

ENERGY & UTILITIES

Onshore Oil & Gas - Shale



Our expertise in the onshore oil & gas sector

Our dedicated Energy & Utilities team is made up of a large multi-discipline group of experienced professionals located across all Addleshaw Goddard offices with a proven track record of working with a blend of utilities regulators, Government, large energy companies and a myriad of developers and funders who are active in the sector.

Our work with the Regulators and Government on the development and interpretation of regulation ensures we understand the regulatory background. We are used to advising on the legal challenges faced by public bodies making decisions and exercising discretion against the background of complex and often ambiguous legislation. In addition, we understand the commercial challenges faced by those operating in the energy sphere, and have the know-how to deliver expert and pragmatic advice.

We understand the industry from all angles which we see as key to providing you the support that you need.

The practice comprises of a core team of partners dedicated to Energy and Utilities work, who have a deep insight of the industry and the people working in it. This team is closely supported by lawyers from across our full service disciplines who are used to applying their knowledge against the background of the energy and utilities sector.

If you are a company wishing to promote a shale gas, coal bed methane or underground coal gasification project in the UK, you will want advisors on call to work with you and your team throughout the exploratory, development and production stages of your project. You will want a advisors who can assist with all the key work streams of funding, public engagement and consultation, real estate and land rights, planning and environmental assessment and obtaining the necessary suite of environmental consents.

If you are local mineral or planning authority charged with consenting an onshore oil or gas project, you will want advisors adept at dealing with controversial and heavily scrutinised projects, so as to minimise risk of challenge and to ensure that you best secure the benefits available to your local community from the proposal being located in your area.

We are that Firm.

We have good practical knowledge of acting for clients in relation to the following issues relevant to taking forward onshore oil and gas proposals Including:

- ▶ Project finance
- ▶ Planning and EIA
- ▶ Conservation Regulations and Appropriate Assessment
- ▶ Water abstraction licences
- ▶ Industrial Emissions Directive
- ▶ Groundwater consents
- ▶ NORM and mining waste permits
- ▶ Flood defence consents
- ▶ Waste management plans
- ▶ Access rights and real estate
- ▶ Petroleum licences
- ▶ Community Development Trusts
- ▶ Hazardous substances consents
- ▶ Health and safety.

Some of the projects on which we have advised in the onshore oil and gas sector include advising:

- ▶ **Gaz de France Suez**, on the purchase of an 1800MW gas fired power station, including the rights in a 30km gas pipeline asset owned by several parties on an industrial complex in Teeside
- ▶ **Seven Energy**, an independent Nigerian oil & gas development and production company, on various equity, equity-linked and debt fundraisings
- ▶ **Viking SeaTech**, an oil & gas services company on its £150m sale to Actuant Corporation
- ▶ **Centrica/British Gas** on the first three biomethane-to-gas grid transactions in the UK (the gas supply agreements and also joint venture arrangements) with various counterparties
- ▶ A subsidiary of **Sonangol** on various aspects of its successful bid to secure two operator licences in Iraq for two greenfield oil and gas concessions
- ▶ **OMV Petrom** on its farm-out to Repsol of a 49% interest in four onshore blocks in Romania for the area deeper than 2,500 – 3,000 metres
- ▶ **Royal Vopak** and **Gasunie** on the €745m project financing and €136m expansion project financing of the Gate LNG terminal in the Port of Rotterdam
- ▶ **Seven Energy** on the US\$225million Accugas II loan facility to project finance the construction of a 40km gas pipeline from Uquo to Oron in Nigeria
- ▶ **Rockhopper Exploration** on various equity fund-raisings generating in excess of £250m in aggregate
- ▶ **Energy Regulator for Northern Ireland** on the purchase of Northern Ireland Electricity by Electricity Supply Board
- ▶ **RBG** shareholders on the £200m sale of RBG, which specialises in the inspection and repair of oil rigs and platforms, to Stork Technical Services
- ▶ **Bifold Group** shareholders, an international manufacturer and distributor of solenoid valves for use in the oil & gas industry, on its tertiary management buyout backed by Lloyds Development Capital
- ▶ **ITT Corporation**, a leading supplier of components and services to the oil & gas industry for use in offshore and harsh climate environments, on various acquisitions and disposals, including its US\$585m acquisition of Godwin Pumps
- ▶ **Silvertech International plc** on the establishment of a JV with Tamimi Company created to become a major supplier in the Middle East of computer based control and safety system solutions to chemical and oil industries
- ▶ **Granby Oil & Gas** on its takeover by Silverstone Energy
- ▶ Various clients on ongoing transactions, including: **Hyundai** on a power station in Saudi Arabia; **Gazprom** on the purchase of a gas supply business; **Diageo**, **Wolseley**, **ABF** and **J Sainsbury** on GSAs and PPAs; **Npower**, **Gaz de France** and **RWE** on PPAs; the sale of **York Gas** (Gas Supply) and the drafting and implementation of the Baltic States gas legislation reform and the drafting of the entire Gas Storage and opening up of gas markets legislation and licences for Northern Ireland
- ▶ Prosecution of **Ensco Offshore UK Limited** following the drowning of an employee when he fell from the offshore drilling platform whilst working from a ladder at the edge of the platform during a de-rigging operation of the temporary flare cooling system
- ▶ Prosecution of **UK Coal Mining Limited** following the death of five employees as a result of asphyxiation, crushing injuries and decapitation. These cases involved a technical understanding of the complex workings of a mine arising out of rock bolting, the operation of powered roof supports and underground atmospheric monitoring.

Contact

Contact one of the team for more information about how we can help your business



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