

TAKE ACTION TO STOP COAL BED METHANE DRILLING IN KEYNSHAM

The situation...

Coal Bed Methane or CBM is a new fossil fuel extraction method in the UK. Companies drill down to undisturbed coal seams to access trapped methane gas. The gas is trapped by water pressure so a continuous stream of ground water must be pumped out to free the gas. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) may also be used to increase the flow of water and gas.

The produced water contains a cocktail of chemicals, which can include nitrates, nitrites, chlorides and other salts, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, other minerals, metals such as arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury and high levels of total dissolved solids.

Ground water contamination and depletion, air pollution, toxic spills and a whole host of other dangerous effects have been linked to the process in Australia.

UK Methane have just applied for planning permission for a CBM test well in Keynsham near the Hicks Gate Roundabout.

This is the first of many and stopping its development is essential to prevent this dangerous method of energy extraction rolling out across Somerset and the UK.

**Make your voice heard by:
14th November 2012**



A worker samples water from a well at a coal bed methane drill site



There could be 2,100 wells across Somerset if CBM goes into full production

What you can do...

The most effective act you can take is to submit a planning objection and ask your friends and family to do so also. See potential points to include below and find more information on the Frack Free Somerset website. Ensure you include your name and address.

Local Development & Land Use

*The drilling rig will be prominent and unsightly.

* To approve this planning application would be in contradiction of policy GB.2 of the Local Plan, which states that: "Permission will not be granted for development within or visible from the Green Belt which would be visually detrimental to the Green Belt by reason of its siting, design or materials used for its construction."

* Policy NE.1 states that: "Development which does not either conserve or enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape will not be permitted."

* The drilling rig will be in use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will be extremely noisy. The nearest residential properties are only 285 metres away.

* The site would be lit at night and this could be a nuisance to those living near the site, and a distraction to drivers.

* The site is located on greenfield land which is currently used for the grazing of agricultural stock. Para C1.3 of the Local Plan states that a purpose of the Green Belt is: "to retain land in agricultural, forestry and related uses".

* Para B6.30 of the Local Plan states that: "An important consideration in planning is the 'precautionary principle.' This requires that where there is significant risk of damage to the environment, pollution controls will take into account the need to prevent or limit harm, even where scientific knowledge is not conclusive."

Jobs & Economics

* This application will not provide new jobs in the local area. Nor would full-scale Coal Bed Methane production. UK Methane estimate that each well would provide 10-15 jobs. These would be temporary and short-lived, and many would be technical jobs that might not go to local people.

Frack Free Somerset is a coalition of concerned groups in Somerset who are taking action on hydraulic fracking & extreme energy.

In evaluation of the evidence and risks related to fracking & coal bed methane, we believe they are unacceptable energy options for Somerset that threaten the safety, health, landscape and water quality for human and non-human communities across Somerset.

Email: info@frackfreesomerset.org www.frackfreesomerset.org

Submit a Planning Objection

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-planning-applications>

**Planning Services, PO Box 5006,
Bath, BA1 1JG**

**Planning Application Reference:
12/04304/FUL**

Submission deadline: 14th November

Public & Environmental Health

* There is a very real risk of groundwater contamination.

* Coal Bed Methane wells could leak. These wells can never be removed, and the steel and concrete structures plunged deep into the earth will decay slowly over time. All gas wells will leak eventually. This would have a serious impact on local health.

* Policy ES.10 of the Local Plan states that: "Development will not be permitted where it would have an adverse impact on health...by virtue of odour, dust and/or other forms of air pollution."

* Approving this plan would contradict policy M.8 of the Local Plan: "Minerals development will not be permitted unless adequate safeguards can be secured for the protection of the environment and the amenities of the area likely to be directly or indirectly affected during all phases of the development."

If successful, this application could be a stepping stone to full-scale Coal Bed Methane Production

* Very large numbers of wells need to be drilled to extract Coal Bed Methane, because each well does not yield much gas. 2,100 could cover Somerset.

* UK Methane could later sell their PEDL licenses in this area to another company, who might use fracking, which poses risks of groundwater contamination, earthquakes and radioactivity.

TAKE ACTION NOW FOR CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

