

Malcolm Webb
Chief Executive
Oil & Gas UK
2nd Floor, 232-242 Vauxhall Bridge Road
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23 February 2010

Dear Malcolm,

The Future of the BGS Core Store, Edinburgh

I write to you on behalf of the members of the PESGB on the basis that we encompass the vast majority of users of the BGS Core Store at Gilmerton, Edinburgh, despite being excluded from the consultation process in 2009. Today we are publishing on our website the results of a survey of members' views on the proposed closure of the Edinburgh facility which you can see at www.pesgb.org.uk. In summary 77% believed the core store should remain in Edinburgh and 89% of active users thought so. You will also see that in the March PESGB Newsletter I have stated my own analysis of the situation and what should be done to resolve it.

I met with Professor Ludden of the BGS last week to share these results and propose that a Steering Group of the real stakeholders should be set up to reconsider the way forward. Professor Ludden appeared to reject this on the basis that the decision was in the hands of higher authorities.

In view of this, I have written to NERC and DECC but I am also asking for support from Oil & Gas UK for the formation of a Steering Group on the basis that this is the only politically acceptable way forward. It would consider;

- What is the purpose of the Edinburgh Core Store – a passive academic archive or a practical working facility or something else?
- What are the true economics of the current operation, what are the future economic constraints, and what are the financial numbers behind alternative ways forward?
- What is the most optimal, viable solution to meet the agreed purpose within the defined economic constraints?

I am also writing to Jon Gluyas, as Chairman of BGS, formally asking that the Board of the BGS reconsider their position at the next meeting.

I'm sure you are conscious that many of our members will be people from the geoscience power-houses of the oil & gas companies operating in the UKCS, ie. your members. I therefore ask you to consider carefully what stance is the most appropriate one for Oil & Gas UK to take. Now that the views of the geoscience community are clearly demonstrated, I urge you to seek support from your members to take an active role in achieving the best solution for our industry.

Yours sincerely,



Henry Allen
President PESGB

Cc: Paul Dymond, Operations Director