

Albacore-1 well dry

21 December 2009 - The Albacore-1 well drilled in offshore north Taranaki has been found to be non-commercial with only traces of hydrocarbons found.

New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd, a partner with operator Westech Energy New Zealand and Mighty River Power Gas Investments, said that the well would be plugged and abandoned after wireline logs had been run to gather additional information.

Albacore-1 reached a total depth of 2,133 m ahead of schedule on 13 December after beginning drilling on 5 December, NZOG said.

The jackup rig ENSCO-107 is to return to Singapore pre-Christmas once a heavy lift vessel arrives.

NZOG said it is to take part in at least three other wells this summer, the Hoki-1 exploration well and two appraisal wells near the Tui oil fields. These wells are to be drilled by the Kan Tan IV semi-submersible rig, which is currently due to arrive in New Zealand in late January.

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