

Environment Directorate,  
Lancashire County Council,  
Transport and Environment,  
Development Management Group,  
County Hall, PO Box 100,  
Preston, PR1 0LD

Dear Sir or Madam,

**PLANNING APPLICATION NO. LCC/2014.0096**

**“CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A SITE FOR DRILLING UP TO FOUR EXPLORATION WELLS, HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF THE WELLS, TESTING FOR HYDROCARBONS AT LAND TO THE NORTH OF PRESTON NEW ROAD, LITTLE PLUMPTON.”**

I am writing to object to the above planning application by Cuadrilla Bowland Ltd. There is growing evidence that shale gas extraction poses serious risks to human health and the environment, as a result, many countries and towns around the world have banned this practice. For this reason, the precautionary principle should be applied in order to protect Lancashire residents from the unavoidable impacts of shale gas development. I wish to object on the following grounds:

- **Well integrity** – This is a chronic industry problem that they are unable to solve, all wells fail with age resulting in a toxic legacy for current and future generations.
- **Ecology** – Unavoidable negative impacts to the environment, Lancashire wildlife including protected species and their natural habitats and rural character. This site is close to Lytham Moss Biological Heritage Site, the Wyre Estuary SSSI and the Ribble Estuary SSSI RAMSAR site, an internationally important site for wildlife, including wintering wildfowl.
- **Lack of regulation and enforcement** – Cuadrilla have demonstrated numerous breaches of their planning permissions in Lancashire and Balcombe evidencing a dangerous gap in regulatory enforcement.
- **Air pollution & Greenhouse Gases** – Unavoidable due to flaring, methane emissions, particulate matter, ozone & traffic.
- **Water pollution** – Contamination of nearby Carr Bridge Brook could result in pollution of the Ribble Estuary SSSI site.
- **Unsuitable geology** - Professor David Smythe stated that Lancashire is unsuitable for fracking due to its faulted geology. Subsequently, there is a risk to communities from induced seismic activity.
- **Seismicity** – The traffic light system is a warning system and cannot prevent seismic activity once it has been induced.
- **Health impacts** - Chartered Engineer and Resident of the Fylde Mike Hill stated that the health impacts were severe when living within 10 miles of a fracking well and that regulations were totally inadequate to cope with this industry onshore in the UK (The Lancet 28th June, 2014). Evidence from the USA suggests vast negative health impacts, inc. neurological, dermatological and respiratory illness. A Cornell university study evidenced low birth weights in infants in communities close to gas drilling, whilst the Bamberger Oswald study discovered stillbirths and birth defects in animals due to air emissions from flaring, traffic and chemical exposure. The cumulative health effects have not been adequately studied.
- **Noise** – An unavoidable negative impact for local residents. Cuadrilla exceeded noise levels set in planning permission at Balcombe, leaving residents to purchase equipment and monitor it themselves.
- **Light pollution** - An unavoidable impact that would significantly affect local residents.
- **Visual impact** – The development would impact to the rural character of the local area.
- **Traffic** – The site entrance on Preston New Road risks traffic congestion due to HGV's turning

into the site.

- **Waste disposal** – There are inadequate measures in place to treat and dispose of the vast quantities of waste water nor is there sufficient capacity for such huge volumes of hazardous waste at treatment facilities.

- **Unsustainable water usage** – Public drinking water must be preserved at all costs. Such vast amounts should not be utilized for gas drilling, especially given the water shortages in recent years.

- **Subsidence** – The Preston New Road area is known to be moss land, therefore, there is significant risk to local properties, especially those at Carr Bridge Residential Caravan Park.

- **Depreciation of property value** – An unavoidable impact due to a substantial nearby industrial development.

- **Liability for damage** – There is no assurance that Cuadrilla will accept liability for damage. Local authorities and communities will be left to bear the cost of any damage caused by the proposed development.

The proposal conflicts with Fylde local plan policies designed to protect the countryside, valuable habitats, agricultural land, water resources, groundwater and air quality, and the Lancashire minerals plan policy to protect water, air, soil and biodiversity from harm. Lancashire County Council should acknowledge the short and long-term impacts that intensive shale gas development would have on Lancashire communities and the rural character of Lancashire. By granting this application you would be setting a precedent for intensive gas drilling in rural Lancashire for many years to come. This industrial development would have significant negative impacts on the environment, the quality of life of communities as well as the leisure, tourism and food production industries. On these grounds I strongly urge Lancashire County Council to reject the application.

PRINT NAME:

ADDRESS:

SIGNED:

DATE: