From:	planningregister@northyorks.gov.uk
To:	Planning Control
Subject:	New comments for application NY/2025/0030/ENV
Date:	20 March 2025 18:01:38

New comments have been received for application NY/2025/0030/ENV from Mrs Dawn Hopper.

Comments:
Objections to the Proposed Fracking Site in Burniston, North Yorkshire

1. Proximity to Protected Areas

Heritage Coast: The proposed fracking site is within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast, an area designated to preserve its natural beauty and ecological importance. Industrial activities like fracking threaten these landscapes by introducing air, water, and noise pollution. The site is located just meters from Burniston Bay, an area of outstanding natural beauty, increasing the risk of marine contamination. Fracking chemicals and wastewater spills could harm local marine life, including seabirds like puffins, kittiwakes, and guillemots, which rely on clean waters for survival.

Water Contamination: Fracking involves injecting high-pressure water, chemicals, and sand into the ground. There is strong evidence that this process can contaminate groundwater, affecting drinking water supplies and local ecosystems.

Air Pollution: Fracking releases volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and methane, both of which contribute to air pollution and can negatively impact respiratory health.

Seismic Activity: Fracking has been directly linked to earthquake activity, as seen in both the UK and the US. The fracking site at Preston New Road, Lancashire, triggered multiple tremors, leading to a moratorium on fracking in the UK.

(Reference: Drill or Drop article, "Plans for gas drilling and small-scale frack on North Yorkshire Heritage Coast," published July 15, 2024, available at https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fdrillordrop.com%252f2024%252f07%252f15%252fplans-for-gas-drilling-and-small-scale-frack-on-n-yorks-heritage-coast%252f%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-3bde7ae1a82ea95eb4af0787da8d3b060ffb29ed&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973045650%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bCdo50ttCkwxBw2Cu8rsJ8lP3Hpkdrj2g2kxgV0M86A%3D&reserved=0)

National Park Vicinity: The site is dangerously close to the North York Moors National Park, raising serious concerns about the potential impact on protected ecosystems. Industrial development of this kind could lead to habitat degradation, landscape disruption, and pollution that would negatively affect both wildlife and tourism.

(Reference: CPRE North East Yorkshire statement on fossil fuel extraction proposals in the national park setting, available at https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.cpreney.org.uk%252fnews%252ffossil-fuel-extraction-site-proposed-in-the-setting-of-national-park%252f%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-c17f62da2dd8eb469be078659f66a4c044305314&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973081947%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zn%2Bn2ao428GoLnwpKtACOFHo%2BbLtw0suyHYSYByrv9k%3D&reserved=0)

2. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Requirements

Council's Stance: North Yorkshire Council has ruled that the proposed drilling could cause significant environmental damage, requiring a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This assessment must evaluate effects on local wildlife, water resources, and the wider ecosystem.

Company Response: Despite a ministerial ruling that an EIA is not mandatory, Europa Oil & Gas claims it will conduct a study. However, we have repeatedly seen environmental assessments either ignored or manipulated to downplay risks. Burniston itself has witnessed similar cases where regulatory oversight failed to protect local communities.

(Reference: The Scarborough News article, "Council rules that Burniston drilling rig plans must come with environmental assessment despite developers' assurances," available at https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.thescarboroughnews.co.uk%252fnews%252fpeople%252fcouncil-rules-that-burniston-drilling-rig-plans-must-come-with-environmental-assessment-despite-developers-assurances-4727426%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-c012e6941aadb7d06358b1b0846722039163bc55&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973100254%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fk7qOFVI4VIPDx%2FjLVxWU1FYNa40PxiFIUxR1BVMsCs%3D&reserved=0)

3. Regulatory History of Europa Oil & Gas

Europa Oil & Gas has a track record that does not inspire confidence. Investigative reporting in The Canary (October 2024) revealed that the company attempted to bypass court-ordered emissions requirements, raising serious doubts about its commitment to environmental safety.

If a company is willing to dodge legally binding rules on pollution, how can the public trust it to conduct honest environmental assessments or operate safely?

(Reference: The Canary article, "Fracking Scarborough: Europa Oil & Gas attempts to dodge emissions rules," available at https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.thecanary.co%252flong-read%252f2024%252f10%252f04%252ffracking-scarborough-europa%252f%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-a34864ce7d062da3c9329d9d9d8abdc5a0fadbe1&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973115697%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pRayElpzV1vIGDl3SNazysBYhmLdx9LaD08nAyQBQGE%3D&reserved=0)

4. Climate Change Impact and Fossil Fuel Lock-in

Fracking is fundamentally at odds with the UK's legally binding net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050. Methane leaks from fracking are 80 times more potent than CO over a 20-year period, making them a major contributor to climate change.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has repeatedly stated that fracking is inconsistent with the UK's climate goals.

In Lancashire, the Preston New Road fracking site was shut down due to excessive methane emissions, contradicting industry claims of "clean" extraction.

(Reference: CCC report on UK climate commitments and fracking's impact, available at theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming)

5. Public Health Risks

Numerous studies have linked fracking to serious health problems due to air and water contamination.

Respiratory Issues: Increased air pollution from fracking sites worsens asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Toxic Chemical Exposure: Fracking fluids contain carcinogens and endocrine disruptors. Leaks and spills expose both humans and wildlife to harmful substances.

Radioactive Waste: Some shale formations contain radioactive materials that can be released during fracking, creating long-term contamination risks.

Real-world examples:

Lancashire (UK): Residents near the Cuadrilla fracking site at Preston New Road reported increased air pollution and health issues.

Pennsylvania (USA): A 2019 study found that children living within 2 km of fracking sites had higher rates of asthma and birth defects due to exposure to airborne pollutants.

(Reference: British Medical Journal report on fracking and health, available at https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.bmj.com%252fcontent%252f361%252fbmj.k23975%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-c43889e5ff994aaf7b1156e799e7cbac05fa0536&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973130583%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FqylOgz7%2FVhxlP%2F1rdV36LI95znkWbORWWVPcZWvhMQ%3D&reserved=0)

6. Economic and Social Implications

Tourism Impact: North Yorkshire's economy depends on tourism, with visitors drawn to its coastline, national parks, and outdoor attractions. Fracking threatens this industry by introducing industrial activity, pollution, and landscape degradation, deterring visitors and harming local businesses.

Long-Term Economic Stability: Unlike fracking, renewable energy projects provide sustainable economic benefits:

The Dogger Bank Wind Farm off the Yorkshire coast is expected to power six million homes and create long-term jobs.

Fracking, by contrast, follows a boom-and-bust cycle, creating short-term jobs before companies abandon sites, often leaving taxpayers to cover clean-up costs.

Property Devaluation: Homes near fracking sites suffer reduced value due to concerns over pollution, noise, and health risks.

Lessons from Lancashire:

When fracking was halted in Lancashire, the local economy did not suffer, as the industry provided only temporary jobs with little long-term benefit.

The area also experienced earthquake-related damage, highlighting the risks of allowing such projects in seismically sensitive areas.

(Reference: UK Government Offshore Wind Strategy, available at https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.gov.uk%252fgovernment%252fpublications%252foffshore-wind-sector-deal%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-aa0804954b7ddba61ccf2df185a50695e592df17&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973144030%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JHTokilVSC7ii1sNjqxiiDOYBzZuGG958mOeJZ8nAbg%3D&reserved=0)

7. Regulatory and Policy Considerations

Fracking Moratorium Loopholes: Despite the UK government's fracking moratorium, this proposal highlights existing loopholes that allow projects to move forward in sensitive areas. Local councillors and environmental groups have called for stronger regulations to prevent similar applications.

(Reference: "Call for fracking loophole closure after application for Burniston rig," This is the Coast, available https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.thisisthecoast.co.uk%252fnews%252flocal-news%252fcall-for-fracking-loop-hole-closure-after-application-for-burniston-rig%252f%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-bd3a5635c371e0f70bcf4eb8f2bf41bb00259bda&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973158770%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=swDO9iYy08arR2VNvvouZm09BCVkG47hiC8x6zo8W60%3D&reserved=0)

Conclusion

The proposal has sparked significant opposition from residents and environmental groups concerned about pollution, environmental degradation, and the industrialization of a rural area. No one in the village supports this application!

Yorkshire Post: https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.yorkshirepost.co.uk%252fnews%252fenvironment%252fburniston-oil-and-gas-company-submits-full-plans-for-drilling-rig-off-yorkshire-coast-5023464%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-08c3a650be290373a3f3f5603c73183392243914&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973173220%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7GPsBjAbK65ZvBhHpHSwto%2BuADNF7ErzSU44ESvp2%2Bs%3D&reserved=0

Political Involvement: Local politicians, including the MP for Scarborough and Whitby, have expressed concerns regarding the project's potential environmental and community impacts.

https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.yorkshirepost.co.uk%252fnews%252fenvironment%252fburniston-oil-and-gas-company-submits-full-plans-for-drilling-rig-off-yorkshire-coast-5023464%253futm_source%253dchatgpt.com%2523%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-78e3075ad7b1081f1e685482d420fb60926a39f6&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973190272%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E8rYb1Avg5BMiCQbcdAoqjdb8EQvRl8g5iVR9%2FeUoMg%3D&reserved=0

The proposed fracking application near Burniston, North Yorkshire, is unacceptable due to its environmental risks, regulatory failures, and strong local opposition. The public has no confidence that proper assessments will be carried out-or that, if conducted, they will be respected given the track record of this company. https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.thecanary.co%252flong-read%252f2024%252f10%252f04%252ffracking-scarborough-europa%252f%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-a34864ce7d062da3c9329d9d9d8abdc5a0fadbe1&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973207663%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mwH5w3bKADEo678Jv2VU4swoQlyCs4CRh8C9F3UyyJA%3D&reserved=0

Given that this application was only possible via a loop hole in the fracking ban to start with: https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fimsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com%2Fwis%2Fclicktime%2Fv1%2Fquery%3Furl%3Dhttps%253a%252f%252fwww.thisisthecoast.co.uk%252fnews%252flocal-news%252fcall-for-fracking-loop-hole-closure-after-application-for-burniston-rig%252f%26umid%3D898359C1-30C9-DB06-912A-1CE979EAD0B6%26auth%3Dde41389fcd07b045c2bf0b8b6a6bb2cde097bfb7-bd3a5635c371e0f70bcf4eb8f2bf41bb00259bda&data=05%7C02%7CPlanning.Control%40northyorks.gov.uk%7C018abc50b8cc40f2734908dd67d94145%7Cad3d9c73983044a1b487e1055441c70e%7C0%7C0%7C638780904973227204%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HG0uN%2FbR7yvL%2BjKISxulaBPpJGOtVZZ9grEqSrIAooQ%3D&reserved=0

Plus given the overwhelming evidence against fracking, this project must be rejected to protect the environment, public health, and the region's long-term economic future.