
Iran warns companies on South Pars

press tv - 20/4/2008

Iran Deputy Oil Minister Hossein Noqrekar Shirazi

An Iranian oil ministry official says the deadline set for Royal Dutch Shell and Total is set in stone and will not be delayed.

Hossein Noqrekar Shirazi, Iran's deputy oil minister for international affairs, said if the partners backtrack, we will turn to other companies to develop the South Pars gas-field project, like what we did in Japan's IPEX case.

"We sent a good message to those who waste our time through IPEX and will replace them if they fail to come up with their commitments," Shirazi said on the sideline of the 13th International Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals Exhibition.

Total and Royal Dutch Shell authorities said they rejected any timeframe set by Tehran, but the Iranian official said the projects would be relinquished to other high-qualified companies to under take the project, the official said.

"Of course, it should be noted that Total and Shell are not willing to lose the opportunity," he said, tacitly warning that the Iranian companies are able to accomplish the projects and will go ahead if the companies would not step in.

However; he refrained to mention the name the would-be substitute if the two mentioned companies retract the project.

"We have made a clear pact with Total and Royal Dutch Shell and now we should ask who had stonewalled the implementation of the accord and what the reason behind the long-term hiatus is," the deputy minister posed.
