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16/03/2025

To

Amy Taylor - Case Officer

Planning Department

North Yorkshire Council

County Hall

Racecourse Lane

Northallerton

DL7 8AD

Re: Planning Ref. No: NY/2025/0030/ENV Europa Oil and Gas application for appraisal drilling at Burniston Mill Site

Dear Amy,

I am writing in connection with the above Planning Application made by Europa Oil and Gas for the construction, drilling and testing of this site to extract gas through a proppant squeeze process.

Though I do not live in the area my family have lived in Scarborough and the area for hundreds of years. My parents have made the decision to retire to Cloughton because of the beauty and tranquillity of the area. I regularly bring my family up to stay in the area, I stay in local accommodation and make use of local shops, pubs and restaurants, we make

good use of the Cleveland way and Cinder track and am horrified at the concept of this area being turned into the "UK's largest on-shore gasfield".

Reading though the their environmental impact it seems their constant reason impact is negligible is that its only a short term thing, its only one borehole..... However their intent is also clear that they want to extract gas here from multiple locations for 20 years. That must form part of your decision process. That said I believe that even in the short term their impact will be significant and my objections are the same for both the short term and their intended development, so I hope you reject this application.

Having considered this fully, I wish to object for the following reasons:

1. Net Zero Targets & Climate Change

The world is now seeing the impacts of climate change on our world and our country. The continued burning of fossil fuels is speeding up that process and is leading to extreme weather everywhere and all indications are its only going to get worse. Our government has set targets to get to net-zero, therefore this application is a direct contradiction of the government's policy and goes against the feelings of most people in this country.

In order to get to net zero and slow down climate change protecting the world for our children and grandchildren we must stop our love affair with fossil fuels we have already almost got rid of Coal. As a nation we must increase our research and development into green and renewable energy sources. Oil and gas companies must be forced into not reducing their so called commitment to sustainable energy but into massively increasing in it as a means of survival as a company.

Fossil fuel sources are dwindling, the industry as it is, is an industry without any long term future, it is a dying industry. As sources become more difficult to find and extract the cost not only to the planet but to the consumer can only massively increase. What fossil fuels are left should be left where they are in the ground.

So I object to this application on the grounds of its contribution to climate change and its does not help with the government's policy to achieve net zero.

2. Impact on Local Environment

The whole area is a beautiful place, the heritage coastline, national park, fantastic scenery and walking. The cliffs that the proposed site are only a few hundred metres from are fragile, the industrialisation of this area can only further weaken the cliff edge and lead to collapse of parts of the cliffs.

There is also a risk of contamination of the water table from the chemical fluids they intend to put down them. The area is farmland, farmers rely on clean uncontaminated water supplies. The application documentation recognises this is a risk but states that mitigation techniques will minimise the risk. This is not a guarantee; do you really want to take the risk on the people health and livelihoods and the economic future of the areas villages.

Even in the short term that this particular application covers the visual impact on the local environment is significant. People will see the drilling rig they will hear its activity. This may only be a single rig Europa say will not significantly impact the locals and the environment. These people do not live in the village and do not know or understand or care about the feelings of people. Then they say if successful they will want to go full blown extraction for the next 20 years with multiple sites in the area, totally industrialising the

area. If they do this how will they then get the gas to the grid? They will have to build pipelines again destroying the local environment and the people who live here.

I object to this implore you to think not only as they wish you to do a short project but on Europa's intent for the future if the gas is found to be profitable. Yes it may be a separate application that they would need to do, but then the local villages will be put through the pain and heartache of all this multiple times. They do not deserve this and Europa do not deserve the right to destroy these villages for the sake of profit and their shareholders.

3. Concern at the risk of Seismic Activity

Though they say that this does not meet the definition of 'Fracking' covered by the current moratorium. It is still a form of Hydraulic Fracturing of the target sandstone where they drill deep then push fluids at high pressure to fracture and leave fissures open to allow gas to flow more freely. Europa have said there is no risk of seismic activity, but what is a safe pressure to pump fluids into a site to guarantee there is no risk of some seismic activity, everyplace is different so they can only assume through modelling there is not a significant risk. Consider the local geology into which drilling will occur, it is known there are fault lines in the areas where drilling will take place. Where these are is not known exactly and this greatly increases the risk of seismic activity. They cannot guarantee there will be no issue and as there is a risk of 'tremors'.

I object to this application for the safety of the communities they intend to drill under.

4. Impact on Local Tourism Economy

As I've said I am not a resident but my family and my family's history is in this area. I and my family are part of the tourist trade areas like Scarborough, Whitby and the villages relies on to survive. The potential impact on that industry and hence the livelihoods of locals are put at risk. Who would want to visit a place where its strapline has become "The largest on-shore gas field in the UK".

Even though I have family in the area I would probably not be so keen to bring my family here or leave them with their grandparents for long summer holidays if it's a gas field with all its supporting industries.

Europa made claims that it will create jobs and be a net positive on the local economy. But the vast majority of jobs coming in the area will be taken up by their own specialist workers from out of this area. The tourist industry supplies far more employment to locals in the area than Europa ever will, resulting in a negative impact on local employment. With the negative impact on the tourist trade the overall impact is negative on our local economy. There are no benefits to the local communities only negatives, so I object to this application.

5. We do not need the gas for energy security

The trend in the use of gas is going down. The emphasis needs to be in growing renewables and green technologies. Europa say this will lead to a drop in the reliance on imported gas, it will reduce the price we pay. However, the gas is not guaranteed to be sold to and used in the UK. It is sold on open markets and its global markets that set the prices of energy, also the gas they would produce accounts for a tiny fraction of the gas needed so has no significant impact on the country's energy security. The only way to truly gain energy security is to increase research and development of renewables and green sources. Oil and gas are dying technologies, that is a fact. so I object to this application on the basis of its supposed energy security basis.

I hope that my concerns are fully taken into account by the Planning Committee during your review process.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Dunkerton