

INEOS Motion: For school workers' unions: ASCL, ATL, GMB, NAHT, NASUWT, NUT, UNISON

INEOS is one of the biggest players in the UK's nascent fracking industry, having won 21 licences in the Government's 14th PEDL licensing round in December 2015.¹ Gary Haywood, the Chief Executive of INEOS Shale, announced that the company would be rolling out a major seismic survey programme to locate prime sites for fracking across the north of England.² In the same month INEOS announced that, in light of the fracking moratorium in Scotland, it would now be putting all its efforts into the north of England.³ The company will also have been encouraged by North Yorkshire County Council's decision to approve Third Energy's plans for fracking in Ryedale on 23rd May.⁴ INEOS is also importing liquefied shale gas by tanker in a 'virtual pipeline across the Atlantic' from the USA to their Grangemouth refinery in Scotland.⁵

In a recent trade advertisement, INEOS indicated that they were planning up to 30 well-sites and 396 wells in each 10x10 km² PEDL licence area, which would result in thousands of wells in North Yorkshire, Cheshire, South Yorkshire and other parts of the country.⁶ If this takes place, it will mean the irreversible industrialisation of our rural areas; areas which currently provide sustainable jobs in key local industries such as tourism, agriculture and in food supply chains. These jobs would be threatened by the arrival of the fracking industry. In contrast, the jobs potential within this industry is yet to be proven, and relies upon projections and modelling, with most new jobs created too specialised for local people.⁷

INEOS has campaigned to persuade local communities to support fracking. Recently, it has begun presentation events in Ryedale and elsewhere to promote the industry. In 2014 it announced a '£2.5 billion giveaway' – 6% of estimated revenue – to what the company likes to call 'Shale Gas Communities'.⁸ Friends of the Earth Scotland have analysed this figure, pointing out that it is based on optimistic assumptions about shale gas yields based on US models, and may include payments to landowners as compensation for fracking under their property. They also pointed out that INEOS is the only operator not to sign up to the Government-backed voluntary industry scheme, whereby communities would get £100,000 upfront for every well fracked, and £20,000 for every horizontal well drilled.⁹

Fracking for shale gas involves risks to workers, local residents and the wider population. These can include risks of groundwater contamination, surface water contamination, air pollution and silica dust inhalation.¹⁰ Over 80% of peer-reviewed studies in the last four years have indicated negative long-term health impacts of fracking, particularly to people living near well-sites.¹¹ The impacts are particularly relevant with respect to children, as those who live near fracking sites and associated infrastructure in the USA are reported to have experienced a higher incident of nose bleeds, headaches, skin rashes and respiratory illnesses, and with prolonged exposure an increase risk of cancers such as leukaemia may materialise.¹²

Fracking can also cause considerable problems for the local community, such as a huge increase in HGV traffic, noise and light pollution at night, and a negative impact on wildlife.¹³ Members of the government and industry executives admit that shale gas will not lower energy bills.¹⁴ However, the development of a shale gas industry will lead to an increase in our emissions of greenhouse gases at a time when the UK must reduce its emissions - for the sake of our children and future generations.¹⁵

INEOS has set up the Go Run for Fun initiative for primary school children to take part in running events (<http://www.gorunforfun.com>). Like past sponsorship by cigarette manufacturers, this could be seen as incompatible with the health risks posed to children by fracking and an attempt to de-toxify the INEOS brand in order to win over communities, just as prime sites for fracking are being determined. Frack Free Ryedale, who have asked for this motion to be raised, are appalled at the prospect of children being used in this way.

Fracking is opposed by a number of trade unions including UNITE,¹⁶ the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS),¹⁷ the Transport and Salaried Staff Association (TSSA), the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and the University and College Union (UCU).¹⁸

The CEO of INEOS, Jim Ratcliffe, is dismissive of the role of renewables,¹⁹ but the UK has a vast potential for clean energy. Investment in renewable energy, public transport and energy efficiency (as outlined in the 'One Million Climate Jobs' pamphlet)²⁰ will create far more jobs than fracking, deliver energy security, boost our economy and allow us to play our part in avoiding dangerous climate change.²¹

This branch association agrees to:

- oppose fracking as unpopular, unnecessary and unsafe, particularly given the documented health risk for children.
- oppose the INEOS Go Run for Fun events as part of a charm offensive to win over communities and detoxify fracking.
- promote the People's Declaration against fracking among its members.
<https://www.foe.co.uk/act/add-your-name-peoples-declaration-say-no-fracking-0>
- encourage its members to raise awareness about the INEOS Go Run For Fun events in their workplaces and to campaign against participating in them.
- put pressure on political parties and the TUC to adopt clearly anti-fracking and pro-climate jobs positions.

Proposed:

Seconded:

If your union passes this motion, please contact Frack Free Ryedale to let them know by emailing them at frackfreeryedale@gmail.com.

References:

- 1 <https://drillordrop.com/could-your-area-be-fracked-under-the-new-oil-and-gas-licences/>
- 2 <https://drillordrop.com/2016/05/05/ineos-fires-the-starting-gun-on-fracking/>
- 3 <http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-fracking-policy-prompts-ineos-to-send-experts-to-england-1-4140648>
- 4 http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13420783.How_Ineos__giant_Dragon_ships_will_carry_US_shale_gas_to_Scottish_shores/
- 5 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/23/north-yorkshire-council-backs-first-uk-fracking-tests-for-five-years>
- 6 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/INEOS-online-ad-for-Seismic-Survey-Contractor-06.05.16.pdf>
- 7 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/myth10jobs/>
- 8 <http://www.ineos.com/news/ineos-group/ineos-plans-25-billion-shale-gas-giveaway> and http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13206090.Ineos_pledges_to_give__2_5_billion_to_Scottish_communities_that_agreed_to_fracking/
- 9 <http://www.foe-scotland.org.uk/sites/www.foe-scotland.org.uk/files/Dirty%20Frackers,%20Dodgy%20Numbers,%20Sept%202015.pdf>
- 10 <http://www.hazards.org/oil/fracking.htm> and <https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/groundwater-fracking-75170.pdf> and <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/fracking-drinking-water-fs.pdf> and <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/newsdesk/energy/analysis/shale-and-water-there-risk-water-contamination>
- 11 <http://psehealthyenergy.org/site/view/1233> and http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database_Analysis_2015.6_.16_.pdf and <http://www.isfrackingsafe.com/public-health/>
- 12 http://ecowatch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/fracking_study.pdf and <http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/PSR-CHPNY-Compendium-3.0.pdf> and <http://www.utne.com/environment/gas-compressors-and-nose-bleeds-zm0z15fzsau.aspx> and <http://www.recordonline.com/article/20151008/NEWS/151009420>
- 13 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/dec/14/fracking-hell-live-next-shale-gas-well-texas-us> and <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/13/north-yorkshire-village-kirby-misperton-fights-fracking-plans>
- 14 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/myth2energyprices/> and <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/newsdesk/energy/fact-check/will-fracking-lower-bills>
- 15 <https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/why-uk-fracking-not-compatible-with-tackling-climate-change-86338.pdf> and http://www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2987783/fracking_is_twice_as_bad_for_climate_as_coal_will_the_climate_change_committee_ba_n_it.html
- 16 <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/uks-largest-union-calls-for-moratorium-on-fracking/>
- 17 http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/news_and_events/pcs_comment/pcs_comment.cfm/pcs-calls-for-moratorium-on-fracking
- 18 <http://unionsagainstfracking.org/the-statement/>
- 19 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/12/jim-ratcliffe-ineos-fracking-done-safely-opposition-hearsay>
- 20 <http://www.climate-change-jobs.org/>
- 21 https://www.foe.co.uk/resource/green_economy_3841