



## Translated version of the Letter sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate

Dear Sir,

We kindly request your attention for the following: We, dGB Earth Sciences B.V. and PanTerra Geoconsultants B.V., are service companies working in the geoscience industry. We are the initiators of the petition to enhance the accessibility of public data that are released under the Dutch Mining Law (Mbw chapter 7, articles 123-125). We request these data to become accessible in alignment with The Open Group OSDU™ Forum data platform Technical Standard - a widely supported open-source initiative within the Energy sector.

We regularly use these data, specifically for studies we are performing in regards to energy transition. As commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, Mining Law data is made publicly available by TNO via the NLOG portal. A decade ago, The Netherlands was a frontrunner when it came to releasing these valuable data to the public. However, in 2021 this is no longer the case. A modern database that aligns with current international and European standards is of crucial importance for:

- The development of sustainable energy from geothermal sources.
- Properly mapping the boundaries of ground water boundaries for drinking water supply (ASV's and NGR's) in depth.
- To reuse and dismantle the current oil and gas wells and infrastructure, including monitoring in the aftercare phase of the mining activities.
- Underground storage of hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub> in existing gas fields.
- The current oil and gas E&P activities.
- Risk management of subsidence and seismicity as a result of gas exploitation.
- etc.

Unfortunately, the current Mining Law data platform that is managed by TNO is seriously outdated. The delivery of data from NLOG, and the absence of an underlying database built on modern open data standards are the reasons why currently only a small portion of the data is used by service companies and local government agencies. In practice this leads to suboptimal study results, larger uncertainties and increased financial and HSE risks. Moreover, valuable information remains hidden because the data, in its current outdated form, is unsuitable for data mining with modern Machine Learning techniques. In addition, the limited accessibility of Mining Law data clutters

the transparency of government policies based on subsurface studies, resulting in a decrease in social support.

Finally, NLOG does not support effective sharing and integration of interpreted data, much of which are generated in projects that are subsidized in the framework of the ongoing Regional Energy Strategy (RES).

We are of the opinion that we can and must do better. In fact, we believe that the targets set for energy transition cannot be met if the outdated NLOG portal is not soon replaced by a modern and accessible platform that meets current standards. Such a database needs to be harmonized with the guidelines and the technical standards that have been developed by The Open Group OSDU™ Forum.

Within the national geoscience community and service companies there is significant support for creating a modern database for Mining Law data, and the execution of such a project in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, TNO, EBN and the Energy industry. Included in this letter you will find signatures of all geoscientists that support this petition to get the creation of a comprehensive, consistent, open-source well database for the entirety of The Netherlands on the agenda.

We would greatly appreciate receiving a response to the following questions:

1. Does the Minister share our opinion that an updated modern databank is necessary in accelerating energy transition?
2. That such a database should be ready for data mining with modern Machine Learning techniques?
3. That interpreted well (and seismic) data (co-financed by the government) should be released to the public.
4. How does TNO, the current manager of Mining Law data and the NLOG portal feel about the application of an OSDU™ data platform?
5. Is TNO, the current manager of the Mining Law data and the NLOG portal, prepared to collaborate with service companies and use their expertise in the interpretation and implementation domain in order to accelerate replacing NLOG by a new modern database?
6. Are the other managers of the Mining Law data, such as SodM and EBN prepared to collaborate with TNO and the industry to jointly work toward a faster realization of such a data platform?

Dutch service companies, including dGB, PanTerra, together with experts from other institutions would be happy to deploy their knowledge and experience to realize this important innovation project for The Netherlands. We believe that improving the quality and the accessibility of Mining Law data will lead to a future-proof data provision that greatly enhance and accelerate energy transition in The Netherlands.

We look forward to receiving your response.

On behalf of the initiators of the petition to support the creation of a comprehensive, consistent, open-source well database, for the entirety of The Netherlands and the undersigned service companies.

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