

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Planning Control](#)
Subject: App. ref. NY/2025/0030/ENV
Date: 07 April 2025 10:52:12

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to state my opposition to the plans submitted by Europa Oil and Gas to drill for gas near Burniston.

Government reports that I have read state that the UK is currently secure in its supply of gas and oil. There is no national shortage. Moreover, gas produced in the UK is sold on the open market: there is no guarantee it will not be exported. New gas fields are purely for commercial reasons.

However my main concern is the proposed extraction technique. "Proppant squeeze" is a form of hydraulic fracturing. Large volumes of mains water and additives will be pumped underground at high pressure to fracture the rock.

Hydraulic fracturing was suspended in England in 2017, when a series of seismic events at a test frack near Blackpool resulted in damage to nearby properties. The volumes quoted may be sufficiently below those given in the current moratorium not to qualify as "fracking". However by employing high pressure water and additives to extract the gas, "proppant squeeze" will pose the same risks and problems, including the following.

The technique demands large volumes of mains water, at a time when water quality and supply are becoming a concern.

The technique is itself energy intensive as the solution has to be pumped at high pressure. This requires a large site to house the diesel generators, pipework, water tanks and other containers.

The yield of gas and oil extracted under pressure decreases rapidly and so such wells have a much shorter productive life than conventional wells, requiring on-going development and stimulation of the wells. This is therefore an intensive and continuous process. This in turn has implications for the volume of traffic, for example in delivering the water and other elements of the proppant, and then its removal and safe disposal.

Given the experiences at the Cuadrilla Blackpool site in 2017 - and these were only "test fracks" and on a sub-commercial scale - it is clear that this is still a very unpredictable technique. Seismic events (mini earthquakes) such as in 2017, the risk of pollution of drinking water by ruptured wells (Scarborough and district draws its drinking water from aquifers) and other environmental dangers associated with "squeezing" gas and oil from the ground may be less of an issue in more sparsely populated regions of the USA or Australia. This industrialization of a rural community, largely dependent of agriculture and tourism, must not be allowed to happen in the villages to the north of Scarborough, where I grew up.

Mr S. H. Jennings

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