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Categories: [REDACTED]

FAO Case Officer: Amy Taylor

I am writing to you regarding the recent planning application made by Europa Oil and Gas in order to construct, drill and test the site named as the Burniston Mill Site. My objection to this application is set out as follows:-

1. BACKGROUND AND POLLUTION

In 2019 Cuadrilla's Preston New Road Site was closed and a moratorium was imposed on fracking in the UK. This was due in the main to a large number of earth tremors that impacted locally and asked huge questions regarding the whole procedure of fracking in general.

To manoeuvre around this, companies like Europa have come out with a rebranding of **FRACKING** called **PROPPANT SQUEEZING**. This will not mean that the problems confirmed at Preston New Road will have gone away. The fracturing of rock continues by hydraulic means and so it is still fracking.

Pollution of ground water - chemicals/gel are mixed with water during the process. Water contamination is more likely to occur at the point of the gas extraction because of faulty well casing and cementing. Once contamination starts it is almost impossible to contain. There are many natural water supplies in the area of the Burniston Mill Site.

Seismicity - the unpredictability of earth tremors has already been proven by the Preston New Road site. The site at Burniston will drill more than 2000m below ground and 1700m to the South West of Burniston. This may well impact on local residential properties and businesses. This is an area close to the coastline including fragile cliffs that have already suffered from coastal erosion and landslips.

Noise pollution - is likely to be impacted by the increase of heavy vehicles on the narrow road systems in the nearby villages to the Burniston site. In particular to residential properties close to the site and the chosen routes of these vehicles as this is a 24 hour round the clock operation. This will impact on sleep patterns and therefore affect ability to function at work, drive to and from work. Children will also be affected at home and at school, in turn determining their development at an important time in life. There will also be the noise from the site itself impacting on the immediate neighbourhood and wildlife.

Light pollution - this is a problem wherever construction takes place on such an industrial scale and is multiplied at night. The nightglow from the Burniston Mill Site will affect the local wildlife population, migrating birds routes changing as they approach the coast or alter their rest patterns. Local people living nearby will endure changes in their sleep patterns. This problem was acknowledged at the Preston New Road site when Lancashire Director of Health suggested that people living nearby the site could be offered blackout blinds.

Greenhouse gases - onshore drilling will increase this. **FLARING** is a major contributor as this is a way of disposing of unwanted gases and is a continuous 24 hour operation. This emits pollutants such as **methane, black carbon (soot), nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxide, carbon monoxide** and various volatile organic compounds. All of these have an impact on climate, air quality and subsequently our own health.

2. Onshore Gas? No Need!!

- Consumption of domestic gas is falling as renewables increase to meet the demands of the domestic market.
- Supplies from the North Sea and Norway will continue to meet demand until we transition more fully to renewables.
- UK consumption of its own produced gas is less than 1% of the total as of the end of 2024
- Norwegian gas, received by pipeline to the UK is much cleaner (on average) than UK produced gas according to Government data.
- There isn't any guarantee gas extracted in the UK will be sold to the domestic market. Prices are determined by a volatile global energy market that fluctuates on a daily basis. **The UK cannot impact global energy prices as our volumes are so small.**
- The Government's **CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE (CCC)** argue that the best way to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels is to boost renewables and therefore reduce the need for fossil fuels.

3. Alternatives

Renewable energy is mainly derived from solar energy, wind power and hydropower. However, some countries are more aligned with biomass energy and geothermal energy. All these energy systems, particularly solar and wind have become significantly cheaper and more efficient over the last twenty years. Renewable energy is growing year on year within the global energy market as the use of fossil fuel continues to shrink.

Renewables make a difference:-

- **less air pollution**
- **improved public health**
- **no noise Pollution**
- **no earth tremors**

4. The Heritage Coast and Europa

Being a relative newcomer to this beautiful area of Burniston I am disgusted at the lack of sensitivity and plain common sense with regard to this planning application. The construction of a major industrial site will impact on local residents and visitors to the immediate and surrounding area.

Europa could not have chosen a more inappropriate site. **The Cleveland Way** follows the nearby coastline, where walkers would have sight of Europa's construction. This long-distance pathway follows the coast of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park. There are especially scenic cliff-top views in the vicinity and the whole of the Cleveland Way is rich with birdlife and opportunities to spot seals and dolphins along the coast.

This is a fragile coastline that **needs protecting not fracking.**

There is also the nearby Cinder Track running from Whitby to Scarborough, a 21.7 mile walk or cycle route built on the original railway track. An investment has recently been made to improve a 2½ kilometer stretch of the track from the two villages of Burniston and Cloughton. This was in partnership with North Yorkshire Council and the Sustrans Charity which promotes walking and cycling and funding was provided from the Department for Transport (DFT).

The Burniston end of this much improved track is very near the proposed site. The track is linked by a crossing on the coastal road and will impact on walkers, cyclists, families with children and young ones in prams as well as people using wheelchairs.

North Yorkshire Council's executive member for highways and transport, Cllr Keane Duncan, said: "We are very proud of the significant improvements we've made to this stretch of the popular Cinder Track. The feedback from locals and visitors alike has been extremely positive, with this major investment allowing more people than ever before to enjoy the beauty of the North Yorkshire's coast. We are committed to enhancing the Cinder Track further and will seek to make extra improvements in the future."

The above is a direct quote as published in The Scarborough News on 09/12/2024.

This willingness and collaboration with different groups is an example of the care and need to protect and improve the area for local residents and visitors alike rather than the undoubted destruction that would arrive with the heavy convoys of Europa.

Europa Oil and Gas is a partner of Egdon Resources Limited. They are now heavily influenced by an American company **HEYCO Energy Group Inc.** of Dallas, US. Heyco are concentrating on opportunities in Europe but particularly in Spain and the UK. They are also an independent operator in the Permian basin in the US.

In September, 2023 **Heyco Energy Group** acquired Egdon Resources Ltd. and with regard to the oil and gas licence concerning the Burniston site, **Heyco** have a **40%** stake, **Petrichor Energy UK** have a **20%** stake and **Europa** a **40%** stake.

William Peter Holland was appointed as a Director of Europa Oil and Gas Limited on 04/10/22 and is the spokesperson for the company. During a brief interview on BBC Look North in March this year he stated there "**won't be a problem with air quality, public health, seismic activity and HGV traffic**".

TO MAKE A STATEMENT LIKE THIS IS A COMPLETE FALSEHOOD.

For example, seismic activity is extremely unpredictable as Preston New Road proved. Cuadrilla initially denied the problem and then had to accept the tremors were caused by their fracking operations. **An expert cannot state there won't be a problem.** It is clear by this type of dishonest statement what the company intentions are and there is a total disregard for the local community, its values and habitat.

If Europa is given the green light the Burniston site could, in the future, be the biggest onshore gasfield operating in the UK. The largest one at present is the Saltfleetby natural gas field operated by Angus Energy. This was discovered in 1996 and brought into production in December, 1999. We are not talking about short term arrangements here and this operation will continue into the next decade and likely beyond that.

According to an **Investor Presentation** by **William Holland of Europa** this is exactly what the Burniston Mill Site and thereafter the surrounding areas within North Yorkshire would be competing with and could eventually become.

THERE IS NOTHING TEMPORARY ABOUT THIS, IT IS A LONG TERM PLAN THAT WILL ESCALATE. On 14th February 2025 Europa referred to retention of equipment on site. This would not be the case if the plan was temporary.

Regards

Barry Duffy

31C, Limestone Grove,
Burniston
YO13 0DH

Sent from my Galaxy