

Abigail Leadbeater
Sent via email:
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Email: jo.turton@lancashire.gov.uk
Your ref:
Our ref: JT/MO/13202
Date: 29 December 2014

Dear Ms Leadbeater

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November 2014 with regards to shale gas developments. I apologise for the delay of my reply.

I can confirm that an oil and gas company (Cuadrilla) has applied for planning permission to develop two new sites to explore for shale gas by drilling, hydraulically fracturing, (fracking) and testing the flow of gas and for a series of boreholes to monitor for seismic movement and water quality in relation to each site. The County Council has received applications for:

- Preston New Road – Little Plumpton, Fylde West. Located north of Preston New Road (the A583), to the west of Little Plumpton (Cuadrilla Bowland Ltd - Application numbers LCC/2014/0096 and 0097):
- Roseacre Wood – Roseacre, Fylde East. Located to the south of the village of Roseacre (Cuadrilla Elswick Ltd – Application numbers LCC.2014/0101 and 0102).

The planning applications can be viewed on the County Council's website at:

<http://planningregister.lancashire.gov.uk>

More information about shale gas development is also available at the County Council website and can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/planning/major-planning-applications/shale-gas-developments-in-lancashire.aspx>

With regards to your specific questions, I provide the following information.

Horizontal drilling is often used with oil and gas wells, both onshore and off shore, and lateral lengths have been used that are up to 3,000 m within the target formation. The extent of lateral lengths will be influenced by the capability of the drill, geology and other factors such as economics.

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In the UK there are no regulations that would limit the extent of the lateral lengths, but a developer would be expected to illustrate their plans for horizontal drilling as part of its planning application to the Mineral Planning Authority, as a part of its application for permits to the Environment Agency and as part of a hydraulic fracture plan submitted to The Department of Energy and Climate Change. (There is more information in the link above about the requirements, roles and responsibilities of different regulators.)

For the applications at Preston New Road and Roseacre Wood, Cuadrilla has illustrated the extent of horizontal drilling in the Environment Statements that accompany the planning applications. The Environmental Statement can be viewed on the planning register link that I have provided and at the Cuadrilla website at:

<http://www.cuadrillaresources.com/our-sites/lancashire-sites/>

I can confirm that in the case of these two current applications Cuadrilla has indicated that there are plans to drill to a depth of 3500m and then horizontally for up to 2000m, with no plans to drill under the coastal of marine environment as part of these proposals.

When the County Council receives planning applications it is normal practice for us to directly inform and consult statutory consultees and those that we consider may be materially affected by the proposals. In addition to this planning applications are advertised in the local press and by site notice. It is not normal practice for us to directly contact organisations that are not materially affected.

I hope that this information is of use. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Turton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jo Turton
Chief Executive