

**Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for North Yorkshire County Council, the City of York Council and
North York Moors National Park Authority
Unconventional Oil and Gas: Additional Hearings 24 and 25 January 2019**

Response by Wenningdale Climate Action Network

Dear Ms Ord

We would like you to consider our response at your January hearings

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By accepting the Ministerial Statement of 17th May 2018 we could consider that a lot of time has been wasted with the examination with relation to shale gas as the Statement introduced the proposal of the inclusion of shale production projects into the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This dramatically reduces the input of local views into the decision making process.

500m Buffer Zone

There should be no modification to the 500m buffer zone.

There is growing concern about air pollution and the effect on children, the ill and the elderly and many urban areas are considering how to reduce pollution from vehicles. If the plan reduced the 500m buffer zone there would be a dramatic increase in air pollution affecting the vulnerable most.

The knowledge of the science and the experience of fracking has grown and the NYMWP should reflect it.

The concerns about earthquakes as a result of fracking in Lancashire are more about the effects **below the ground**, the effects on the fault lines and the integrity of the wells. It is essential to avoid contamination of drinking water supplies. A senior executive at the fracking company Cuadrilla privately said in summer 2018 that he did not expect to cause earthquakes that would be serious enough to force it to halt operations. Since operations started in October 18 there have been over 40 minor earthquakes and at least 4 were over the limit in which the company had to stop the process for a period.

The Government has not regulated the industry so that the recommendations of the Royal Academy Report on Shale Gas Extraction were incorporated into regulation. Why?

The industry speaks about “gold standard regulation”, ask anyone in the HSE –there is no such thing. So why consider requests to reduce protection.

The industry has lots of resources to come back to you with demands. We are trying to represent the unfunded, the non-expert and people effected socially, environmentally and financially by the actions of the industry.

There does not seem to be any recognition of the IPCC Report or the national commitments made in COP 24 that the country had to work for a reduction of 40% emission by 2030 in just 12 years and to be carbon neutral by 2050.

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Margaret McSherry