

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable for it. This can be found in the notification letter sent out by the local planning authority or the start date letter for it.

Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Case Reference: **APP/H6955/A/14/2218276**

Address of site

Postcode

Grid Reference: Easting

Northing

SENDER DETAILS

Name

Acting On Behalf Of

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

What kind of representation are you making?

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Please provide your representation below.

Records of coal mining do not cover the entire long history of coal mining in the area and there are therefore many unknowns about previous mining activity at the proposed drill site. The Gresford Mining disaster was caused by a huge gas explosion. Even a test drill runs the risk of hitting a gas pocket and leading to a large gas escape and possible explosion. There is also a risk of subsidence. In nearby Erddig some years ago, a whole area of land collapsed into old mine workings. Drilling activity will increase this risk. Test drilling will go down through the Kinnerton Formation, a major aquifer, with a risk of polluting the groundwater and local water supply. Once the aquifer is breached, pollution could be an ongoing problem. The appellants say that on completion, "the borehole will be plugged and abandoned". The 'abandoned' borehole could leak at any point in the future and because it won't be properly monitored, this could continue without anyone being aware of it. All boreholes will eventually fail. The cost of dealing with such a failure will fall on tax payers. The 2012 DECC report entitled "The Unconventional Hydrocarbon Resources of Britain's

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE (Continued)

Onshore Basins" shows that the Borrass site is outside the area where coal bed methane extraction would potentially be successful. This is due to the absence of an impermeable layer of rock that would allow the successful dewatering of the coal. It is a requirement of the PEDL licence that test drilling be carried out and the government will claw back licences where no test drilling takes place, but it is unacceptable to allow test drilling and all its associated environmental disruption and risks when the coal bed methane extraction it is testing for CANNOT work. This matter needs to be urgently addressed by government. In the meantime, it makes no sense to permit pointless exploratory drilling permission. Dart Energy is responsible for environmental violations in Australia and in the UK including dumping benzene polluted water into the Firth of Forth. Dart Energy's promises to protect the environment and comply with planning conditions cannot be trusted. Dart Energy is developing operations in the UK precisely because Australia has tightened up regulation of the industry in the wake of environmental destruction, pollution and adverse health impacts caused by drilling for coal bed methane there. All coal bed methane activity within 2km of residential areas has now been banned in New South Wales, where Dart previously operated. People who have enquired about insuring their homes in the vicinity of coal bed methane exploration sites have been told that they will not be able to get insurance against damage caused by CBM drilling. It is unacceptable to allow developments that will render people's homes uninsurable or unsaleable.