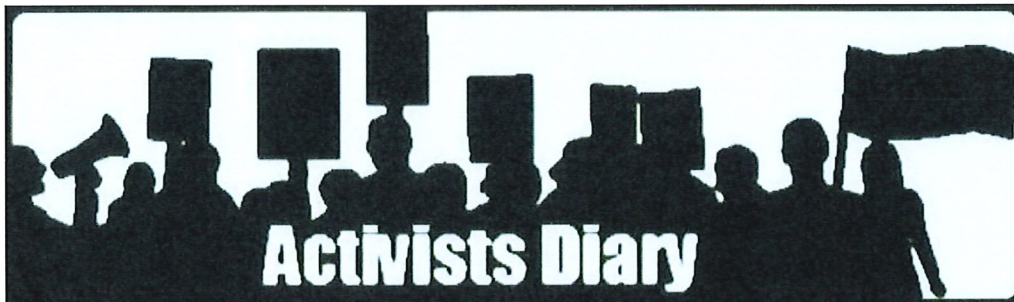
Councillor Clearwater: I'm open to hearing the other arguments but, overall, I think the concept of drilling for oil right adjacent to our shores makes a nonsense of the need to reduce our carbon emissions to address the serious consequence of climate change. I think it's unacceptable really.

Councillor Manji: I don't think it's a very good idea and I'm quite surprised it's coming from a Government which is starting to promote electric vehicles. The fact they're out there promoting a technology we don't really want to be investing in is not economically a smart idea or, environmentally, something we want to be doing in Canterbury, especially with seismic issues.

Councillor Scandrett: Unless we've got the capability in this country to fix a leak or an accident, then we shouldn't be touching it. We have the Hector's dolphins in that area - it wouldn't take much to alter their entire existence. I can see the economic benefit of it, but I don't want it to happen before there are preventative measures in place if there is a disaster.

Councillor Johanson: This is a huge gamble, it's not a question of if something goes wrong, it's a question of when. In effect, it is basically selling off our environmental assets to try and make money and I feel that our oceans and coasts are incredibly precious and I can't see any benefit for it. Even the process itself can be disruptive to the sea life, so why would you do that?

In terms of local protest groups, Oil Free Otago says it has become an issue of democracy. The group's spokeswoman says, "I think it is absolutely astonishing that they have the guts to do it again after the strong opposition to it from the Christchurch City Council last time."



Fifth Global Frackdown Protest

15 October

The the fifth Global Frackdown, an international day of action to challenge the oil and gas industry and ban fracking worldwide has been set down for 15 October.

This annual international protest is each jointly organised by the US-based group Food and Water Watch, and the Belgium-based group Food and Water Europe.

Both groups say they are jointly encouraging a world day of action against the oil and gas industry in order to demand:

*An immediate ban without any exemptions of all types of fracking with regard to the research, exploration and exploitation of fossil energy sources. This ban should apply whether or not the fracturing occurs with or without chemicals, hydraulically or in other ways.

* A halt to the import and export of 'fracked' fossil fuels and a cessation of infrastructure expansion to support this trade.

- * A ban on the injection of the fracking waste as a disposal method.
- * A revision of the existing mining laws. The revision must focus on ensuring the highest environmental standards and the participation rights of the public.
- * A commitment to make the investments necessary for a quick and just transition to a 100 percent renewable energy future.

The organisers claim that the oil and gas industry "has spent millions of dollars on slick PR campaigns and high-profile lobbying efforts to buy the ability to extract fossil fuels from our communities and to expand the global Liquefied Natural Gas network with as little government oversight as possible, all while endangering and destroying our air, water, land resources and our climate."

The organisers also claim that "Fracking is an inherently dangerous practice that has far reaching effects. Gas is not a bridge fuel to a low carbon economy. It is a bridge to environmental destruction and a climate disaster."

Local anti-oil and gas groups are expected to support this protest here. However, to date, there has not been any Facebook events pages set up locally yet for local protests - although last year, protests were held at Paraparaumu and Palmerston North in support of this event.



'Pagans' Protest Against Fracking

15 October

A group calling themselves 'Pagans Against Fracking' have called for a worldwide protest against fracking on 15 October.

In a protest dubbed 'Voices in the Wind', the group is instructing other 'pagans' to: *"Take part in The Warrior's Call's fifth World Wide Ritual and send your own Voices on the Wind as blessing and healing for the Land. On Saturday, 15 October 2016, go*

to a windy place and create ritual space according to your own tradition. Make a sound of blessing and healing with your own voice or the voice of your musical instrument. Let the wind carry it across the Land and the World. To strengthen this act of magic, fly a flag with the Warrior's Sigil."

See: www.warriorscall.org/voices-ritual/



Manawatu Anti-Fracking Event

22 October

Frack Free Manawatu (FFM) is co-hosting a three-hour 'Enviro Fest' at the Palmerston North Library on 22 October, from 1-3pm. This event is being held in conjunction with the Palmerston North City Environmental Trust (PNCET).

It will include a number of presentations and short films, plus afternoon tea. FFM says fracking is a extremely relevant issue in New Zealand with many wide ranging negative effects. It says the main topic covered at this event will be 'fracking' and its adverse effects on bees, public health, and the environment.



Maui Dolphin Event

01 March 2017

The Wellington artist, photographer and Videographer behind this event has postponed it a couple of times but now says it is going ahead on 01 March at Kaiapara. It is being promoted as a music festival focussed on the preservation of the last surviving Maui Dolphins.



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Security Assessment	Threat Level & Colour Code	Required Response
1. Protest Action is unlikely.	LOW (Green)	Normal Routine Protective Security measures are applied appropriate to the individual & current circumstances.
2. Protest Action is possible.	MODERATE (Blue)	
3. Obstructive & Direct Action protest is feasible and may occur.	ELEVATED (Yellow)	Heightened Additional and sustainable Protective Security measures reflecting the broad nature of the threat combined with specific business & geographical vulnerabilities & judgements on acceptable risk.
4. Obstructive and illegal Direct Action protest is very likely to occur.	HIGH (Orange)	
5. Illegal or obstructive Direct Action protest to sabotage operations is imminent.	SEVERE (Red)	Exceptional Maximum Protective Security measures required to minimise vulnerabilities & risk.

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