

Ministry of Petroleum and Energy
Attn: Gunnar Hognestad / Bjørnar Gilje
Oil and Gas Department
Postboks 8148 Dep
0033 Oslo



11 May 2010

Hearing letter Norway 21st Licensing Round

Reference to the letter from the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy dated 16.3. 2010 concerning 'Hearing – proposal on blocks for announcement in the 21st Licensing Round'.

Hess is pleased with the timing of the 21st Concession Round which shows promise that we are back again to the 2-year cycle in the numbered rounds.

We are supportive to the comments and proposals made by OLF in their comprehensive hearing letter, hence no intention to repeat what already has been said.

A few comments/suggestions though for consideration,

- 1) return to 'former established custom' where blocks nominated by at least two companies were announced
- 2) announcement & licencing on the 'play' basis rather than 'prospect' basis would be welcomed particularly in areas such as Barents Sea and Deep-Water Mid-Norway on the grounds of limited infra-structure and hence challenging commercialisation

Looking forward to the Block Announcement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reijo Kangas".

Reijo Kangas
Exploration Manager
Hess Norge AS