

Fiona Mullane
67 Red Scar Lane
Scarborough
YO12 5RH

19th March 2025

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.

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

1. The site is very close to the **National Park** and proposes to “frack” within the National Park boundary. This will be devastating to our beautiful countryside and the heritage coastline and the Cleveland Way, with the knock-on effect of damaging tourism in the area on which many businesses rely to survive.

This is a protected space and should not have any kind of activity of this kind within or close to its boundaries. Proppant squeeze is just another term for fracking but using less pressurised water. The effects of this are still unknown and fracking was banned for a number of good reasons.

Any drilling sites will inevitably include noise, vibration, smell, light and dust pollutants as a necessary side effect of drilling. This will have a detrimental effect on the surrounding area and beyond.

2. **Increased traffic** – according to conservative reports, 1000 additional HGV journeys will be required to service the site and its needs. This is a quiet, rural part of the country and the additional polluting traffic will have a detrimental impact on road safety and the quality of the air.

3. **Negative impact of industrial development** on local homes, businesses and the amenity value of the National Park and its environs. We already have a potash mine (Anglo American) (less than 10 miles up the road which has impacted negatively on the rural nature of the local area with unsightly mineheads and extra traffic (with no benefit to the local economy) – there is

an additional mine at Boulby. Another industrial development on a scale of this size (if gas is found, there are likely to be 4 additional rigs erected to access it) will have a significant and detrimental effect on this area. Any claim by Europa Oil and Gas that this project will result in local jobs for local people is absolutely without basis – as we have seen from the Anglo American project. Almost all the work on that site is done by expert contractors, many from other countries. Very little benefit has been experienced by local people, despite promises in the development stage of that project. Big businesses will say anything to get what they want – and I reiterate that any claim that this will be of benefit to the local economy is absolutely without basis and should be ignored when considering the application.

4. The **risk of earth tremors** is real and of deep concern. Particularly around the area that I live in, there is hard clay layered with shale which makes it unstable due to water rising through the fissures resulting in land slip on my property (anyone is welcome to come and view this as part of a survey if they want – address above) and moving on from this – there are many gypsey springs in the area to the south of the proposed extraction area (Red Scar Lane) where water feeds up from below, and filters into the water table. The aquifer for this area will be affected by any tampering with the water supply below ground, resulting in **contaminated water supply**.


5. My final point is on **climate change** – this country is committed to reducing its emissions on its route to carbon neutral. Burning gas will produce more methane and CO₂, both of which we are trying to reduce. Other gas sites in the country have been shut down due to downstream emissions. We need to move to clean energy production, not gas production.

Allowing even a licence to investigate or survey the land for the presence of gas will have a seriously detrimental effect on the local area. It will open the floodgates for Europa to push for additional licences to drill with larger and larger areas being affected by drilling.

As I have said previously, fracking has been banned for good reason. “Proppant squeeze” is another term, invented by lawyers, to overcome this ban by claiming that is it something other than fracking. This is totally misleading and the application by Europa Oil and Gas to frack in this area should be rejected at the first hurdle.

The proposed project by Europa Gas and Oil to extract gas from this site using fracking by another name will be an absolute, unmitigated disaster for this area, local people and their homes, tourism, the climate, the water supply, the stability of already unstable cliffs, the amenity value of the National Park. It should be rejected immediately and for the long term.

I hope that my concerns are fully taken into account by the Planning Committee during your review process and I would be grateful if my name and contact details could be added to any database you use to issue news bulletins on this issue.


FIONA MULLANE



