

Corporate report: Environment Agency Active Pension Fund annual report and financial statements 2016 to 2017

The report highlights:

- financial performance
- governance
- environmental footprint
- progress towards the funds responsible investment strategy

Corporate report: Environment Agency Closed Pension Fund annual report and financial statements 2016 to 2017

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News story: Ineos is granted environmental permit for exploratory borehole in South Yorkshire

The Environment Agency has granted an environmental permit to allow Ineos Upstream Ltd to drill an exploratory borehole at a site in South Yorkshire.

The 'Standard Rules' permit allows the company to carry out drilling and waste management to take core samples of the rock at Common Road, Harthill. It does not allow fracking.

Standard Rules permits include fixed rules and conditions that cover common,

low-risk industrial activities including low-risk testing. They are issued to companies only after they demonstrate that they understand and can manage the risks to people and the environment.

If the firm wishes to carry out additional activities on the site in the future, such as full well testing or hydraulic fracturing, it must submit a bespoke permit application that is tailored to those activities.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

Our regulatory controls for onshore oil and gas are in place to protect people and the environment. Standard Rules permits are common across industry and maintain high levels of environmental protection. They do not allow companies to carry out fracking – this activity requires a bespoke permit application which would be subject to a site-specific environmental risk assessment and extensive public consultation.

As with all decisions on whether to issue environmental permits, we will assess a company's proposals to ensure they meet strict requirements. If an activity poses an unacceptable risk to the environment, the activity will not be permitted.

A copy of the published permit can be found online at:

consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/ineos-upstream-limited-exploration-sites.

Corporate report: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science annual reports and accounts 2016-2017

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science annual reports and accounts 2016-17.

Corporate report: The Marine Management Organisation annual report and accounts 2016 to 2017

Annual Report and Accounts covers the financial year 2016/17. This paper was laid before Parliament in response to a legislative requirement or as a Return to an Address and was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons.