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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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1986 No. 980

GAS

**The British Gas Corporation (Disposal of Wytch Farm Oilfield Rights) Direction 1986**

<i>Made - - - -</i>	9th June 1986
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	9th June 1986
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	1st July 1986

Whereas the Secretary of State has consulted the British Gas Corporation in accordance with section 11(1) of the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Act 1982 (a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and has had regard in particular to the matters specified in section 11(2) of the Act;

And whereas the Treasury have given their approval to this direction in accordance with section 11(8) of the Act;

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under section 11(1) of the Act and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby gives the following direction:—

1. This direction may be cited as the British Gas Corporation (Disposal of Wytch Farm Oilfield Rights) Direction 1986 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1986.

2. In this direction—

"the Corporation" means the British Gas Corporation;

"GC(E)" means Gas Council (Exploration) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Corporation;

"relevant interest" means any interest specified in paragraph 2 or 3 of the British Gas Corporation (Disposal of Wytch Farm Oilfield Interests) Direction 1981 (b);

"right" includes a right which is in the nature of a contingent or retained right;

"the Treasury Solicitor" means the Solicitor for the affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury acting on behalf of the Treasury.

3. The Corporation shall exercise their powers under section 9 of the Act by—

(a) transferring to the Treasury Solicitor, as soon as reasonably practicable and without payment, any rights specified in paragraph 4 of this direction which are vested in the Corporation; and

(b) exercising their control over GC(E) so as to cause GC(E) to transfer to the Treasury Solicitor, as soon as reasonably practicable and without payment, any rights specified in paragraph 4 of this direction which are vested in GC(E).

4. The rights mentioned in paragraph 3 above are—

- (a) a right to the payment of any sum being a right granted, whether wholly or partly, as consideration for the sale of any relevant interest;
- (b) a right to any mineral oil won and saved by virtue of any relevant interest or to the payment of any sum as consideration for the sale of such mineral oil being, in either case, a right granted or allowed by the purchaser on the sale to it of a relevant interest; and
- (c) a right which was granted to secure, or which is otherwise incidental to, a right mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) above.

5. Nothing in this direction shall require the Corporation to transfer, or to cause to be transferred, any right which is solely related to gas.

*Peter Walker,*  
Secretary of State for Energy.

6th June 1986.

We approve this direction.

*Tristan Garel-Jones,*  
*Donald Thompson,*  
Two of the Lords Commissioners of  
Her Majesty's Treasury.

9th June 1986.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Instrument.)*

The direction contained in this statutory instrument requires the British Gas Corporation to transfer to the Treasury Solicitor, on behalf of the Treasury, rights vested in the Corporation on the disposal by them of interests in the petroleum production licence relating to an oilfield in the vicinity of Wytch Farm in Dorset. The direction also requires the Corporation to secure a similar transfer of rights by the Corporation's subsidiary company Gas Council (Exploration) Limited.