

**PART OF FIELD WEST OF COMMONWOOD FARM AND SOUTH OF BORRAS ROAD –
P/2013/0660**

I object to this application for the following reasons:-

Environmental issues

The effects of drilling a 1000km deep and 250mm wide hole are **not** Temporary, but a permanent feature. The cement casing will deteriorate with time and lead to Methane and Radon leakage. Who will be monitoring this? GP Energy will be long gone!

The site is less than 1km away from the Excluded zone within PEDL 187 and is less than 1km away from the Gresford Colliery disaster where 266 men lost their lives back in 1934.

There are large pockets of gas in this vicinity which are trapped within highly fractured geological strata. If the drill hits one of these pockets then there is a potential for an explosion. Is this risk worth taking with over 7,000 people living less than 1km away in Gresford and Marford? There was a similar situation to this in Morgan County, Ohio, America in May 2014 where people were evacuated from their homes. This happened because a pocket of unexpected gas was encountered on drilling a preparatory well which caused over pressurization and failure of the well head causing the leakage of vast quantities of oil and gas.

The application should be thrown out on this basis alone.

Even if this proposal was miles and miles away from the Gresford Colliery and this potential danger did not exist, there are other reasons to reject this exploratory drill.

Even one test drilling rig has a risk of leakage and ground water contamination. This has happened in Australia and the US in North Dakota where the technology is widely developed and the towns sparsely populated. Here it would be far more damaging as the area is more densely populated.

Indeed Dart Energy have been proven to have a poor track record in well construction in Scotland, where in Canonbie, four wells were constructed with casing that was not cemented between 100m and 400m below ground level. This potentially allowed saline waters from the coal measures at the bottom of this uncemented zone to travel up to and contaminate the Permian sandstone aquifer at the top of this zone.

Great crested newts inhabit the site. It is illegal to harm them or their habitat. Why has this application been allowed for consideration here?

This application poses a risk for climate change

Leakage of Radon a radioactive element and Methane gas could occur both during and after drilling. Who will be monitoring this?

Methane gas is a more potent Greenhouse gas (30 times more so) than Carbon Dioxide, which would move WCBC further away from supporting a Greener low carbon economy. It is

one of WCBC policies to minimise CO2 emissions and the effects on Climate change. This application is contrary to this policy.

Economic impact

Jobs created will be short term and will not go to local people, since many will require technical expertise and will be employed from elsewhere.

House values could depreciate greatly with the risks of subsidence and pollution from local drilling.

Incentives for Councils

Are the Financial incentives to councils promised by the UK Government to be trusted? Funding will surely be clawed back by other means e.g. via the RSG.

Noise/light pollution

Drilling rig proposed is in close proximity to 25 residential properties the nearest of which is only 440m away and will be operating 24hours a day, 7 days per week for 75 to 90 days.

This will cause both significant noise pollution and disruption even through the night. Light pollution will also be an issue since the site will be lit at night. In open countryside lighting is extremely prominent and visible for some distance. Both noise and light pollution will have an impact on residents sleep which will be detrimental to their health especially over a continuous three month period.

The movement of 100 Trucks over 2 days to prepare the site will be extremely disruptive for local residents and have a detrimental effect on the countryside.

Conclusion

Please protect our local people, the environment and our local economy by refusing this application. The peace and tranquillity of the countryside are paramount to our Mental Health and Wellbeing.

It is worth noting that Exploratory wells are a precursor to CBM Extraction and Fracking, a process of which has been banned in France, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and parts of Germany because they recognise the dangers these processes entail.

Why allow it here?

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