

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Third Energy UK Gas Limited and Moorland Energy Limited (hereafter referred to as the “Applicant”) is seeking full planning permission for:

*“Natural gas production and water re-injection at the existing borehole at Ebberston Moor South Well Site, the drilling of a second borehole for water production and re-injection, the construction of a 13.9km 12” diameter underground pipeline from the Ebberston Moor South Well Site to the Knapton Generating Station at East Knapton, Malton and the construction of ancillary works at the Generating Station.”*

- 1.2 A more detailed description is provided in Chapter 3. The proposed development, as outlined above and in Chapter 3 of this ES, is hereafter referred to as the “Development”.
- 1.3 The area within which the Development will be located is referred to in this Environmental Statement (ES) as the ‘Site’ (see Figure 1.1). The Site is approximately 63.8 hectare (ha) in area and is situated within the administrative areas of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP). The minerals planning authorities (the decision makers) are NYCC and NYMNP.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

- 1.4 The EIA process is the mechanism by which development proposals are appraised in terms of their likely environmental and socio-economic effects, in addition to engineering and technical considerations.
- 1.5 The purpose of the EIA is to establish the nature of the Development and the environment in which it is likely to take place, during both construction and operational phases, so as to identify the likely significant effects on the environment. The assessment compares the existing situation at the start of the work (baseline) with the situation during demolition and construction, and when the Development is operational.
- 1.6 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (the ‘EIA Regulations’)<sup>i</sup> require that any proposed development falling within the description of a ‘Schedule 2 development’ (as defined within the meaning of the Regulations), will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment where such development is likely to have

'significant' effects on the environment by virtue of such factors as its nature, size or location (Regulation 2(b)).

1.7 The Development falls within Category 2e and 10k of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations as it involves a surface industrial installation for the extraction of natural gas where the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectares and a gas pipeline installation where the area of works exceeds 1 hectare. It is also likely to lead to significant effects on the environment. An Environmental Statement has therefore been prepared in support of the planning application.

1.8 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, this ES sets out the following information:

- A description of the Development comprising information about its nature, size and scale;
- The data necessary to identify and assess the main effects that the Development is likely to have on the environment;
- A description of the likely significant effects, direct and indirect on the environment, explained by reference to the Development's possible impact on human beings, flora, fauna, soil, water, air, climate, cultural heritage, landscape and the interaction between any of the foregoing material assets;
- Where significant adverse effects are identified with respect to any of the foregoing, mitigation measures have been proposed in order to avoid, reduce or remedy those effects; and
- Summary, in non-technical language, of the information specified above.

### **Organisation of the Environmental Statement**

1.9 This ES comprises 16 chapters and is supported by figures (located at the back of each chapter within Volume 1) and technical appendices (within a separate Volume 2). A Non-technical Summary (NTS) of the full ES is provided as a separate standalone document.

1.10 Figures have been referenced using the chapter number as a prefix followed by the number of the figure within a given chapter. Appendices have been referenced in the same way but due to their size are contained in a separate Volume (2).

1.11 Table 1.1 sets out the structure of the ES.

**Table 1.1 ES Structure**

Chapter No.	Chapter Title	Description
<b>Volume 1</b>		<b>Following chapters and supporting figures</b>
1	Introduction	Introduction to the ES, EIA requirements, details of project team, ES organisation and availability.
2	EIA Methodology	Methods used to prepare each chapter, description of ES structure and content, generic significance criteria, scoping and consultation.
3	Site Development & Description	Site description and details of the Development. Summary of effects with respect to climate change, energy and sustainability.
4	Alternatives & Design Evolution	Outline of the main alternatives considered by the Applicant
5	Construction Methodology & Programme	Details of anticipated programme for development and construction methodology.
6	Ecology and Nature Conservation	Assessment of effects on biodiversity and ecology.
7	Landscape & Visual	Effects of the Development on landscape and visual amenity.
8	Traffic & Transportation	Traffic and transportation effects relating to driver severance and delay, pedestrian severance and delay, pedestrian amenity, accidents and safety, hazardous and dangerous loads, dust and dirt.
9	Noise & Vibration	Assessment of effects relating to noise and vibration.
10	Air Quality	Effects of the Development on air quality and odour.
11	Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage	Assessment of the effects on water quality, including effects relating to drainage and flood risk.
12	Produced Water Disposal	Assessment of the effects of water injection at the EMS Well Site.
13	Cultural Heritage	Assessment of effects on potential archaeological conditions and built heritage.
14	Economics	Consideration of the potential effects on the economic environment.
15	Ground Conditions	Assessment of the effects on ground conditions with respect to potential land contamination.
16	Summary	Summary of the ES.
Standalone Document	Non-Technical Summary	Summary of the ES in non-technical language.
Volume 2	Technical Appendices	Technical data and reports to support the chapters in Volume 1.

## EIA Team

- 1.12 The ES has been coordinated by Barton Willmore LLP and presents the results of technical studies carried out in conjunction with a number of specialist consultants appointed by the Applicant. The EIA team is listed in Table 1.2 along with their respective disciplines and contributions to the ES.

**Table 1.2: EIA Team**

Organisation	Expertise/EIA Input
Third Energy UK Gas Ltd & Moorland Energy Limited	The Applicant
Barton Willmore LLP	Town Planning, EIA Project Management, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Socio -Economics
URS Scott Wilson	Ecology and Nature Conservation; Air Quality; and Ground Conditions and Contamination
Archaeological Project Services	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Acia Engineering Acoustics	Noise and Vibration
R Elliott Associates	Transport and Water Resources and Flood Risk
Envireau Water	Hydrogeology

## Other Documents

- 1.13 A number of other documents have been submitted to NYCC and NYMNPAs as part of, or accompanying, the planning application, including:
- Planning and Sustainability Statement;
  - Statement of Community Involvement;
  - Outline Safety Report; and
  - Design and Access Statement

## ES Availability and Comments

- 1.14 Additional paper copies of the ES and the technical appendices can be purchased at a cost of £150 and £200 respectively. The Non-Technical Summary can be obtained for £20. Copies of the ES, technical appendices and NTS can be obtained on CD for £20. All documents are available from:

Environmental Planning  
Barton Willmore LLP  
7 Soho Square  
London, W1D 3QB

Tel: 0207 446 6888

- 1.15 Additional copies of this ES are also available for viewing by the public during normal office hours in the planning departments of NYCC and NYMNP. Comments on the planning application should be forwarded to Alan Goforth at NYCC and Mark Hill at NYMNP at the addresses below:

North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AH  
Tel: 08450 349494

Email: [planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:planning.control@northyorks.gov.uk)

North York Moors National Park Authority  
The Old Vicarage  
Bondgate  
Helmsley  
York, YO62 5BP

Tel: 01439 772700

Email: [planning@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:planning@northyorkmoors.org.uk)

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<sup>i</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1824)