

APSE Renewables & Climate Change Group

SHALE GAS OPERATIONS

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Overview

- Introduction
- The brief
- Summary of meetings 2013
- Findings /Recommendations
- Next Steps



Introduction

Preston City Council
Environment Scrutiny Panel

Review of Shale Gas Operations
January 2013 - March 2014



The Brief

- Overall aim of review
 - Proportionate & timely EIA of ‘fracking’
 - Develop understanding/gain knowledge
 - Recommend a policy position to Cabinet
- Evidenced Based Approach
 - Interviews
 - Site Visits



Environment Agency

7th March 2013

- Overview of Fracking Process
- The National scene
- EA statutory role (Permits)
- Current permits issued (Cuadrilla)
- Environmental risks/mitigation/managem't
- EA current position on the industry



Site Visit- Cuadrilla Elswick

5th April 2013

- Detailed process overview
- Core sample of shale
- Radiation issues discussed
- Chemicals involved
- Local Environmental impact
- Employment prospects
- Potential for future development
- Site remediation



Friends of the Earth

11th April 2013

- Climate change
- Water/Air/Seismic activity
- Shifting Government policy
- Global perspective of fracking
- Renewable energy alternatives
- Sufficient conventional gas available?
- Operational costs of fracking/fuel costs



DECC

6th June 2013

- Process overview/bore depth/water use
- U.S. Pollution/contamination reports
- Royal Soc./Royal Acad. Engineers report
- Stringent controls/traffic light system
- Lancs geology/water table/radioactivity
- Independent reports (Durham University)
- Current U.K. conventional gas extraction
- Future development



United Utilities

6th June 2013

- Water usage
- Security of supply to domestic customers
- Waste water treatment/disposal
- Water table/pressure monitoring
- Cost of supply to fracking industry
- Business opportunity



Cuadrilla – Licenced Operator

18th July 2013

- Update on current activity
- Env. Impact Assessments (ARUP)
- Seismic activity monitoring
- Community benefits explained
- Industry regulation/monitoring (UK)
- Future of energy prices
- Future development/jobs
- Media relations



ARUP – EIA Consultant

18th July 2013

- Site specific EIA's in progress
- Public consultation process
- What's included:-
 - seismicity/water pollution/fugitive methane/ climate change
 - Ecology/ aquifers/aquifer protection/visual amenity
 - Evidenced report



Campaign to Protect Rural England

19th September 2013

- CPRE position explained
- CPRE not against fracking industry
- 250/300 wells anticipated in Lancashire
- Industrialisation of countryside?
- Fracking sites/land quality
- Energy policy/Climate Change Act
- Ecology/wildlife/visual amenity - important



Minerals & Waste Planning Dept.

15th October 2013

- Minerals & waste development explained
- Recent & future fracking in Lancashire
- Env. Impact Assessments explained
- Lateral drilling/seismic activity
- Consultation process for applications
- Community benefits proposals



Ribble Estuary Against Fracking

15th October 2013

- Short film/presentation
- Fracking effects on wildlife
- Contaminated waste concerns
- Impact on employment
- Emphasis on renewable energy



Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)

28th November 2013

- Economics relating to ‘people & place’
- Factors determining growth
- Benefits assessment – too early?
- Activity positives vs Operation negatives
- Who/how/when will people ‘benefit’
- Job creation vs local skill base
- Impact on tourism/house prices/farming
- Energy supply market – very complex



CLES (2)

- Impact on climate change
- New industry for UK / Nuclear comparison
- Ripple effect on other local business
- Preston ready for new industry
- Drivers–City Deal/Enterprise Zone/UCLan
- Opportunity for Preston to lead way
- City needs to make a ‘statement’



Health & Safety Executive

28th November 2013

- HSE role in the industry explained
- HSE focussed on well integrity
- HSE powers/interventions explained
- Lifecycle approach to well integrity
- Weekly operations reports required
- Collaborative working with other regulators
- Operators obliged to report problems
- Stringent regulatory regime in place
- Comparison drawn – USA/UK



Preston & Shale Gas Operations

- Scrutiny Panel findings
- Scrutiny Panel recommendations
- Next Steps for the City Council



Thank You

