



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, CITY OF YORK COUNCIL  
AND NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
MINERALS AND WASTE JOINT PLAN (MWJP)  
EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

RESPONSE TO INSPECTOR'S QUESTION NO. 61 AND IN SUPPORT  
OF PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY FRACK FREE RYEDALE  
(FFR) (REF: 3684/0261/5.146/U)

MATTER 1: MINERALS

*Issue: Whether the vision, objectives and strategic minerals policies seek to provide a sufficient supply of locally and nationally important minerals in an efficient and sustainable manner and whether the proposed allocations are the most appropriate*

*Question 61: With respect to Policy M17 (Other spatial and locational criteria applying to hydrocarbon development) part 4) and paragraph 5.146 does the 500m buffer around residential and other sensitive receptors strike the right balance between development and protection? Should there be more flexibility in separation distances and should this be dealt with on a site by site basis (PPG 27-018-20140306)?*

1. Introduction

1.1 FFR recognises that the MWJP should strike the right balance between planning for onshore oil and gas extraction and protection of the environment and residential amenity. FFR has engaged with the plan making process both through the submission of detailed comments at each consultation stage and in participating in Joint Scrutiny Committee Hearings to inform the policy formulation. FFR supports many of the Proposed Changes to the MWJP where they strengthen environmental and residential amenity protection, but consider that additional changes could be made to improve the soundness of the plan

2. 500m Separation Distance

2.1 Policy M17 4) i) seeks to protect public health and local communities from potential adverse impacts associated with noise, light pollution, emissions to air or ground and surface water and induced seismicity. The policy states that such protection is unlikely



to be achievable where development occurs within 500m of residential buildings and other sensitive receptors.

- 2.2 Para 5.146 adds detail to the likely adverse impacts on residential amenity and includes a wider list than those included in Policy M17. It also recognises the need for flexibility and also acknowledges that this separation distance will be tested on a case by case basis.
  - 2.3 The industry argues that there is no evidence or justification to support a 500m separation distance.
  - 2.4 FFR supports the aim of the MWJP to protect public health and residential amenity. In particular, FFR supports the statement in the MWJP that hydrocarbon development involving high volume hydraulic fracturing within 500m of residential buildings is unlikely to achieve this aim. FFR understands that the North Yorkshire MPAs and others will provide evidence to the Inspector to support this policy approach in the MWJP.
  - 2.5 FFR supports the requirement in Policy M17 4) iii) and the text in Para 5.149 regarding the need for a Health Impact Assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. This is in line with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.
3. Conclusion
    - 3.1 FFR supports the aim of the MWJP to protect public health and residential amenity.