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By email and post to [whitewayr@parliament.uk](mailto:whitewayr@parliament.uk)

Lord Hollick  
Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee  
House of Lords Committee Office  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

Dear Lord Hollick,

Thank you for your letter. As requested please find outlined below up to date information regarding our planning and environmental permit applications to explore for and test shale gas in Lancashire.

Cuadrilla is currently focused on two proposed shale gas exploratory sites in Lancashire which are the Preston New Road site, near Little Plumpton, and a separate site at Roseacre Wood. We applied on 29<sup>th</sup> May to Lancashire County Council (LCC) for planning permission to drill, hydraulically fracture and test the flow of gas from four horizontal exploration wells at the Preston New Road location. We submitted a similar planning application to the Council for four horizontal wells at the Roseacre Wood site on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Each planning application was accompanied by a very comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment. These applications were validated by the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> June respectively. As such, we have applications in place to drill, fracture and test eight horizontal wells into the Lancashire Bowland shale.

We are still waiting on a determination for both of these applications.

In parallel with the planning applications, we submitted applications to the Environment Agency (EA) for the various environmental permits required for each of the two proposed exploratory sites. These applications were submitted to the EA on 5<sup>th</sup> June for Preston New Road and on 16<sup>th</sup> June for the Roseacre Wood site. We are also still waiting for the Environment Agency to issue its decision regarding the associated environmental permit applications for each of the two exploration sites.

I have outlined below the key dates regarding the planning applications and the environmental permits.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- Planning applications submitted to LCC for the Preston New Road exploration site and the Roseacre Wood exploration site on 29<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June respectively
- Planning applications registered by LCC on 5<sup>th</sup> June and 19<sup>th</sup> June for Preston New Road and Roseacre Wood respectively. The determination period for a planning application accompanied by an EIA is expected to be 16 weeks from registration of the application, i.e. determination expected by 25<sup>th</sup> Sept for Preston New Road and by 9<sup>th</sup> October for Roseacre Wood
- LCC requests a 6 week extension to the 16 week determination period for both locations. Cuadrilla agrees on 17<sup>th</sup> July (extending determination period to 22 weeks) i.e. determination for Preston New Road site now due by 5<sup>th</sup> November and for the Roseacre Wood site by 18<sup>th</sup> November.
- LCC requests a further 8 week extension for the Preston New Road site and a further 10 week extension for the Roseacre Wood site. Cuadrilla agrees to extensions on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. This extends the planning determination period to 30 weeks for the Preston New Road site (i.e. determination now due by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec) and to 32 weeks for the Roseacre Wood site (i.e. determination now due by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2015).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

We applied to the Environment Agency for the following environmental permits for each of the Preston New Road and the Roseacre Wood exploration sites:

- Installation Permit (this includes mining waste, groundwater and Industrial emissions permits)
- Radiological Substances Permit
- Greenhouse Gas Permit
- Flood Defence Consent

The EA advised that as they considered each location to be a “site of high public interest” they would be undertaking a two stage public consultation process for each site.



## Timeline

- Application for permits submitted to the EA on 5<sup>th</sup> June for the Preston New Road site and on 16<sup>th</sup> June for the Roseacre Wood site
- EA's first stage public consultation on Preston New Road permit starts on 11<sup>th</sup> June to run until 6<sup>th</sup> August and for Roseacre Wood starts on 24<sup>th</sup> June to run until 19<sup>th</sup> August
- EA requests further clarifications from Cuadrilla and first stage public consultation for Preston New Road is extended by the EA to 10<sup>th</sup> October and for Roseacre to the 18<sup>th</sup> October
- Currently awaiting on EA to issue its decisions following completion of the first stage of public consultation on environmental permits for both sites and to begin its final second (nominally 4 week) of public consultation on that decision. No further information requested from or outstanding from Cuadrilla, matter with the EA.

I trust that the above answers your questions and if I can be of any further assistance to the Committee please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Francis Egan**  
Chief Executive Officer

FGE-L-L011/MLA/FGE/dmp

