

PRESS RELEASE

21 July 2014

### **TAMBORAN PLAN TO CONTINUE NATURAL GAS FACT-FINDING IN COUNTY FERMANAGH**

- **No fracking**
- **Plans to drill scientific borehole to collect rock samples**
- **Rock samples help assess extent of natural gas present in Fermanagh**
- **Natural gas supplies could provide NI decades of energy security, multi-billion investment, long-term job opportunities and substantial community benefits**

Tamboran Resources Limited has today 21<sup>st</sup> July confirmed that it intends to drill a scientific borehole to collect rock samples in south west County Fermanagh and no 'fracking' will take place.

In 2011 Tamboran was granted a Petroleum Licence for an initial five year period from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to explore for natural gas in County Fermanagh. The collection of rock samples (core) is a key requirement of the work programme set out by Government within the licence and the company is determined to meet its obligations in full.

Tamboran has today informed the Department of Environment and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment of its detailed plans to carry out this work before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. If granted permission to proceed, the company hopes to be able to commence drilling operations in late August.

The proposed scientific borehole will be about 15cm (6 inches) across and around 750 metres deep. It will be drilled using standard techniques and materials. The drilling operation will be completed in approximately 30 days and rock samples will be examined on site and subsequently sent for laboratory analysis to better understand its content.

The rock samples will be analysed to help confirm the presence of a natural gas source in County Fermanagh. This will enable the company to determine if it will be possible to extract the gas at a much later date, subject to full planning approval.

Making the announcement, Dr Tony Bazley, Director of Tamboran Resources (UK) Ltd said:

*"Tamboran's intention at this stage is only to verify that the elements necessary for natural gas and its recovery are contained within the shale in County Fermanagh. This is fact-finding, not fracking. If County Fermanagh is home to a significant natural gas resource that could provide Northern Ireland with decades of a local secure energy supply then we believe the people have a right to know.*

*"We believe that the presence of natural gas in Northern Ireland could bring considerable benefits to the local and regional economy with the potential for billions of pounds of investment; hundreds and potentially thousands of jobs created locally and importantly for Northern Ireland a secure supply of*

*energy that could last for decades and potentially help reduce local energy costs. However, we first need to make sure enough gas is there to be commercially viable and that we will not know for certain until the end of the licence period. This is just the first stage in that process,”* said Dr Bazley.

The site near Belcoo, County Fermanagh is in an enclosed commercial area already used for heavy industrial purposes that will have limited visual impact. It will be secured on a 24/7 basis and the company will be taking all appropriate precautions to ensure the site is safe for workers and crucially local people. The company can also confirm that it will not seek to ‘frack’ on this site at any time in the future.

Dr Bazley continued:

*“If the indications are that there is not enough natural gas that can be released from the shale rock then we will know this quickly and almost certainly decide not to continue with our investment in Northern Ireland. If we find a significant gas resource is likely we will continue to the end of the licence term in 2016. Before the end of the licence term a single site would be tested for natural gas if given planning permission.”*

*“Any future application will be subject to the strictest environmental, health and safety standards and the public would have their opportunity to participate. This however, is still a long way off and ultimately any decision to use hydraulic fracturing will be made by the Government of Northern Ireland.*

*“We suggest that given the potential benefit this can bring to everyone in Northern Ireland that this deserves serious consideration and debate. We would ask that people approach with an open mind and willingness to listen to all the facts before making an informed decision. We believe the people and Government of Northern Ireland have a right to know if there is gas beneath our feet. People have a right to the facts and that is what we are seeking to establish.”*

**ENDS**

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