

# Environmental Oil and Gas

Our Environment and Safety team is a market leading environmental and safety practice. The team is integrated into the firm's energy practice, one of the largest and most highly regarded energy practices in the world, giving us a particular strength in the energy sector. The team is particularly active in the oil & gas field, advising companies in connection with both exploration and production and downstream activities. The team has been involved in nationally significant oil & gas transactions, including the sale of major portfolios of downstream assets including petrol stations and refineries, and the acquisition of upstream assets in multiple jurisdictions.

"A fine reputation for energy work"

*Chambers UK, 2012*

## Representative Experience

- **Total:** advising Total on all environmental and safety aspects of its pioneering investment in shale in the UK market. Our role included the delivery of advice on the contractual documentation in place for this shale play. We also gave detailed regulatory advice relating to the complex set of environmental and safety regulations which govern an onshore shale project in the UK.
- **PwC:** Advising on all environmental and safety aspects of the administration of Petroplus, principally in connection with the closure of refinery operations at and sale of Coryton and the sale of the Teeside terminal site. We also advised on issues arising under insolvency law for the administrators when operating a high hazard installation.
- **Total Raffinage & Marketing:** Advising on the disposal of Total UK's downstream retail business to Rontec. Work included preparing a vendor due diligence report on HSE matters, drafting bespoke HSE provisions in the sale agreement, advising on contractual negotiations which involved detailed discussions on HSE liabilities, co-ordinating the transfer of over 1000 environmental permits, and advice on residual liability issues post completion.
- **Confidential oil & gas production company:** Advising confidential upstream oil and gas exploration and production company in relation to its crisis management policy and procedures. Work involved analysis of recent crisis; delivering legal workshops with senior management team; drafting crisis response policy and corporate plan; delivery of workshops and briefing sessions to senior level management and board members.
- **Total:** Advising in connection with Greenpeace's Judicial Review of DECC's decision to licence deepwater drilling following Deepwater Horizon. Work included reviewing and advising on merits of claim and strategic options for client.
- **Confidential oil and gas company:** Advising oil and gas company in connection with Environment Agency investigation following significant onshore hydrocarbon spillage in the UK causing environmental damage within protected area of outstanding natural beauty. Work included detailed advice on production of internal investigation report.
- **Centrica plc:** Advising on a new gas storage project involving the conversion of a former producing gas field into a new storage facility. Work included advice on complex regulatory issues including COMAH, hazardous substances

consents and environmental liabilities in relation to the provision of shared services.

- **Total UK:** Performing a detailed historical review of documentation relating to a large and severely contaminated site with complex land use and corporate history. Work on this project included advising on historic liabilities of group companies, dissolved group companies and existing group companies owning contaminated sites.
- **Total UK:** Advising in connection with the wildcat strikes at the Lindsey Oil Refinery. Work included

co-ordination of employment advice and the procurement of an emergency injunction against persons unknown, to protect against potentially disruptive strike action.

- **Centrica Storage:** Advising UK based oil & gas major in connection with environmental and safety related permitting and safety management duties on offshore installation. Work included detailed advice on interaction between multiple regimes, assessment of the new Offshore Safety Directive, and advice on corporate liability for safety incidents.

A "progressive and approachable" firm.

*Chambers UK, 2014*



**UK, 2014**

"Acknowledged waste law and energy expertise and an ability to service clients across the environment spectrum."



**UK, 2014**

An "outstanding department" headed by "Leading Individual" Stephen Shergold.



**UK, 2014**

"They have a huge capability across a broad range and they are very customer-focused."

## Contacts

### Stephen Shergold

Partner

D +44 20 7320 6770

M +44 7778 654425

[stephen.shergold@dentons.com](mailto:stephen.shergold@dentons.com)



### Sam Boileau

Partner

D +44 20 7320 6803

M +44 7786 021441

[sam.boileau@dentons.com](mailto:sam.boileau@dentons.com)



### Eleanor Reeves

Senior Associate

D +44 20 7246 7784

M +44 7795 811736

[eleanor.reeves@dentons.com](mailto:eleanor.reeves@dentons.com)



### Helen Bowdren

Senior Associate

D +44 20 7246 4866

M +44 7768 006770

[helen.bowdren@dentons.com](mailto:helen.bowdren@dentons.com)



### Laura Mackett

Associate

D +44 20 7246 7484

M + 44 7557 495455

[laura.mackett@dentons.com](mailto:laura.mackett@dentons.com)



### Dr Anna Willetts

Associate

D +44 20 7246 4858

M + 44 7554 414724

[anna.willetts@dentons.com](mailto:anna.willetts@dentons.com)



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