

The Planning Inspectorate
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

6th August 2014

To whom it may concern,
Planning reference: P 2013 0660. Section 78 Appeal at: PART OF FIELD WEST OF
COMMONWOOD FARM AND SOUTH OF BORRAS ROAD, COMMONWOOD, HOLT,
WREXHAM.

I want to particularly highlight one of the points previously raised in my letter of January 2014 as being of significant concern, and submit the following comments to be recorded as my reasons for objecting to the proposed drilling activities detailed in the application:

I want to bring to the attention of the appeal panel the associated risks of radon. My justification for raising this concern: WCBC building regulations stipulated a passive radon sump was installed when my property was extended. Further research reveals that radon emissions occur in varying degrees of risk within the Wrexham area, as identified on the government information portals.

I will assume the panel comprises competent scientific representatives who are knowledgeable in the properties of radon; a colourless, odourless radioactive gas formed by the radioactive decay of the small amounts of uranium that occur naturally in all rocks and soils.

I include the following link that details the associated risks to health as detailed by Public Health England <http://www.ukradon.org/information/radonataglance> , and the government website link to reference the radioactive decay series for radon <http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/understand/chain.html>.

You will see from map number 13 referenced in the following link <http://www.ukradon.org/information/ukmaps/englandwales> that the proposed drilling site is in close proximity to highly populated areas that are identified to be radon risk areas. My concern is that any intervention on the physico-dynamics of this naturally occurring radioactivity has the potential for the associated risks to be accelerated in the event that the dissipation rate of natural radon gaseous emissions increases as a result of the proposed drilling activities.

I would suggest that the local authority has a duty of care to ensure that residents who have been made aware (such as was the case for my property which was identified by the building regulations) that they live in properties that are at risk of radon exposure need to be monitored. Monitoring should comprise baseline monitoring, i.e. before any drilling takes place, to establish the natural levels within properties in question. Monitoring should be maintained at frequent intervals and residents advised if radon emissions change such that further action is required to ensure the health of the residents is not compromised as any increased exposure has the potential to increase the risk of lung cancer. For example, if trend data levels indicate a passive sump should be upgraded to an active sump.

It is important to make the panel aware that as radon monitoring is routinely undertaken in community doctors' surgeries in the area, radon is obviously recognised to be of concern by the local health authority. It is paramount that this planning application activity does not compromise the wellbeing of the local community or future generations.

An EIA may not be considered necessary with respect to the great-crested newts, but surely an EIA is fundamental to a proposal such as this to ensure it doesn't impact on the air that we breathe and the water we drink. Whilst I understand the need to source alternative energy supplies, this cannot, and should not happen to the detriment of human health. As a resident living within the vicinity that could be affected by this proposal, I want guaranteed assurances that the health of my family and friends will not be affected and reassurances that the decision makers are aware and ultimately accountable.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Nicholls

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