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Your reference

Our reference

SRT/MG/409123/1  
UKM/94298877.1

1 February 2019

Dear Ms Edwards

**UNITED KINGDOM ONSHORE OIL AND GAS ("UKOOG")  
NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, CITY OF YORK COUNCIL AND  
NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK (THE "COUNCILS")  
NORTH YORKSHIRE JOINT MINERALS PLAN - ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION FOLLOWING THE HEARINGS OF 24 AND 25 JANUARY  
2019**

Following the further examination of Policy M17 on Thursday 4 January 2019, UKOOG have carefully considered all the evidence put in response to the questions raised and have reviewed their notes of the proceedings, particularly the responses made by the Councils to questions and comments made to them.

In this respect, UKOOG strongly feel that the policy in its current amended form cannot be supported. It continues to retain the 500m buffer zone and the proposed amended wording creates more confusion as to what a developer is required to do within 500m of a sensitive property beyond that which would be done outside the 500m buffer. UKOOG are of the view that no justification has been provided for the retention of the 500m zone and consequently consider it to be inconsistent with the Written Ministerial Statement and fails to meet the test of soundness.

Notwithstanding the proposed amended wording to the policy, if the principle of any buffer remains in the Plan it will be susceptible to Legal challenge. Accordingly we respectfully submit that the Councils review the policy and propose amendments that would remove reference to the 500 m buffer, or any other buffer, but would still seek to ensure that any potential impacts on nearest sensitive properties are properly assessed and mitigated for on a case by case basis in accordance with Government guidance and the Written Ministerial Statement.

This should save time and expense for all involved.

Yours faithfully



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