

Mr Mike Convery
North Yorkshire County Council Minerals
& Waste Planning
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AH

Our ref: RA/2010/113965/01-L01
Your ref: NY/2010/0065/SCO
Date: 22 March 2010

Dear Mr Convery

**REQUEST FOR EIA SCOPING OPINION FOR RYEDALE GAS PROJECT -
INCORPORATING GAS PRODUCTION AT EBBERSTON WELL SITE,
CONSTRUCTION OF A PROCESSING PLANT OFF HURRELL LANE AND
CONNECTING DUAL PIPELINE**

NEAR EBBERSTON/THORNTON LE DALE

Thank you for referring the above scoping enquiry which was received on 1 March 2010. We have assessed the details submitted and have the following comments which may assist in the production of the Environmental Statement:

Flood Risk

The scoping report highlights that a Flood Risk Assessment will be produced as part of the Environmental Statement and that it will be in line with PPS25. We have no further comments to make at this time in relation to flood risk.

Advice to applicant

Erection of flow control structures or any culverting of a watercourse requires the prior written approval of the Environment Agency under s.23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 or s.109 of the Water Resources Act 1991. The Environment Agency resists culverting on nature conservation and other grounds and consent for such works will not normally be granted except for access crossings.

Groundwater Protection

We recommend that a water features survey is conducted along the route of the pipeline and to an appropriate distance beyond to determine any water features, such as springs feeding water courses, that may be impacted by the earth works.

Environment Agency
Coverdale House Aviator Court, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 4GZ.
Customer services line: 08708 506 506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

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Biodiversity

We have little ecological data for the immediate area affected, which is largely forestry plantation.

However surveys should include identification of any likely invasive plants that may spread along the pipeline corridor and if found mitigation measures be proposed.

No water is to be transferred from one catchment to another to avoid spreading disease, parasites or invasive species. Any water used (e.g. for pressure testing pipes) must be returned to the same point from which it was taken with appropriate measures to re-adjust pH, temperature and oxygen content.

Where tree felling is planned this should follow a check for bats and should be carried out before the main nesting season (April - June inclusive).

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr Thomas Pagett
Planning Liaison Officer