

18 Wandales Court
Burniston
Scarborough
North Yorkshire

18th March 2025

Amy Taylor
Planning Department
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Racecourse Lane
Northallerton
DL7 8AD

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: NY/2025/0030/ENV

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing regarding 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.

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

I believe this would effectively involve fracking, which I am vehemently opposed to as it would damage the atmosphere; climate change cannot withstand additional deterioration.

The new Labour government is committed to banning fracking for good and I am flabbergasted that this request for exploration is even on anyone's agenda.

The Labour Manifesto in July stated that: 'We will not issue new licences to explore new fields because they will not take a penny off bills, cannot make us energy secure, and will only accelerate the worsening climate crisis.'

Europa can dress it up by insisting it is not fracking but a 'proppant squeeze' which, in my opinion, is not much different. The suggested proppant squeeze involves a large drill being inserted directly into the ground which has far-reaching implications of fracturing below ground level that could affect all neighbouring communities in the area - with increased risk of underground tremors due to the site being directly above a major fault system underground (Peak Fault).

This exploration which will last for 27 weeks initially will have a massive impact locally. The site is within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast, which includes the coastal footpath, and the North York Moors National Park is only 800m to the north of the site. These plans have the potential to negatively impact a beautiful part of the countryside - home to a thriving local community and host to numerous visitors each year who come because of the natural world. Scarborough also depends on visitors for the survival of trade.

As well as the 1000 plus HGVs to-ing and fro-ing on our already busy narrow roads causing further congestion, the ins and outs at the actual site for such vehicles could aggravate navigation problems for the resident coast guard in response to an emergency at sea.

The drilling will be deafening and it is known that drilling causes pollution in the atmosphere with the release of greenhouse gases including Methane. There will be dust and light pollution 24/7 with the burning off of gas (gas flaring) emitting toxic fumes and horrid smells. The water supply may be at risk of contamination. This will adversely affect the community.

On a personal level, I walk the coastal path/cinder track every day (rain or shine) because of its ability to keep my mental and physical health from deteriorating further. I believe my walking routes around this area will be affected by the presence of an unsightly drill structure 30 metres high. It will spoil the view along here and has the potential to dispel numerous varieties of birds through dust, smells and noise the drilling will cause. The wildlife will find new places to live and there will be no point in walking around the area to improve mental and physical health because there will be nothing to enjoy.

I live behind Pricky Beck on an over-55s housing scheme and can see part of the coastal path from my window, where I often watch the horses in the farm fields and enjoy the birds, badgers, squirrels, pheasants, foxes and occasional deer that frequent this part of North Yorkshire - in the gardens here and along Pricky Beck up Rocks Lane towards the cliffs and down to the sea. There is already evidence of some subsidence in parts of this small housing scheme and I am concerned that this could worsen if the drilling causes tremors to result in further underground fracture of the area.

I am also concerned about dust because, depending on which way the wind blows, it would probably reach this housing scheme [REDACTED]. Hence my need to walk out in fresh, clean air to benefit my overall health is necessary.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

An additional concern is that I have been informed that several other areas are awaiting the outcome of this decision as a test case and, if it is successful, more applications will be submitted to councils for approval. This then beggars the question: What is the point of anyone trying to combat climate change if this exploration goes ahead?

I hope and pray that these objections and those of others will be fully taken into account during your review process.

Yours faithfully

Julie Fairweather (Mrs)

Signed 19th March 2025

A signed copy also posted by snail mail