



Energy Transition Working Group: Recommendations to Executive Council

Summary & Recommendations

Following the completion of the 2020 Exploring The Energy Transition (ETET) SIG Membership survey a Working Group was tasked with considering the implications of its responses for the Society as a whole.

The Working Group strongly supports all the draft recommendations of the 2020 Exploring The Energy Transition (ETET) SIG Membership survey; however, consideration should be given on a case-by-case basis to their implications.

It was considered that Recommendation 3, which includes extending the Society's remit to include the broader geoscience community involved in low carbon activities, required deeper discussion and debate. The Working Group recommend that the Society should consider following the scenario Expand (the Society reshapes its Charitable Objectives to welcome subsurface professionals involved in all aspects of Geoenergy but not the broader aspects of the Energy Transition) by means of the following membership vote.

- PESGB should reshape its Charitable Objectives to welcome subsurface professionals involved in all aspects of geoenergy? Yes/No/Abstain answer
- The Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) should change its name to the GeoEnergy Society of Great Britain (GESGB)? Yes/No/Abstain answer

Introduction

During December 2020 the PESGB Exploring The Energy Transition (ETET) SIG published the outcome of their membership survey regarding the Energy Transition, including a series of four draft recommendations, and what it means to/for PESGB members and the PESGB.

The Working Group was tasked with considering the membership's responses to these recommendations and what the correct response should be for the Society as a whole. It is recognized that the Energy Transition is a significant change facing the Oil & Gas industry, and that the ETET SIG are an important voice within the Society, but all member groups within the Society must be considered.

It is important to state that it was not the role of the working group to validate the Energy Transition but to acknowledge that it is a structural change to our industry and that the PESGB will be impacted by the change.

Process

In order to fully consider the response of the membership to the draft recommendations of the ETET SIG survey it was considered important to have a diverse set of opinions and follow an open and transparent review process.

The working group members are listed below and include a wide range of views covering in effect the full spectrum of opinions expressed by the survey respondents. The group also included a range of demographics, professional background and PESGB experience.

James Churchill (Chair / PESGB President / Shell)

Beverley Smith (PESGB Past President / Non-Executive Director)

Julian Bessa (PESGB President Elect / Echo Energy)

Aidan Joy (PESGB Vice President/ Co-Chair of Energy Transition SIG / Carnite Group)

Jade Metcalfe (PESGB Young Person / CNOOC)

Alyson Harding (PESGB Past Secretary / Westwood Global)

Dave Bodecott (Independent)

Matthew Booth (CGG)

Ben Hedley (Dana Petroleum)

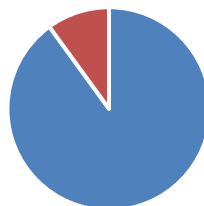
Jon Gluyas (Past PESGB President / Durham University)

Recommendations

1. The PESGB should embrace the future of the energy transition, as well as providing a record of community achievement over decades of exploration and production, specifically in the UK.

Strongly supported with a 9/1 majority.

The PESGB should embrace the Energy Transition
as well as recording community achievements
over decades of hydrocarbon exploration and
production

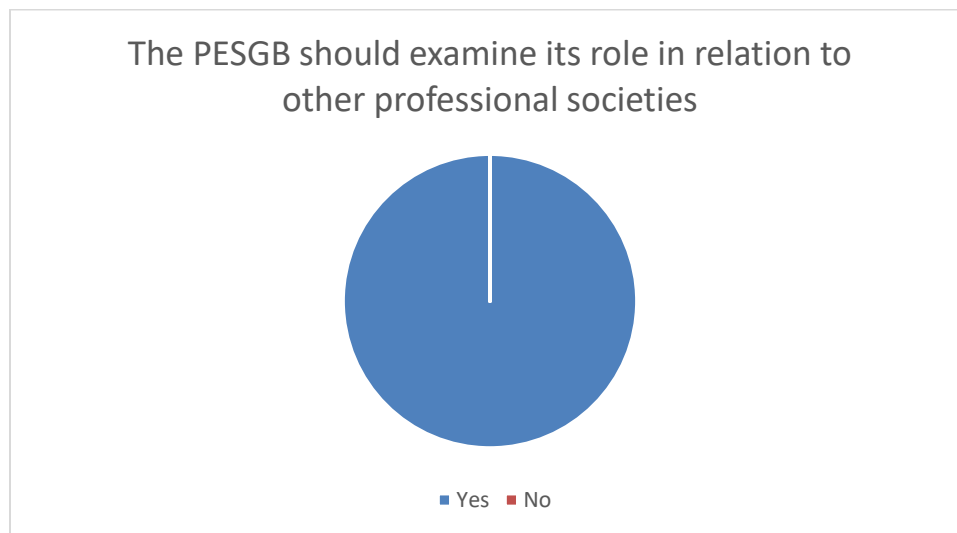


■ Yes ■ No

The Energy Transition represents a significant structural change to our industry and although many energy mixes are prognosed, petroleum will become a lesser proportion of the overall energy generation landscape. Nonetheless, the positive contribution to quality of life and standard of living petroleum has made to the UK, and world, is immense. Consequently, the PESGB should play a role within the recognition of achievements of the UK petroleum industry by either leading or actively participating in appropriate initiatives.

2. The PESGB should examine its role in relation to other professional societies, possibly through a near-term summit of society leaders. There may be a silver lining in the COVID pandemic in that societies are not running the volume of events at the current time, which may provide the opportunity for critical reflection.

Unanimously supported



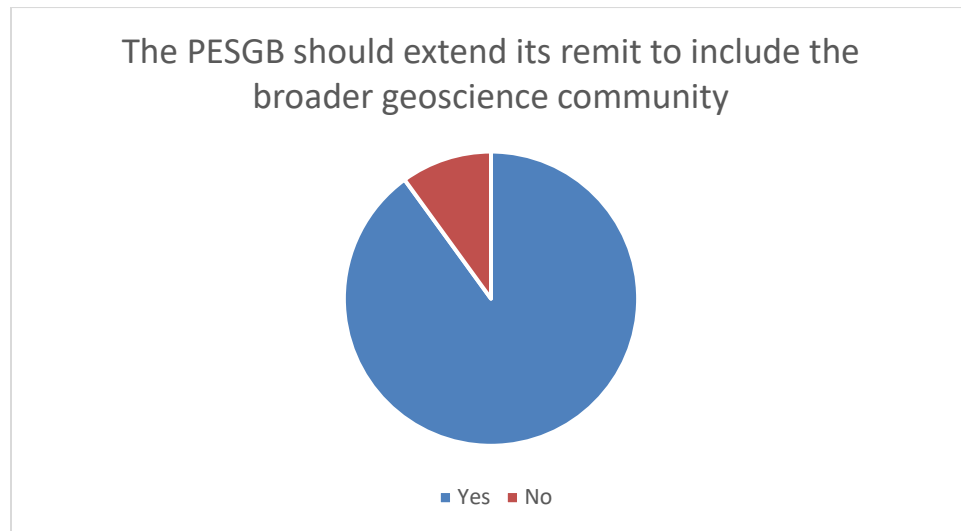
The PESGB has always fostered collaboration with other societies where appropriate and this is set to continue. Examples include but not limited to; DEVEX which is a collaboration with SPE & AFES, joint evening lectures with EAGE and the PGC where the PESGB works jointly with the Geological Society. When considering the Energy Transition, associations may reach beyond petroleum-related societies as illustrated by our collaboration with the Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA) and Royal Statistical Society (RSS).

3. With that recommendation in mind (the PESGB's role with respect to other societies), the PESGB should extend its remit to include the broader geoscience community involved in low carbon activities, both within the UK and internationally. These communities may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Geothermal energy
 - b. Carbon capture and storage
 - c. Hydrogen production and storage

- d. Battery and other energy storage technologies
- e. Nuclear energy

It is recognized that these broader disciplines may have their own professional society representation. However, the aim of this positive engagement is to build bridges between the PESGB and other societies, enabling training options and skills transfer.

Strongly supported with a 9/1 majority.



In the same year that the UK Continental Shelf Act came into force, the PESGB was founded in 1964, aiming to promote the exchange of views and information on the geology and geophysics of the North Sea. The current aims of the Society are to promote, for the public benefit, education in the scientific and technical aspects of petroleum exploration. This belies the true breadth of the Society which includes many members and activities outside true petroleum exploration. As a consequence of formally extending our remit to include the broader geoscience community involved in low carbon activities would mean a change to our Charitable Objects and possible name change to reflect this.

In order to explore the implications of the recommendations a series of scenarios were discussed to assess the implications of changing our remit.

- A. Shut down and start again – the Society is dissolved and a new one is set up with a broader set of charitable objectives to encompass the Energy Transition and give more flexibility
- B. Continue evolving – the Society remains limited by its current charitable objectives with the consequence of partial exclusion of the Energy Transition and broader geoscience community
- C. Merge – the Society merges with an existing society to cover a broader set of objectives and the Energy Transition

- D. Expand – the Society reshapes its Charitable Objectives to welcome subsurface professionals involved in all aspects of geoenergy but not the broader aspects of the Energy Transition
- E. New – Set up a new Sister Society supporting the Energy Transition limited to geo-energy

(In the above definition the term geoenergy relates to the entire range of disciplines, technologies and sources that relate to energy within the geological subsurface.)

Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis was conducted on all scenarios by the Working Group in order to assess the best possible future for the Society. Scenarios A and C were considered non-starters and not at all in the interest of PESGB Members. The remaining scenarios were risked against the following criteria:

- Membership needs (1-5 years forward)
- Membership needs (5 years+ forward)
- PESGB identity
- Cost
- Revenue
- Office
- External pressure
- Management & Council focus for successful execution
- Existing skills & resources for successful execution

	Membership needs (1-5 years)	Membership needs (5 years+)	PESGB identity	Cost	Revenue	Office	External pressure	Management & Council focus for successful execution	Existing skills & resources for successful execution
Continue evolving - the Society remains limited by its current charitable objectives with the consequence of partial exclusion of the Energy Transition and broader geoscience community									
Expand - the Society reshapes its Charitable Objectives to welcome subsurface professionals involved in all aspects of geoenergy but not the broader aspects of the Energy Transition									
New - Set up a new Sister Society supporting the Energy Transition limited to geoenergy									

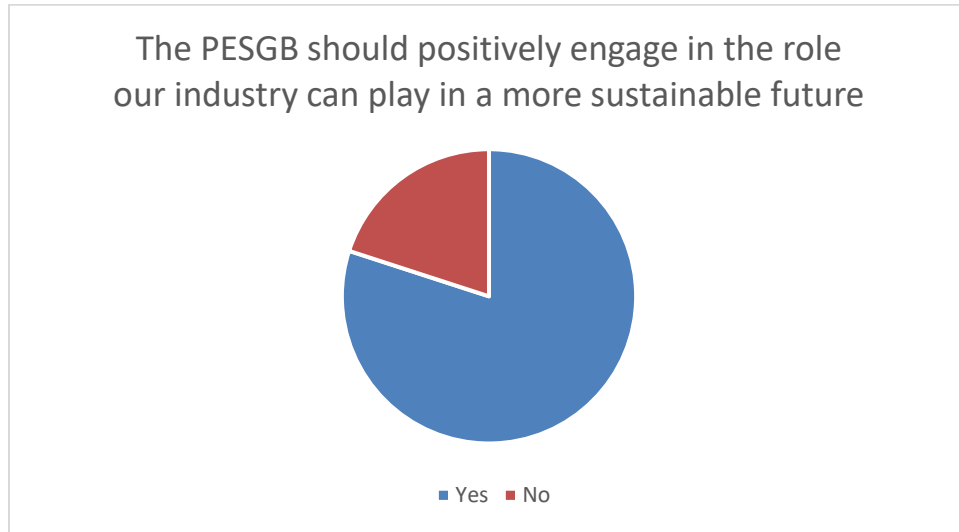
Positive impact
Negligible/Mixed impact
Negative impact

The scenario favoured by the Working Group based on the survey responses is to Expand – the Society reshapes its Charitable Objectives to welcome subsurface professionals involved in all aspects of geoenergy (but not the broader aspects of the Energy Transition).

To reflect the change in Charitable Objectives and formal expansion to include the broader geoscience community involved in low carbon activities, it is also recommended by the Working Group that a name change from the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) to the GeoEnergy Society of Great Britain (GESGB) is considered.

4. Many participants feel that the PESGB plays a stronger role in engagement, particularly around the role of petroleum in public perception and the role that the industry can play in pursuing a sustainable future. Although an immense challenge, the PESGB must find ways to engage positively.

Strongly supported with an 8/2 majority.



This recommendation is a continuation of Recommendation 1. Providing a record of community achievement over decades of exploration and production will form part of a stronger public engagement, and as part of the discussion of the role petroleum can play in a sustainable future. However, the PESGB is not a trade organization or lobbying group, so should not pursue or participate in events which can damage the reputation of the Society. For example, publicly promoting the positive role that petroleum can play within future energy mixes may alienate key partner groups such as Universities and STEM Teachers. The role petroleum does and will play within a sustainable future is a nuanced debate and the PESGB should choose its participation very carefully until the public conversation has matured in order to best serve its Members.

Recommendations

The working group strongly supports the recommendations of the ETET SIG Member survey and many of them are already being implemented within the Charity's business. However, Recommendation 3 (the PESGB should extend its remit to include the broader geoscience community) requires wider engagement and support from the Membership before and change to our name and/or Charitable Objects. The members of the PESGB are our community and we use this 'ethos' to inform all our decision-making. Consequently, such a constitutional change should be put to the Members as a vote in the following form.

- The PESGB should reshaped its Charitable Objectives to welcome subsurface professionals involved in all aspects of geoenergy? Yes/No answer/Abstain

- The Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain (PESGB) should change its name to the GeoEnergy Society of Great Britain (GESGB)? Yes/No answer/Abstain