



## Hutton Energy Open for Dialogue about shale gas in Hradec Kralove region

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(Náchod, 6 March, 2012) – **Hutton Energy will organize regular Community Forums to offer the public more information about the company’s plans, and the process of shale gas exploration, in the Hradec Kralove region. The Czech Ministry of Environment approved Hutton Energy’s application for shale gas exploration in the area of Broumovsko, Náchodsko and Trutnovsko in December 2011, and the company is committed to open and transparent dialogue to address concerns and explain the benefits shale gas exploration may bring to the region.**

Hutton Energy, a company privately owned with 75% of investment held in Australia, plans

to meet with public regularly and hold a Community Forum every three months to listen to people’s concerns and comments. The Fora will offer information on technical procedures, environmental impact and the possible benefits of shale gas exploration.

Hutton Energy is in Náchod today for a workshop that will bring together many of the leading stakeholders with an interest in this issue.

“Dialogue is necessary as we are aware of the concerns being expressed by people living in the area. They are completely understandable. Hutton Energy is committed to working closely with local communities to ensure that the citizens of Broumovsko, Náchodsko and Trutnovsko are fully informed of our operations and

understand the processes of shale gas exploration. The views of the local community will be taken into account at every stage of the planning process.

That is the reason we are here,” said David Messina, Hutton Energy’s Executive Director.

The Czech Ministry of Environment approved Hutton Energy’s application for shale gas exploration in the Hradec Kralové region on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The company, an expert in shale gas exploration, is also active in other European countries including Poland, Ukraine, Spain and the Netherlands.

“If extraction of shale gas does go ahead in the Czech Republic, it would provide a substantial contribution to local municipal budgets and would create jobs. This could potentially have a transformative effect on the local community,” David Messina adds.

### **About Hutton Energy**

Hutton Energy plc is the parent company of a group of subsidiary companies set up to focus on exploring and developing unconventional hydrocarbon resources in Europe, specifically targeting areas that are prospective for shale gas. Current activity spans Poland, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Spain and the Netherlands. Through its subsidiary Strzelecki Energia, Hutton is the 100% owner of six concessions in Poland totalling approximately 1.3 million acres. Hutton was founded by key players in the Marcellus Shale in North America, identifying shale positions in 2004 and acquiring over 5,000km<sup>2</sup>/1.23m acres of leases. They now have interests in over one million gross acres of shale gas exploration and production in most of the major US shale gas basins.