

Silence is golden for South Hook locals

An LNG carrier boasting upgraded diesel generator silencers passed an informal noise test at a UK terminal this week.

Residents close to the South Hook facility in Wales reported that the 216,000-cbm Tembek (built 2007), which had proved particularly noisy on its first visit in March 2009, was so silent that several did not even know the ship had berthed.

"It's good to know (a noise-free visit) can be achieved," one said.

Locals remain cautious, however, about the upcoming arrival of the 266,000-cbm LNG newbuilding Shagra, which was due to deliver a cargo

to the Milford Haven terminal this week.

The Q-Max proved troublesome on its previous two visits despite undergoing what is said to have been a silencer retrofit prior to its delivery.

Tembek was one of 14 Q-Flex and Q-Max vessels that South Hook said has undergone silencer upgrading work (see table above).

Pembrokeshire County Council Port Health Authority has logged statutory nuisances against several of the large ships.

Terminal operator South Hook said noise monitoring and analysis by independent specialist consultants continues.

TREADING LIGHTLY

Qatari-controlled Q-Flex and Q-Max with silencer upgrades

Ship	Size	Built	Owner
Tembek	216,000	2007	OSG/Nakilat
Al Hamla	216,000	2008	OSG/Nakilat
Al Gattara	217,000	2007	OSG/Nakilat
Al Gharrafa	215,000	2009	OSG/Nakilat
Al Ruwais	210,100	2007	Pronav/Nakilat
Al Gharriya	210,100	2008	Pronav/Nakilat
Al Safliya	210,100	2007	Pronav/Nakilat
Duhail	210,100	2008	Pronav/Nakilat
Mozah	266,000	2008	Nakilat
Al Mafyar	267,335	2009	Nakilat
Al Mayeda	267,335	2009	Nakilat
Bu Samra	267,335	2008	Nakilat
Mekaines	267,335	2008	Nakilat
Umm Slal	267,335	2008	Nakilat

Source: South Hook LNG