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**From:** 23 March 2025 17:57  
**Sent:** Planning Control  
**To:** application reference NY/2025/0030/ENV  
**Subject:**

Dear North Yorkshire Council,

I am writing to express my strongest possible objection to the application by Europa Oil & Gas to create an onshore gas field at Burniston, at the northern edge of Scarborough. I am objecting on the grounds of; harm to the environment; traffic impacts; climate-related impacts, and concerns regarding harm to local amenity.

North Yorkshire Council, as part of York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership has stated its support for the government's aim for the UK to be net carbon neutral by 2050 and its ambition to be the UK's first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040. How can it possibly hold this aspiration, and not have policies in place to refuse this application? You have a moral obligation to the people who live, work and visit the area, to refuse this application. It totally contradicts everything that you say you stand for, and if you represent the aspirations of the Community, against the desires of the residents in North Yorkshire. Furthermore, the UK has legally binding commitments under the Climate Change Act to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Approving this new gas projects would increase fossil fuel dependency and potentially derail progress toward these targets. As you will know, recent studies indicate that if the world is to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, most fossil fuel reserves must remain unexploited. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has also stated that no new fossil fuel projects should be approved if we are to meet climate goals. Surely you cannot give permission to drill, even just to explore, in the face of the legal and moral commitments.

Although the proposal is described as 'proppant squeezing', this is only technically possible because the volume of liquid injected is below the limits included in the current definition of fracking. What evidence or global acceptance is there that this definition is safe and correct? What allowance or consideration is there for the condition or nature of the substrate that they are drilling and injecting into? Is a 'one size fits all' approach really acceptable on something that could have such devastating consequences? Proppant squeezing is still fracking, just at a lower volume. The risks are well known. The potential harm to the environment is colossal. Even at lower volume 'proppant squeezing' will still cause environmental harm. There will still be gas flaring sending toxic fumes and greenhouse gases up into the North Yorkshire sky. There will still be the obnoxious smells blowing in the sea air, and it is impossible to predict whether there is a risk to underground water supplies. Other UK gas sites have been shut-down due to harmful gas emissions. Is the applicant somehow expecting this not to happen here?

This development if permitted will also undoubtedly have a significant detrimental impact on tourism, one of the areas' key sources of income, supporting hundreds if not thousands of local, hardworking families. Even a small reduction in modest local business incomes is not acceptable, at the expense of profits for global investors, which will bring no benefit to the local economy. If we are lucky, the jobs provided might just compensate for the livelihoods lost; but would you prefer to see a multi-national investor who will walk away as soon as they have taken all they can, no doubt leaving their scars in the landscape that will take generations to heal, or see the long term growth and endurance of our local tourist industry? Why would holiday makers chose to come and stay in the shadow of a fracking site, with its gas flaring and smells, when there are lots of other places to go that don't have this? The site is very close to the National Park and close to already weak and unstable cliffs. Applying subterranean pressure cannot possibly do

anything but put these and the wildlife that depend on the habitat at risk. An unnecessary and unacceptable risk.

As a North Yorkshire resident who highly values the quality of our environment, our dark skies, our countryside and coastline, as someone who regularly visits the area for a wide range of leisure activities, and as someone who is committed to doing whatever we can to minimise the rise in global temperatures, I implore you to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully

Chris O'Neill  
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