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**From:** 26 March 2025 10:29  
**Sent:** Planning Control  
**To:** Planning Application: NY/2025/0030/ENV  
**Subject:**

4 Coastal Road

Burniston

YO13 0HR

11th 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

Construction of a temporary wellsite for the appraisal of gas, including drilling operation, proppant squeeze and flow testing operation and site restoration

Dear Amy,

**As there appear to be issues with responding to this planning application through the NYCC planning website, this objection is being submitted via email as directed.**

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. I am firmly of the opinion that the method of exploration which is proposed by Europa Oil & Gas is "hydraulic fracturing" under another name, and the use of the phrase "proppant squeeze" is purely a means of circumventing the moratorium on "fracking". The effects on this site of the introduction of materials under pressure to force the gas out of the rock is unknown and the fact that the drilling site sits

directly above a major underground fault system (the Peak Fault), I believe, makes the risks undesirable for the residents of Burniston.

2. **Environmental Pollution:** This application is basically a request for Industrial Development in a rural setting! Precious farmland will be destroyed and/or seriously compromised, especially if further sites are allowed in future. The drill site is VERY CLOSE to homes in the village and I believe that the village will be disturbed by Noise from continuous 24 hour drilling, and light pollution from floodlighting which would be used to light the working area.

3. The building of the drilling tower will be a detrimental to neighbours whose residences are close to the site on Coastal Road and become be an eyesore in the village as a whole. It is totally incongruent with the rural environment of the village and the neighbouring National Park whose boundary is within 1km of the site.

4. The flaring of gas from this tower will introduce light pollution to the area and release toxic polluting fumes and smells into the atmosphere at a time when we should be considering stopping burning of fossil fuels in order to reduce such actions in the interest of combating climate change.

5. **Water pollution:** We cannot be sure that the water table will not be compromised by the polluting materials being pumped into and from the drill-head site to perform the exploration. As well as a potential damage to water supply for human consumption there will undoubtedly be damage to the natural environment affecting wildlife and fauna in the area. This type of effect has been noted at other Gas exploration sites in the UK.

6. **Access:** It is proposed that the first stage of the drilling process will last 37 weeks and involve in excess of 1000 (one thousand) HGVs bringing equipment and materials to and from the site on Coastal Road. The proposed route for these HGVs cited by Europa Oil & Gas appears to be along Seamer Road and/or Filey Road, along Falsgrave/Scalby Road through residential areas of Newby, Scalby and into Burniston These large vehicles will then be expected to manoeuvre around an incredibly small mini roundabout at the junction of Scalby Road/Burniston High Street/Coastal Road.

While this would appear to be the ONLY route to access the site, I would challenge whether this is a safe and acceptable route for the amount of traffic expected.

In addition, it is unlikely that this route would provide ADEQUATE ACCESS to the site by Emergency Vehicles in the event of some catastrophic event requiring their attendance.

During Summer months, the junction of Scalby Road/Coastal Road in Burniston is always incredibly busy with normal holiday traffic, introducing additional HGV traffic to service this development will only cause unacceptable disturbance to residents and also cause detrimental damage to the road surface which is already in a poor state of repair in places.

7. **Climate change:** we are told by the government, is at a critical point and the government is seeking to move to renewable, clean energy. Gas production of this type will have a negative effect on climate change, and there is evidence that other UK gas sites are being shut down due to excessive downstream emissions.

I do not believe that exploration of the gas field will hold any benefit for the residents of Burniston. Claims that the site will bring employment is a nonsense as the work will require skilled personnel who will undoubtedly be sourced by the company from workforces further afield.

Europa Oil & Gas cannot guarantee that any gas produced in future would be for the benefit of local people. It will **NOT** reduce our energy bills as these are based upon the wholesale price of fuels. Any gas produced from this site will most likely simply enter the National Grid for which Europa will gain payment and profit at the expense of inconvenience to local residents.

Europa Oil & Gas claim that "locals will not be affected by this"! This is an incredible statement on their part!

8. **Tourism:** Scarborough is an area (which includes Burniston) which historically has, for the main part, been dependent on tourism for its economy rather than industrial development. The site is close to the Heritage Coastline and Cleveland Way and the North York Moors National Park. The coastline is known for instability due to their predominantly clay configuration in the area and we should be concerned that drilling may cause further deterioration of this area of beauty.

Were the development to go ahead, it will be to the benefit of Europa Oil & Gas **BUT** to the detriment of the Residents and tax payers of Burniston, and I would urge the planners to consider the local opinion which should matter.

9. The introduction of the excessive HGV traffic will have an immediate effect on my ability to enjoy my home and garden. The Human Rights act 1998 states that "Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law."

I firmly believe that allowing the development of this development in the village of Burniston, and the accompanying increase in traffic, pollution etc will breach that right and do not believe that it can be excused "in the public interest".

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

Yours sincerely,

Michael Naylor  
4, Coastal Road  
Burniston