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Sent: 16 April 2025 21:29
To: Planning Control
Subject: #Ref: 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

Categories: [redacted]

#Ref: 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 Sir/Madam,

I refer to the planning application submitted by Europa Oil and Gas on 6 March 2025. I would like to express my **strong objection** to this application. This development, in my opinion, is totally contrary to **North Yorkshire Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030**. In this Strategy, on page 7, it states that "In July 2022, recognising the scale of the challenge, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and requested this Strategy to set out how North Yorkshire Council will play its part in responding to the challenge".

Part of the Council's duty within the Strategy is to recognise when proposed developments being considered as part of the planning process within its geographical area, contradict this Strategy and therefore refuse them accordingly. It is interesting to note that in Europa's Planning Statement, under Chapter 5 – "Relevant development plan policies and Material Considerations" (pages 22 to 32) it makes no reference to the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

I believe that Europa Oil and Gas proposals, if allowed to take place, will significantly increase the overall carbon footprint locally. In their Planning Statement (February 2025) on page 10 they submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Opinion to the Council on 12 July 2024. The Council issued a screening opinion on 1 August 2024. They stated:

"….in the opinion of NYC, the proposed development was likely to give rise to significant effects on the Environment, notably in respect of land and visual, transport and access and cumulative effects".

Although the context of this opinion was to, in the Council's view, require Europa Oil and Gas to carry out a full EIA as part of any formal planning application, it does support my view that this development will have a detrimental effect on the local environment. This will be not only in terms of significant gas emissions during the initial development phase of 37 weeks to which this application relates to, but also the large volume of HGV vehicles servicing the site. Europa's Planning Statement on page 19 estimates well over 1,000 extra HGV vehicle movements over the 37-week period. This breaks down to 664 in the 1st 14 weeks and 490 in weeks 15 to 37.

In addition to the toxic gas emissions from the site itself and HGV vehicle movements, there will be considerable noise and odour/dust emissions that will cause a real nuisance to residents living within the North Scarborough, Burniston and Cloughton village areas.

Returning to the key aims of the Council's Strategy, on page 8 it states as follows:

"The purpose of the NYC Climate Change Strategy is therefore to outline the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and how we will help deliver the Route map ambition for the region to be net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040."

Furthermore, in page 6 of the Strategy document it outlines how the Council will respond to the climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing for the climate changing and supporting nature to thrive.

In terms of reducing North Yorkshire's emissions the Council states it will work towards "a low energy and low carbon-built environment powered by local renewable energy". Another goal under reducing NY's emissions is by "encouraging everyone to reduce carbon emissions".

Another key pillar of the Council's aim to respond to the climate emergency is "supporting nature – helping the natural world, on which we depend, to thrive".

Can any objective assessment of Europa's application honestly state that the above key aims of the Council Strategy can be achieved by giving permission for this development?

Finally, although I am aware that these development proposals relate to a 37-week period for Europa to explore the economic viability of their "proppant squeeze and flow operation" (closely linked to "gas fracking"), I do not believe that the site will ever be restored to its former use, if they receive planning permission. Europa will have invested considerable time, investment and funding over this period, and it is inevitable that they will put in a future planning application to fully develop the site for fracking operations for a long-term period.

It is therefore, now, that the Council must recognise that this application is at considerable odds with its Climate Change Strategy and its stated ambitions and take this opportunity to reject it.

Yours faithfully,

Christina Bramley

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