

Surrey County Council

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Planning Application Ref: MO/2014/1006

Full Description: Underground drilling corridor of an exploratory hydrocarbon

I would like to make the following objections to the above planning application on behalf of Frack Free and Fossil Fuel Free Surrey. We are a group of local people, representing nearly 200 people, who have serious concerns about the effects of drilling for hydrocarbons has on the local environment.

This planning application is linked to an earlier application Ref MO/2009/0110 and the following comments are for both of these applications as one cannot happen without the other.

Our concerns are as follows:

Drilling in an AONB

The area concerned has a status of being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and should be protected against any form of industrial use. This could set a precedent for other protected areas to be used and damaged by industrialisation. There are lots of visitors to Leith Hill and surrounding areas every year who want to enjoy walking, cycling and taking in the local views.

The proposed drilling corridor/borehole will extend under the village of Coldharbour and will have an adverse effect on the residents living there through noise and vibration of the drilling. I am not sure what the company plans to do with the borehole once they have finished drilling. They state in the original planning application that the land will be left to 'regenerate' and it would be under the care of the Forestry Commission.

The original planning application proposed a drilling rig to be 35m high which would include flare units. This is totally unacceptable in an AONB.

Lorries

The original application states that there will be 64 HGV lorries travelling along Coldharbour Lane per day. This lane is very narrow and having this amount of heavy vehicles travelling daily along the lane will cause a lot of damage. There are also sunken lanes around the area in question which have taken hundreds of years to form and have banks to each side held together by tree roots. These are very delicate and will not withstand lots of heavy traffic passing through. There is also a proposal to use traffic lights on Coldharbour Lane to enable lorries to travel along it. This will cause huge traffic jams along the Vincent Lane section of the

Dorking one-way system and could cause gridlock in the town. All of this will affect the quality of life of the local villagers and surrounding areas.

Underground aquifers

There are lots of underground aquifers in the area and these would be contaminated in the event of any oil spillage. This is too much of a risk to take for short term gain. Again will the boreholes just be left there once the company have finished drilling?

Wildlife

The area surrounding the proposed site has no lighting so is a perfect habitat for owls and bats who rely on darkness for hunting. The proposed rig would have a warning light on top which would illuminate the area at night. Also the local flora and fauna would be affected by the impact of dust and fumes from the drilling and lorries.

I understand that Leith Hill Action Group also share these concerns.

FF&FFS also has the following concerns

We are against further drilling for hydrocarbons because of the effects CO2 has on climate change.

The UK Government are committed to cut carbon emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and:

The target for 2050

- (1) It is the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline.
- (2) "The 1990 baseline" means the aggregate amount of—
 - (a) net UK emissions of carbon dioxide for that year, and
 - (b) net UK emissions of each of the other targeted greenhouse gases for the year that is the base year for that gas

(From the Government website www.legislation.gov.uk – Climate Change Act 2008

Furthermore the IPCC report of 2013 found that 'scientists found that to hold warming to 2C, total emissions cannot exceed 1,000 gigatons of carbon. Yet by 2011, more than half of that total "allowance" – 531 gigatons – had already been emitted.'

Therefore burning the fossil fuel that corporations now have in their reserves would result in emitting 2,795 gigatons of carbon dioxide – five times the safe amount.

Yours faithfully

Frack Free and Fossil Fuel Free Surrey