



To Paul de Clerck
Milieudefensie

From Eric Bouwmeester

E-Mail eric.bouwmeester@fortis.com

Subject Brantas Production Sharing Contract

Datum 6 May 2007

Ref.

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Dear Mr. De Clerck,

In response to your letter concerning the Brantas Production Sharing Contract and the Sidoarjo mud volcano catastrophe we would like to state the following;

Although we highly regret the catastrophic situation in Sidoarjo, we believe it does not lie within our sphere of influence to address this issue. The reason we do not have sufficient impact to contribute to a solution is that we are not directly involved in the Brantas Production Sharing Contract and have only minor interests in the companies involved.

Based on your letter and assumed relationships with the companies involved, Fortis confirms relationships with two of the involved companies, being Energi Mega Persada and Medco Energi Internasional. However, those relationships clearly deal with activities other than the Brantas Production Sharing Contract and Fortis has only a very limited and indirect role. This very limited influence and the fact that it is very clear Fortis is in no way directly involved in the Brantas Production Sharing Contract, has made us decide not to further address this situation.

In response to the last point mentioned in your letter concerning our general social and environmental policies for investments in exploration and exploitation of oil and natural gas projects, please note that Fortis already takes into account environmental and community safety issues in those projects. In 2006 Fortis was among the first banks to endorse the revised Equator Principles, ensuring that the projects we finance are implemented in a socially responsible manner and reflect sound environmental management practices.

We hope we provided sufficient information to explain our position. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,
Eric Bouwmeester

Fortis
*Corporate Social
Responsibility*

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