

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Control](mailto:planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Planning Application NY/2025/0030/ENV
Date: 07 April 2025 08:06:02

Subject: Objection to Planning Application NY/2025/0030/ENV

To: planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk
FAO: Amy Taylor, Planning Department
North Yorkshire Council

Dear Ms Taylor,

I am writing to formally object to the planning application NY/2025/0030/ENV submitted by Europa Oil & Gas, concerning exploratory gas drilling near Burniston, Scarborough.

Although the application describes the use of “proppant squeezing,” it is in essence a form of hydraulic fracturing. The process involves injecting fluids and proppants under high pressure to fracture rock formations and release gas — a technique clearly intended to bypass the narrow technical definition of “fracking” as per current UK legislation. It is, effectively, fracking by stealth.

As someone who frequently visits the North Yorkshire coast, has previously lived there over several decades, and has strong ties to the area, I am deeply concerned about the implications of this proposal. In addition, having previously worked within the UK gas industry, I bring with me a professional understanding of the practices and risks involved — my objection is not only as a local resident and visitor, but as someone with informed, justified concern based on industry knowledge.

1. Environmental Impact (Short and Long Term):

The proposed site lies close to the protected Heritage Coast, an area valued for its natural beauty and biodiversity. The process of fracturing rock layers carries significant risk of groundwater contamination due to the use of toxic chemicals, many of which have not been adequately disclosed or assessed. In addition, the disposal of flowback fluids can release radioactive substances, including radon, which pose long-term risks to the environment and public health. These substances are notoriously difficult to manage and often persist in the ecosystem for decades.

2. Traffic and Public Safety:

The increased industrial traffic from heavy vehicles supporting drilling operations will place a significant burden on rural roads. This will increase air pollution, noise, congestion, and risks to public safety, particularly in smaller communities and visitor hotspots.

3. Climate Commitments:

This application is entirely at odds with local and national efforts to reduce fossil fuel dependence. Approving new gas exploration in 2025, when we are meant to be transitioning to renewable energy and meeting net zero targets, sends the wrong message and undermines the UK’s credibility on climate action.

4. Amenity, Landscape and Tourism Impact:

The North Yorkshire coast is cherished for its peace, natural beauty, and ecological richness. It supports a thriving tourism industry — one that would be threatened by the

noise, industrialisation, and environmental risk associated with gas extraction. Once damaged, this landscape cannot be restored.

Given these serious concerns — from environmental and geological risks to climate and amenity impacts — I urge North Yorkshire Council to reject this application in full. The precautionary principle must apply here, especially in a region with an already fragile and valued coastal landscape.

Please confirm receipt of this objection, and I would appreciate being kept informed of any further developments regarding this application.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Plumb
Pear Tree Cottage, Great Habton, Malton. YO17 6TU