

## Press Release

### **Hutton Energy's statement on the Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic's announcement of moratorium on shale gas exploration till 30 June, 2014**

(Prague, 3 September, 2012)

David Messina, Executive Director, Hutton Energy:

Hutton Energy regrets the decision of the Minister of Environment Tomáš Chalupa to announce moratorium on shale gas exploration in the Czech Republic till 30 June, 2014.

- The ban on shale gas exploration is difficult to understand and questionable in its ability to be implemented. Many components of shale gas exploration are identical to any other oil and gas exploration. If it is Hydraulic Fracturing that is the concern then the government should focus on this aspect, and not shale gas exploration.
- We suspect that focussing on Hydraulic Fracturing would be an issue for the government as this method has been used in the Czech Republic for 20 years without incident.
- We are therefore sceptical about the true motivation for the proposed legislation changes, as it does not address one of the key concerns in the Czech Republic which is Hydraulic Fracturing.
- Hutton Energy does not propose to drill a well in the Czech Republic until 2015 which removes any possibility of undertaking Hydraulic Fracturing before this time. Hutton Energy, like the Minister of Environment, has always said that technology will improve by this time and the process will be even safer and more acceptable to community. Prior to undertaking any drilling program Hutton Energy has committed to undertake a full Environmental Impact Assessment, like we do in other countries, and all the key issues will be debated by all stakeholders at this time. It is unrealistic and not relevant to undertake that process today when our drilling and fracturing plans are at least three years away.
- Hutton Energy has not been successful in gaining a meeting with the Minister of Environment and is disappointed he has made this decision in the absence of any dialogue with industry which is clearly one of the stakeholders in this process.

### **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.

### **Contact**

**Hutton Energy**, United Kingdom (HQ), 26 Dover Street , London, W1S 4LY

T +44 (0)203 586 1005, [media@huttonenergy.com](mailto:media@huttonenergy.com), <http://www.huttonenergy.com>