KEY FIGURES FOR 2015

Natural gas and oil resources

The natural gas resources as at 1 January 2016 are estimated at 910 billion Nm^3, of which 663 billion Nm^3 are in the Groningen gas field. The small fields in Netherlands Territory (i.e. onshore) contain 120 billion Nm^3 natural gas; those in the Dutch sector of the continental shelf contain 127 billion Nm^3 natural gas.
Oil resources at 1 January 2016 were 31.6 million Sm^3, of which 20.5 million Nm^3 are in onshore oilfields and 11.1 million Sm^3 in fields on the continental shelf.

Hydrocarbon licences

As of July 10th 2015 the government has indicated that commercial exploration and production of shale gas will not be allowed the coming 5 years. As a result the open applications for extension of the exploration licenses “Noord-Brabant”, “Noordoostpolder” and “Peel” on the Netherlands Territory have not been granted and have therefore expired. The exploration license “Opmeer” has been extended by two years.
The production licenses “Drenthe IIIb” and “Andel V” have been split into two new production licenses, this so as Vermilion can exploit fields in these areas.
Five exploration licences for the continental shelf were issued in 2015.Of these Hansa was awarded three exploration licenses in the N-blocks which neighbour the German sector. The blocks D9 and E7 have been combined in one license area. The exploration license Q13b-diep was combined with exploration license Q13-ondiep, thus reversing the vertical divide for the Q13-b area. This vertical combination of exploration license was also carried out for F14-ondiep and F14-diep, which are now simply F14.
29 exploration licences were extended for the continental shelf. Four of these extensions resulted in a restriction of the license area. Centrica relinquished their exploration licenses in the E-blocks. Total also relinquished their exploration license for F12 after drilling a dry exploration well. The last quarter of 2015 saw four more exploration licenses being relinquished. Three exploration licenses were not extended and automatically became open area.
The production license “P11a” was awarded in September of 2015. Application for the production license was received in December 2014.
2015 saw the first split of a license under the “Fallow acreage” incentive: the N7b production license was split into two new licenses of which one was transferred to another party.
One of the oldest production licenses, “K6 & L7”, would have reached the end of it’s’ 40 year life in 2015; this license was extended by 5 years.

For details, see chapters 3 and 4 and annexes 2, 3, 9 and 10.

Wells

In total, 35 wells were drilled for oil and gas, 18 less than in 2014. Eleven exploration wells were drilled in 2015. Of these, 8 found gas, thus the technical success rate was 73%.In addition, four appraisal wells, 14 production wells and 4 wells for gas storage and underground observation were drilled (Territory plus continental shelf). Details can be found in chapter 7 and summary -table 2.

Natural gas production
In 2015 the volume of natural gas produced from Dutch fields was 49.8 billion Nm^3. Onshore gas fields accounted for 35.4 billion Nm^3. Of the total of 34.5 billion Nm^3, 7.3 billion Nm^3 came from small fields and 28.1 billion Nm^3 from the Groningen gas field. The gas fields on the continental shelf produced 14.4 billion Nm^3. As a result, total production in 2015 was 24.5% less than in 2014. For details, see chapter 9.

Oil production
In 2015 a total of 1.7 million Sm^3 oil was produced. This is 8.5% more than in 2014. Territory (i.e. onshore) fields accounted for 0.3 million Sm^3, which is 12.1% more than in 2014. Production on the continental shelf was 1.3 million Sm^3 , an increase of 59.5%. Average daily oil production in 2015 was 4536 Sm^3. For details, see chapter 9.

Underground storage
In 2015 no new applications for storage licences were submitted. Two licences applications submitted previously are still in the procedure. These licenses are for storage of a filler in order to stabilize a salt cavern and the storage of brine. The storage license for brine held by Vitens expired in 2015 and the date of commencement of the Taqa CO_2 storage licence has changed. For details, see chapter 10.

Coal
There are no developments to report for 2015. There are still five coal production licences in force. See chapter 11.

Rock salt
In 2015 one exploration licence application which was applied for before 2015 was still in the application procedure. In addition one production licence for rock salt expired. In total, 16 production licences and no exploration licences were in force at 1 January 2016. Production of rock salt in 2015 was 6.7 million tonnes. For details, see chapter 12 and annexes 5 and 6.

Geothermal energy
In 2015 there were six new applications for exploration licences for geothermal energy and five exploration licences were issued and three applications were rejected. A re-evaluation of the extent of the license area was done in three licenses in order to allow exploitation of geothermal energy; “De Lier”, “Delft/Pijnacker” and “Californië”. This reevaluation comprised transfers, joining and splitting of existing licenses.
Twelve exploration licences expired and one was relinquished by the licensee. In these areas no geothermal sources were realised. Licensees applied for and were granted extension of nineteen exploration licenses.
In 2015 one production licence was issued; Bleijswijk 1b. An application for a production license was submitted for the “De Lier” area in 2015.

For details, see chapter 13 and annexes 7 and 8.