

People's Declaration Motion

On Monday 23rd May, North Yorkshire County Council approved Third Energy's application to frack for shale gas at Kirby Misperton in Ryedale. The application included five test fracks and subsequent production for nine years. This was in spite of receiving 4,375 letters of objection and only 36 letters in support.ⁱ More widely, the 17th DECC Public Attitudes Tracker Survey showed that only 19% of the British public supports fracking, while 81% support renewable energy.ⁱⁱ

In December 2015, DECC awarded the 14th round of petroleum exploration and development (PEDL) licences, which cover almost the whole of North Yorkshire, along with many other parts of the country.³ These licences will allow companies such as INEOS, Cuadrilla, iGas and Third Energy to explore for new sources of hydrocarbons, including gas produced by fracking. INEOS have already stated that they plan hundreds of wells per 10x10 km² PEDL licence block,⁴ and other companies have similar plans. If widespread fracking is allowed to take place across North Yorkshire and other parts of the country, 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.⁵ These permanent 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.⁶

Fracking for shale gas involves risks to workers, local residents and the wider population. These include risks of groundwater contamination, surface water contamination, air pollution and silica dust inhalation.⁷ 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.⁸ Fracking also 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.⁹ The development of a shale gas industry will lead to an increase in emissions of greenhouse gases at a time when the UK must reduce its emissions.¹⁰ Members of the government and industry executives also admit that shale gas will not lower energy bills.¹¹

Fracking is opposed by a number of trade unions including UNITE,¹² the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS),¹³ the Transport and Salaried Staff Association (TSSA), the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and the University and College Union (UCU).¹⁴

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)¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

This branch / association / region agrees to:

- oppose fracking in North Yorkshire and across the UK as unwanted, unnecessary and unsafe.
- 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>
- publicise local and regional events opposing fracking and encourage its members to attend 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 <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/may/23/north-yorkshire-council-backs-first-uk-fracking-tests-for-five-years>
 - 2 <https://drillordrop.com/2016/04/28/support-for-fracking-at-record-low-government-survey/> and https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/519488/PAT_Wave_17_Summary_of_key_findings.pdf
 - 3 <https://drillordrop.com/could-your-area-be-fracked-under-the-new-oil-and-gas-licences/>
 - 4 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/INEOS-online-ad-for-Seismic-Survey-Contractor-06.05.16.pdf> and <http://frackfreeryedale.org/ineos-announce-plans-for-up-to-4000-fracking-wells-for-north-yorkshire/>
 - 5 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/ryedaleeconomy/>
 - 6 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/myth10jobs/>
 - 7 <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>
 - 8 <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/>
 - 9 <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>
 - 10 <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_ban_it.html
 - 11 <http://frackfreeryedale.org/myth2energyprices/> and <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/newsdesk/energy/fact-check/will-fracking-lower-bills>
 - 12 <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org/uks-largest-union-calls-for-moratorium-on-fracking/>
 - 13 http://www.pcs.org.uk/en/news_and_events/pcs_comment/pcs_comment.cfm/pcs-calls-for-moratorium-on-fracking
 - 14 <http://unionsagainstfracking.org/the-statement/>
 - 15 <http://www.climate-change-jobs.org/>
 - 16 https://www.foe.co.uk/resource/green_economy_3841
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