Kirkfield House,

Rectory Lane,

Thornton le Dale,

Pickering,

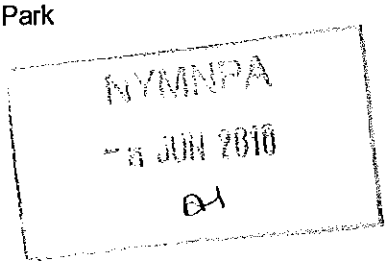
North Yorkshire.

YO18 7QG

Tel :

5th June 2010

Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP



Dear Sir,

Proposal by Moorland Energy Ltd to construct a gas processing facility at Hurrell Lane, Thornton Dale.

I enclose a copy of my letter to North Yorkshire County Council objecting to the above proposal, for your information.

Although the proposed site is not within the National Park, we believe the proposed facility would impact adversely on the National Park.

I would therefore ask you to support us in our opposition to the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Alison Williams

Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YO62 5BP

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED LETTER OF OBJECTION TO THE MOORLAND ENERGY PLANNING PROPOSAL

I COMPLETED THE FORM TO OBJECT VIA THE WEBSITE, BUT AM SENDING THIS LETTER TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION + TO SUPPORT MY OBJECTION.

I am writing to object to the Moorland Gas Planning **NYM/2010/0262/EIA**

My principal reasons for objecting are as follows :-

1) Landscape

The type and nature of this proposal will be visually intrusive, out of character and extremely detrimental to the landscape, immediately adjacent to the North York Moors National Park.

The companies own Environmental Statement (Non-Technical summary) contains references to Landscape impact

- The Proposed Development will affect land which is predominantly rural with a patchwork of agricultural fields, farms and outbuildings dominating the landscape

And that

- The proposed Hurrell Lane Gas Processing Facility and access road will introduce utilitarian components into an otherwise agricultural landscape of the Vale of Pickering with the subsequent detrimental effect on landscape character.

The company claims that the disused railway embankment and additional tree planting will mitigate the impact and screen the processing plant. I do not believe that this will be the case, taking into account the height of some of the proposed industrial buildings and that fact that the site is clearly visible from the elevated landscape to the north. i.e. from within a large part of the North York Moors National Park.

The Chief Executive of Moorland gas has also issued the following statements

- "the site will be further landscaped to minimise *as much as possible* any visibility from Thornton -le-Dale"

- "despite it's industrial nature, *wherever possible,* materials and colour will be used to help the proposed facility blend into its natural setting"

i.e. it is highly likely that this proposal will be detrimental to the landscape.

2) Traffic

The company has made contradictory statements regarding the proposals for traffic accessing the site. In a recent Q&A sent out to local residents, they have stated that the proposed new access route off the A170 would be used by all traffic
However, The companies own Environmental Statement (Non-Technical summary) states that :

- To allow access to the proposed Gas Processing Facility, a new access road will be constructed from the A170. This will provide a direct entry point to the site, *minimising* the use of Hurrell Lane.

And that

- To allow maintenance access to the proposed new connection, a new access track will be constructed from Hurrell Lane.

Use of in car satellite navigation systems could well lead to vehicles trying to access the site via Thornton Dale, travelling on narrow country lanes and through residential parts of the village. Plus, a lack of control for when vehicles are leaving the site.

I also object to the proposal to construct the new access route to the A170, leading to damage and loss of agricultural land and creating a hazardous new access point on the A170, a road which is busy, especially with tourist traffic accessing the East Coast in the summer months.

The companies own Environmental Statement (Non-Technical summary) states that

- New signs on the A170 will warn drivers of the potential for traffic turning into and out of the access.

Thereby, acknowledging that this proposed new access would create a hazard.

In addition, I note that the company admits that there will inevitably be some disruption during the construction phase, and that the hours proposed are 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week. This will have a significant impact on the local tourism economy.

3) Pollution

a) Emissions

The company makes a number of ambiguous statements in the most recent Q&A such as:

- The facilities have been designed with the intention of eliminating emissions *wherever possible.*

In addition to emissions from the plant itself, the companies own Environmental Statement (Non-Technical summary) states that :

- The main effects on air quality arise from emissions from construction plant and traffic associated with construction activities, dust generation during construction works..

Any mitigating measures that have been proposed are insufficient. I could also find no mention as to removal of waste material associated with the gas processing operation from the site.

b) Noise

The companies own Environmental Statement (Non-Technical summary) states that:

- The Gas Processing Facility *would* produce noise during daytime and night-time periods. The noise attenuation measures are proposed to ensure that there would be no more than minor adverse effects on local noise sensitive properties

I am concerned that due to the elevated position of Thornton-le-Dale, noise from the site will carry more easily and many residential properties in the village would be affected (i.e. affecting properties within the National Park as well as those more immediately adjacent)

c) Light

The companies own Environmental Statement (Non-Technical summary) states that:

- Light nuisance (spill) will not extend a significant distance from the site boundary due to the screening afforded by the soil bunds, equipment, compound area and coniferous trees.

As I previously pointed out, I strongly believe that because of the location of the site and the inadequate nature of the proposed screening in relation to the size of the facility, that light will not be effectively screened, resulting in unacceptable light pollution in a rural area and again impacting upon the National Park.

d) Vibration

I could find no reference to vibration levels that would arise from the operating plant, or how these would be mitigated, but it is another point of concern, again at odds with the rural location.

4) Safety and Security

I could find very little reference to either of these aspects in the planning documents as submitted and suspect that this has been rather glossed over. In the Q&A there is reference to an enclosed ground flare if depressurising of the processing facility is required.

As such, I do not feel that sufficient reassurances have been provided in relation to the proposed location for this development.

5) Economic Impact

The company make many references to the need for the UK to meet the demand for gas. However, they admit to being unsure as to how much gas is available in the Ebberston field. Various figures of potential supply have been quoted – from 5-8 years to 20 years.

A recent article in a national newspaper, stated that a British energy firm has made the biggest gas find for 3 years off the Lincolnshire coast, which could hold up to 130 billion cubic feet of gas. However, National Grid said that the gas would supply the UK for little more than ten days and as such was un-commercial to develop, which puts grave doubts over the figures as provided by Moorland Energy

In none of the submissions, has the impact on the tourism economy been taken into account. Thornton-le-Dale and the surrounding area rely heavily on tourism, generating employment in a rural location, and to place this at risk would be foolhardy.

The company has been ambiguous in how many jobs the propose plant would create, with statement such as :-

- "the proposal will create both temporary and permanent employment and *where possible,* Moorland Energy will look to recruit the required skills from within the Ryedale communities

And

- We plan to implement an apprenticeship scheme for up to10 young people

In reality, it is unlikely that any local jobs would be created due to the specialist nature of an industry such as gas processing.

6) Environmental Impact

The proposed development will be damaging and harmful to wildlife, both in the construction phase due to high levels of disturbance and on completion due to the industrial nature of the facility, set directly within a rural location.

Wildlife species such as the brown hare (which while not currently rare or endangered is one of the governments priority species for conservation) will suffer disturbance and loss of habitat if this proposal goes ahead.

In terms of cultural heritage, the proposed route of the pipeline crosses numerous sites of archaeological importance (both scheduled and unscheduled) which would be damaged by construction of a gas pipeline.

Summary

In summary, and for the reasons as stated above, I strongly object to the proposal, and feel that it is wholly inappropriate to support this type of industrial development in a rural location, and within or immediately adjacent to the North York Moors National Park. I thereby request that the planners refuse the application outright.

Regards

5/5/10 .

Jon Bates
Orchard House
South Lane
Thornton Dale
N Yorks
YO18 7QU

Mr James Mark
44 Butterburn Park
Hamilton
ML3 6 SJ

Dear Sir
As regular visitor to Thornton le Dale for a number of years (10approx) while on my latest visit June2010 I hear that there are plans being submitted to the local council to build a sour gas plant at the village?
In recent years I have been visiting East Hill Farm with my family & grand children the farm has a number of pine lodges as accommodation a substantial investment in the local tourist business two of the pine lodges look over the vale of Pickering with an excellent view of the local country side which provides great pleasure on a summers evening just to relax sit and admire .

Having been shown where the gas site will be constructed it will be no more than visibly intrusive to the magnificent view well out of character of the surrounding area.

Has any thought been given to local resident's elderly people e.g. alms houses residents a retirement home in the village noise, pollution, heavy traffic, during construction or has all this been cast aside to produce a profit for greedy share holders in the gas company .

There does not seem to have been any consideration to the long term damaging affect on the tourist businesses or local economy as when the construction of the plant is completed & the short term business boost to shops etc has gone the tourist industry will suffer as people will not return to this village with its air pollution & such an eye sore.
Surely there are more important things than money or a profit for people who may or may not have visited the village this would be far better left for the future for the next generations to enjoy rather than the violation of one of the most picturesque villages in North Yorkshire
My wife & I have visited the village over number of years & the pine lodges at East Hill farm which we enjoy very much but I would give it serious consideration about returning if the view from the pine lodge was a GAS PLANT & polluted air when other tourists find out of this project the knock on effect to the local tourism business can only cause serious & long term damage to an already fragile local economy Which depends so highly on tourism to sustain it?

I would be obliged if I could receive conformation of the receipt of this letter
With thanks

Church Farm,
Wilton,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire,
YO18 7LE.

24. August 2010

Mr M Conrery
North Yorkshire CC
Northallerton.
DL7 8AH.

Dear Mr Conrery

Planning Application No. NY/2010/0159/ENV.

I have pleasure in enclosing the details of the petition which took place in the village of Wilton mainly in March of this year.

The people who signed represented approx 90% of the inhabitants. This shows the strong feeling which exists in the village

village/

against the proposed gas processing plant development in that particular location.

Yours Sincerely

cc. Mr M. Hill
North York Moors National Park.

Miss Jane Watson
Ivy Barn
South Lane
Thornton-Le-Dale
Nr Pickering
YO18 7QU

Mr M. Hill, Planning Department
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YO62 5BP

Dear Mr Hill

Planning Application Number: NYM/2010/0262/EIA

Proposal by Moorland Energy Limited to commence gas extraction and install 700m pipeline as part of Ryedale Gas Project, Thornton-le-Dale

I am a Thornton Le Dale resident and am writing to express my objection to the Moorland Energy Limited of Guildford natural gas extraction and processing plant undergoing a planning application to be developed in Thornton-le-Dale, Wilton and Ebberston.

Our community that almost entirely survives from tourist revenue, and is reputed entirely for residing in one of Britain's most amazing areas of natural beauty will be severely ailed by any such proposal going ahead.

Visual Impact - The proposed development will be visually intrusive, particularly when seen from public areas and certain properties in Thornton-le-Dale, Wilton and Allerston. I am personally close to the proposed site and will see the top of the site and will certainly smell the plant.
Measures to screen the gas processing facility will paradoxically have the effect of drawing attention to it and the actual site of 14 acres opens itself up to further development beyond the 5.5 acres initial planning.

Pollution Concerns - Noise, Vibration, Dust, Odour and Light Spill
The area is currently entirely free of the above industrial pollutants. I believe the impact of these pollutants has been considerably and deliberately played down by the Applicants and this is my greatest concern, in particular ammonia odour. We have a huge wild bird population and they are truly beautiful. They will undoubtedly be affected/deterred from nesting here.

Social Effects - I moved here for its attractive character, landscape, quietness, rurality and tranquillity. This development would have a considerable and adverse impact on what makes Thornton Thornton. Walking the dog around the lanes of Thornton and up to Wilton will certainly no longer be a pleasure.

Traffic Disruption, Congestion, Noise and Dirty Roads – during and after construction and also seriously impede my commute to work and at weekends when tourist traffic is at its highest.

Safety and Security - I am gravely concerned that the negative revolt from extreme anti-sour gas plant opposition will make me feel unsafe in my own home. Added to this, should any industrial accident occur, that the site and surrounding land will e irrevocably damaged.

Proximity of the development to the National Park - The progression of any such development is contrary to Environment Act 1995's requirement to "conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and
cultural heritage".

Effect on Tourism Economy - The development will have the effect of reducing the desirability of the area as a place to visit both generally, and in the case of several holiday destinations in the vicinity of the site, very specifically. This reduction in attractiveness comes at a time when Yorkshire is being heavily promoted, at public expense, as a tourist destination. Further, the National Park & Dalby Forest have recently received significant sums in investment (from government funding, charities including British Cycling, and local councils) to attract new business and high profile international events. This **money will have been wasted** at the taxpayers cost. Any **negative PR** bound due to follow any acceptance of the development will undoubtedly reduce the desirability to choose our area as a venue for any major televised events, concerts, outdoor shows, etc.

I believe without doubt there are great disproportionate benefits to proceeding with Moorlands plans, and most importantly understand this is a short-term plan to make money out of our area, without any long-term plan and commitment to restore the area to its former/current beauty; leaving an industrial graveyard on our doorstep. Moorlands appear to show no real commitment or connection with the area, nor plan to limit the devastating effects this plant will inevitably bring.

Sincerely

Miss Jane Watson
South Lane RESIDENT

29.7.10

DEAR SIR,

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR OBJECTIONS REMAIN THE SAME AND THAT WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT, HAVING CONSIDERED THE AMENDMENTS.

NYMNPA
04 AUG 2010

YOURS SINCERELY,

(T. M. BEECHAM)

(L. BEECHAM)

58 Formerly Close
Provisional Date
Yoik 7TE

3 August 2010

Sue Ryder Care
Manorlands Hospice

75 Harbour Road
Wibsey, Bradford. BD6 3EG

Dear Sirs,

Re: Planning Application No. NYM/2010/0262/EIA.

I have been made aware of the proposal by Moorland Energy Ltd, of the above planning application in the beautiful area of Thornton-le-Dale.

This is my favourite place in the whole of North Yorkshire and would certainly vote against any such construction being carried out.

I have spent many years holidaying here with my late husband, and to desecrate such an area with the proposed plans would be scandalous.

Yours faithfully

NYMNPA
06 AUG 2010

Published by Sue Ryder Care Manorlands

View to Rosedale, North York Moors
© Photograph by Alan Curtis / Judges

Kirkfield House,

Rectory Lane,

Thornton le Dale,

Pickering,

North Yorkshire.

YO18 7QG

5th June 2010

Mr M Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Dear Mr. Convery,

Planning Application Number: NY/2010/0159/ENV

Proposal by Moorland Energy Limited to construct a pipeline to and construct a gas processing facility at Hurrell Lane, Thornton Dale.

We wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the above planning application.
We live very close to the site chosen by Moorland Energy to build their sour gas processing plant.

Our concerns are:

1. **Visual Amenity**

The visual amenity of the Vale of Pickering will be forever damaged if this work is allowed to proceed. We do not believe that any screening, not least that proposed in their planning application, would adequately screen this eyesore. It will be tens of years before newly planted trees will reach the required height and until then the plant will be visually intrusive. This is a predominantly farming and tourism based community and such a development would be completely out of character. Although not in the National Park it must have a detrimental impact on the National Park.

2. **Pollution**

This is a quiet, tranquil rural area. The effect of the noise, vibration, dust and odour on the local area will be immense. In addition there will be light spill from 24 hour operation of the plant. This will adversely affect all who live, not only in Thornton Dale, but also Wilton and Allerston. The closest residents to the proposed plant are elderly people who may be more likely to suffer adverse effects from pollutants.

3. **Safety and Security**

The planning application gives very little priority to security and safety.

4. Environmental Issues

An environmental impact survey was undertaken on two occasions in October and November 2009. At best this is inadequate and unrepresentative. Those of us who regularly walk the lanes and footpaths in the proposed area are very well aware of the wealth of wildlife, both flora and fauna, to be found all year round. We are also aware that winter is not usually the optimal time to observe it. It goes without saying that a large scale industrial development will destroy wildlife habitats and ecosystems.

5. Effect on Tourism

Tourism is the lifeblood of the local community and Thornton Dale is fortunate to benefit from many visitors who return year after year. Who will want to visit a village that is blighted by an unsightly, smelly and potentially dangerous industrial plant? Moorland Energy make much of the employment opportunities that the gas plant will generate but in reality the number of jobs available to local people is unlikely to be more that 2 or 3. These will be more than offset by the local jobs lost when businesses allied to tourism fail as a direct result of the plant.

6. Traffic

The disruption during construction of the proposed plant will be enormous. The extra construction traffic in addition to the normal traffic along the A170 will make an already busy and dangerous road far worse.

7. Contribution of the project

The sour gas plant will make a minimal contribution to the country's energy needs and the damage to the local area must surely outweigh this tiny benefit.

8. Dangerous planning precedents

Many residents of Thornton Dale who have applied in vain for planning permission are well aware of the building restrictions placed on them in order to preserve the character of the village. The chances of an ordinary resident successfully gaining planning permission to build on this green field site must be nil. We urge you not to create a dangerous precedent by allowing Moorland Energy to build a large industrial monstrosity on this site of natural beauty thus destroying the character of the local area.

Moorland Energy are based 250 miles away. They have made little attempt to engage with the local district council and seem to have no regard for the local people, the local economy or the environment.
Please do not let them ruin our village. Reject this planning application!

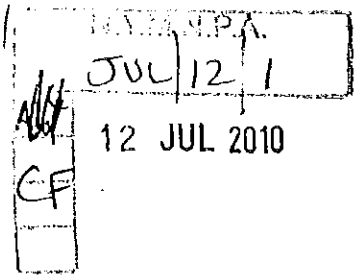
Yours sincerely,

Drs Alison and Stephen Williams

cc. Mrs Anne McIntosh MP
Chief Planning Officer, NYMNP
Editor, Gazette & Herald newspaper

Miss Anne McIntosh
Member of Parliament for Thirsk,
Malton and Filey
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Andy Wilson
Chief Executive
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP

30th June 2010

Dear Andy,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I have received from one of my constituents, Dr Alison Williams, regarding the issue of the planning application to build a gas processing plant in Thornton le Dale.

I would be grateful if you could look at Dr William's letter and address her concerns on this matter. Thanking you in advance.

Many thanks for my meeting and briefing last Friday - really helpful!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Anne McIntosh LLB MP
Member of Parliament for Thirsk, Malton and Filey

Kirkfield House,

Rectory Lane,

Thornton le Dale,

Pickering,

North Yorkshire.

YO18 7QG

5th June 2010

Miss Anne McIntosh
MP for Thirsk and Malton
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Miss McIntosh,

I am a resident of Thornton Dale in Ryedale, North Yorkshire and you are my newly elected Member of Parliament.

Moorland Energy Ltd, based in Surrey, have applied for planning permission to build a gas processing plant on a green field site in our village.

Such a large scale industrial development is totally out of character with the village and will destroy the local economy which relies on tourism, for the sake of creating 2 or 3 local jobs and generating a negligible amount of gas.

I enclose a copy of my letter to North Yorkshire County Council objecting to the proposal.

Opposition to the proposal is very strong in Thornton Dale, and in the nearby villages of Wilton and Allerston, and I would ask for your additional help and support in stopping this ridiculous plan.

I would also invite you to come and visit Thornton Dale so that you can see for yourself how the project would impact on your constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alison Williams

Kingfisher Cottage

Chestnut Avenue
Thornton Dale
Pickering, North Yorkshire
YO18 7RW

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11 July 2010

Mr M Hill,
Development Control Manager
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YO62 5BP

THE PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER: NYM/2010/0262/EIA

Dear Sir

My wife and I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed GAS PLANT at Thornton Dale.

Apart from the detailed objections forwarded to you from the Thornton Dale's residents, I am very concerned with pollution which will be caused, being disabled with Cardiovascular Disease and the lung disease PULMONARY EMBOLISM, having help with my breathing with oxygen.

Any pollution spilled from the plant, could have serious consequences for me.

There are many elderly people residing in the village with similar medical conditions, who also could be effected from pollution.

We think the proposed planned gas plant is badly sited, and should be moved to a more open stuation, well away from a village like Thonton Dale.

Yours truly,

W. Bramley.

Kirkfield House,

Rectory Lane,

Thornton le Dale,

Pickering,

North Yorkshire.

YO18 7QG

5th June 2010

Mr M Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Dear Mr. Convery,

Planning Application Number: NY/2010/0159/ENV

Proposal by Moorland Energy Limited to construct a pipeline to and construct a gas processing facility at Hurrell Lane, Thornton Dale.

We wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the above planning application.
We live very close to the site chosen by Moorland Energy to build their sour gas processing plant.

Our concerns are:

1. **Visual Amenity**

The visual amenity of the Vale of Pickering will be forever damaged if this work is allowed to proceed. We do not believe that any screening, not least that proposed in their planning application, would adequately screen this eyesore. It will be tens of years before newly planted trees will reach the required height and until then the plant will be visually intrusive. This is a predominantly farming and tourism based community and such a development would be completely out of character. Although not in the National Park it must have a detrimental impact on the National Park.

2. **Pollution**

This is a quiet, tranquil rural area. The effect of the noise, vibration, dust and odour on the local area will be immense. In addition there will be light spill from 24 hour operation of the plant. This will adversely affect all who live, not only in Thornton Dale, but also Wilton and Allerston. The closest residents to the proposed plant are elderly people who may be more likely to suffer adverse effects from pollutants.

3. **Safety and Security**

The planning application gives very little priority to security and safety.

4. Environmental Issues

An environmental impact survey was undertaken on two occasions in October and November 2009. At best this is inadequate and unrepresentative. Those of us who regularly walk the lanes and footpaths in the proposed area are very well aware of the wealth of wildlife, both flora and fauna, to be found all year round. We are also aware that winter is not usually the optimal time to observe it. It goes without saying that a large scale industrial development will destroy wildlife habitats and ecosystems.

5. Effect on Tourism

Tourism is the lifeblood of the local community and Thornton Dale is fortunate to benefit from many visitors who return year after year. Who will want to visit a village that is blighted by an unsightly, smelly and potentially dangerous industrial plant? Moorland Energy make much of the employment opportunities that the gas plant will generate but in reality the number of jobs available to local people is unlikely to be more that 2 or 3. These will be more than offset by the local jobs lost when businesses allied to tourism fail as a direct result of the plant.

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The disruption during construction of the proposed plant will be enormous. The extra construction traffic in addition to the normal traffic along the A170 will make an already busy and dangerous road far worse.

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The sour gas plant will make a minimal contribution to the country's energy needs and the damage to the local area must surely outweigh this tiny benefit.

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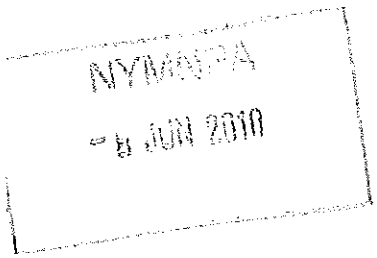
Many residents of Thornton Dale who have applied in vain for planning permission are well aware of the building restrictions placed on them in order to preserve the character of the village. The chances of an ordinary resident successfully gaining planning permission to build on this green field site must be nil. We urge you not to create a dangerous precedent by allowing Moorland Energy to build a large industrial monstrosity on this site of natural beauty thus destroying the character of the local area.

Moorland Energy are based 250 miles away. They have made little attempt to engage with the local district council and seem to have no regard for the local people, the local economy or the environment.
Please do not let them ruin our village. Reject this planning application!

Yours sincerely,



Drs Alison and Stephen Williams

cc. Mrs Anne McIntosh MP
Chief Planning Officer, NYMNP
Editor, Gazette & Herald newspaper

AGHAST !

3 Whitbygate
Thornton-le-Dale
Pickering
North Yorks
YO18 7RY

17 April 2010

Mr M. Hill, Development Control Manager
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YO62 5BP

Dear Mr Hill

Planning Application Number: NYM/2010/0262/EIA

Proposal by Moorland Energy Limited to commence gas extraction and install 700m pipeline as part of Ryedale Gas Project, Thornton-le-Dale

Initial comments from "AGHAST!"

I write as a spokesman of AGHAST!, a group of local residents formed in March 2010 following the announcement by Moorland Energy Limited of Guildford that plans were to be submitted for the extraction and processing of natural gas in the environs of Thornton-le-Dale, Wilton and Ebberston.

This letter is an initial summary of the concerns and objections of AGHAST! and it is intended that it be followed shortly by a fuller statement.

The proposals put forward by the Applicants have been researched by them over a considerable period of time, and we feel that a thorough, considered response to the plans will take longer to complete than would be allowed for by the statutory 21-day consultation period.

We request, therefore, more time to in which to submit our considered response, which we anticipate may take up to eight weeks.

Summary of objections:

General
We are concerned that the location chosen for the proposed processing plant has been selected primarily on the grounds of low cost to the developers, and that the cases for rejecting other, more suitable sites, have been overstated.

Whilst not averse to the responsible exploitation and use of natural resources *per se*, AGHAST! feels that this proposal is asking our community to pay a very heavy price for what will be no more than a very modest contribution to national energy supplies.

Contravention of Planning Policies
This proposal contravenes policies contained within National, regional, National Park and local plans, planning policy statements and guidelines.

Visual Impact
The proposed development will be visually intrusive, particularly when seen from public areas and certain properties in Thornton-le-Dale, Wilton and Allerston. Measures to screen the gas processing facility will paradoxically have the effect of drawing attention to it.

Pollution Concerns - Noise, Vibration, Dust, Odour and Light Spill
The area is currently entirely free of the above industrial pollutants. We believe the impact of these pollutants has been considerably and deliberately played down by the Applicants.

Social Effects
People choose this area as a place to live, work and visit for a variety of reasons, but mostly because it has a particularly attractive character of rurality and tranquillity. This development would have a considerable and adverse impact on these characteristics.

Traffic
The construction phase of the development will cause considerable disruption and will inevitably coincide with periods of high tourist traffic, further detracting from the experience visitors will have of the area. This phase would come at a crucial period in the economic cycle, when local tourist businesses, badly hurt by the recession, are trying to re-establish themselves. This proposal would undermine those efforts.

Safety and Security
We are gravely concerned at the risks to which the residents of and visitors to the area will be exposed. We feel that safety has been given a low priority in the planning application and that insufficient regard has been paid to the threat the plant would pose if an accident were to happen or it were to be chosen as a target for terrorism.

Proximity of the development to the National Park

Whilst only a proportion of the development falls within the North York Moors National Park, its proximity to the Park cannot be ignored.
The National Park is an area of great beauty. The effects of industrial development in the area immediately surrounding the National Park will not be confined to the site on which the development is built but will necessarily extend to the Park. These effects would be highly detrimental, and would be contrary to Environment Act 1995's requirement to "conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage"

Effect on Tourism Economy
The development will have the effect of reducing the desirability of the area as a place to visit both generally, and in the case of several holiday destinations in the vicinity of the site, very specifically. This reduction in attractiveness comes at a time when Yorkshire is being heavily promoted, at public expense, as a tourist destination. We believe that more jobs would be lost in the tourism sector than would be created locally by the development.

Comments on the statements of need
The case for national need for this development has been grossly overstated by the Applicants. The proposal would make a tiny contribution to national energy supplies, but at a cost to the local area vastly disproportionate to any benefits.

Yours sincerely

Adam White

For and on behalf of AGHAST!

Easthill Lodge
Wilton Road
Thornton-le-Dale
YO18 7QP

28th May 2010

Planning application NY/2010/0159/ENV

Dear sir,

Please find enclosed copy of letter of objection sent to Mr. M. Convery at Northallerton.

Yours sincerely

R.G. & S.M. Buckler

Planning Application: Application for gas production from existing wellsite and provision of a local equipment room together with construction of 2 no. underground gas pipelines (700m0 of the pipework link to a proposed gas processing facility off Hurrell Lane, Thornton le Dale.
NY MNP Application number: NYM/2010/0262/EIA
NYCC Application number NY/2010/0159/ENV

I refer to the planning application for the proposed development. From an environmental health point of view the main issues arise from the potential for noise and air pollution both from the construction phase and the ongoing running of the facility. Private water supplies and their location have been provided to the consultants.

The following points are my initial thoughts on the application, more detailed views will be provided following clarification of some of the issues detailed below.

Siting
The drilling and exploitation of inland gas in and around the Vale Of Pickering has been going on for a considerable number of years and is generally well regulated and few complaints arise. However experience has shown that the products arising from "sour gas" including hydrogen sulphide and particularly mercaptans are extremely malodorous. Even small amounts of liquid condensate can be detected at a considerable distance downwind and account for most complaints. It is therefore logical to site any facility, which will include extraction of liquids as far from premises as possible. In this particular case these locations will be the well site and the Gas Processing Facility (GPF).
The wellsite is reasonably isolated from any residential or business premises and the reasoning for the siting of the proposed GPF is given in Chapter 5 of Volume 1 of the Environmental Statement. Chapter 5.7 advise that the option of development within the National Park has not been pursued as it was the NYMNPA preferred option that gas be piped outside the National Park boundary and a production facility also be located outside the park boundary. The letter from the NYMNP however relates not to a Gas Processing Facility (GPF) but to electricity generation and the consequent pylons. An assumption appears to have been made that the NYMNP would have the same view in relation to the GPF as it would to the generation of electricity.
The Planning, Sustainability and Needs Statement (3.13) and Environmental Statement (5.25) advises of an existing 450mm local transmission system gas pipeline which connects Pickering with Whitby. It is not stated as to which way the gas flows but the size is larger than the proposed 300mm pipeline. The options appraisal in Chapter 5 does not take into account the possibility of locating the GPF at the wellsite and connecting to this pipeline, which is only a few hundred metres away.
In addition there is also a wellsite just to the north of the Ebberston wellsite (next to the existing Transco site), which was drilled by a different company at around the same time. Has any consideration been given to tying in with this application any future exploitation of this if sufficient reserves were found?

Air Pollution
The application advises that the reservoir has the potential to produce more than 0.566 million cubic metres per day (mcm/d)(5.37) and the GPF will be able to process up to 1.1mcm/d(5.5). This rate of extraction and gas processing should bring the gas

processing part of the operation under the terms of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Schedule 2 section 1.2 dealing with Gasification, Liquefaction and Refining activities which brings the refining of gas where this is likely to involve the use of 1,000 or more tones of gas in any 12 month period under the requirement of a Part A(1) Environmental Permit. These Part A(1) Permits are issued by the Environment Agency. No mention is made in the Air Pollution section of the Environmental Statement as to the requirement to apply to the Environment Agency for such a permit. Could the applicants confirm that they concur with this opinion and if any approach has yet been made to the Environment Agency. If the applicant does concur with this view the two planning authorities may wish to consult with the Environment Agency in this particular regard.

Although dispersion modeling has been undertaken for NOx and CO, emissions of SO_2, H_2S and mercaptans are not modelled for the boiler and regeneration heater as the application states the sweetening plant on-site will remove these pollutants prior to heating and burning to national domestic gas standards (9.6). Are these entirely closed systems with no discharges or venting arrangements? Fugitive emissions of the H_2S and mercaptans have not been assessed as these emissions are considered by the agents as insignificant (9.57), however they may be be a source of odours when mercaptans are present. What measures will be in place to control odours from these sources?
Details of odour attenuation measures for the venting associated with liquids removal to tankers and storage of sulphur are required.

Noise
I note from the application that no frequency information is yet available for the proposed plant and detailed design had not advanced sufficiently to make reliable estimates of the likely frequency content of the noise emitted to atmosphere. Although there will be pumps at the wellsite these could be provided with sufficient attenuation as not to impact on the nearest residential property at Givendale Head Farm. I require clarification as to the predicted noise level at this property in relation to the pre existing daytime and night-time background noise as the statement in 10.28 is ambiguous.
Noise from the installation of the pipeline will be transitory and limited in their duration. Controls of the hours of construction are proposed but while this may be acceptable for the pipeline, the construction of the new roadway and GPF may require Sunday shut down.
My main concerns regarding noise would be the proposed Gas Processing Facility at Hurrell Lane.
Both the daytime and night-time background levels in this vicinity are very low, therefore the residences are vulnerable to intrusion to noise from the site unless adequately attenuated. The agents state that initial "predictive calculations from the information currently available indicate that noise from the GPF at Hurrell Lane may just be detectable at the nearest properties at times of extreme quite". This is particularly true of a 24 hr processing facility and its impact on an evening and night-time ambient noise levels. If permission is given for this development it is essential that a properly designed scheme of attenuation of plant and equipment is submitted prior to any development, which also takes into account the possibility of any tonal characteristics. The conclusion that the worst-case scenario was modelled and that further noise control measures are unlikely to be necessary is not evidenced. The

- design, specification and attenuation of plant and equipment should be designed around the pre existing night-time background level.

Private Water Supplies

There is a strong possibility that the proposed pipeline will cross over the distribution network of the private water supply networks of Givendale Head Farm and Warren House Farm. The owners of the supplies should be contacted to ensure the security of these supplies is maintained.

S. Richmond
Health and Environment Manger,
Ryedale District Council

Manor Vale
South Lane
Thornton Dale
Pickering
North Yorkshire
YO18 7QU

Mr M Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH
14 May 2010

Dear Mr Convery

Objection to planning application NY/2010/0159/ENV

We are writing to object to the above planning application on the following grounds,

Thornton Dale relies on tourism as its main source of income, the tourists come here for the peace and tranquillity of the village and surrounding countryside and also walk the many public footpaths and spend money in the local shops. No tourist wants to come and see a gas processing plant or smell it as they explore the village and surrounding countryside. If this project went ahead the loss of tourism would have a huge impact on the village with a loss of jobs and possible closure of some local shops. Thornton Dale would loose its status as the prettiest village in North Yorkshire for ever.

We are aware that the proposed site is not in the National Park but it is right on the boundary, the other side of Hurrell Lane is in the Park. To site such a processing plant in an area of such outstanding natural beauty is both totally out of character and would be visually intrusive. The natural beauty of the area will be lost forever, as at the moment the area is a haven for a wide variety of wildlife and we feel the impact of this proposed plant will result in great reduction in this, especially the barn owls who nest nearby.

It is a well known fact that sour gas contains hydrogen sulphide, which is detectable at a concentration of only one part per billion (bad egg smell) and kills at higher levels. When flared it is sulphur dioxide that is emitted to atmosphere which is also detrimental to health and research in Canada suggests possible links to stillbirth in livestock. The proposed site is in close proximity to a large dairy herd and numerous fields of grazing sheep. Research has also shown that emissions of this nature have a serious effect on the elderly, very young and people suffering from respiratory problems, as Thornton Dale has a large population of retired people, and there is a retirement village which is within half a kilometre of the proposed site, the emissions would be a big concern even if they met the national standards.

There is no mention in the planning application of what other chemical bi-products will be produced during the processing of the sour gas, other than sulphur. It just says that the condensate will be removed by road tanker by others for further processing. It is a concern just how toxic would this condensate be?

The compressors will emit noise especially at night when air invertion occurs and will be heard by the residents of property close to the plant. As the site will also be floodlit this will have a detrimental effect on the nocturnal wildlife in the area as well as being seen by part of Thornton Dale and Wilton.

As the proposed plant is only a few hundreds yards away from residential property safety would a grave concern. The planning application shows that part of the process involves an absorption vessel operating at a very high pressure and any incident caused by equipment malfunction or terrorism could have dire consequences. We believe new evacuation procedures have been introduced on these processing plants situated abroad due to the highly toxic nature of the sour gas.

If approved the disruption during construction would be considerable as they propose working 12 hours a day 7 days a week, this would have a huge effect on tourism with the increased traffic not to mention the noise and dust that would result. We have concerns on the safety of the new access road at its junction to the A170 as it is outside the 40 mph speed limit and turning lorries could be a hazard to other traffic, there are many accidents along this stretch of road already.

Moorland Energy say they would create jobs for local people, we would point out that these jobs would still be there if the processing plant were to be built in a more appropriate location.

At the present time the contribution this gas reserve would make to our overall needs is very small. It is not in the national interest to tap this supply of gas as it will still be there in 20 years time when reserves may be running low. It has just been proposed for monetary profit and not in the national interest. I trust that the Planning Committee will refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Graham and Vicky Matthews

Copy to:
Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP

Manor Vale
South Lane
Thornton Dale
Pickering
North Yorkshire
YO18 7QU

Mr M Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

15 May 2010

Dear Mr Convery

Objection to planning application NY/2010/0159/ENV

Some 20 years ago I made a decision to leave my home town and come to live in the North York Moors, settling in the most beautiful village of Thornton le Dale. I had visited several times on holiday, enjoying the clean air, the magnificent scenery and the friendliness of the local people, so different from the industrial midland town I came from. A town with heavy engineering factories, the M6 motorway running thought part of its and the heavy vehicles using its roads, belching out exhaust fumes, which attacked the throat, eyes and nose.

When my grandmother went to live in that town in the 1900's she described it as a nice, quiet, clean pleasant little place. I think that there is a warning there to allowing construction of an industrial plant on the edge of the beautiful North York Moors.

The life blood of this village is tourism – tourists visiting from all over the world. They come to enjoy the beauty, the good clean air, and the amenities. Do you believe that they will want to come into a place which stinks of rotten eggs! (the result of hydrogen sulphide) and also the danger of emissions, undetected by smell which would be a danger to young children and old people.

I very much doubt that the promise of jobs for locals will come to fruition but that their promises, like politicians, are so much 'pie crust'. Also at the exhibition of the proposed plant, Mr Erasmus was heard to comment that he would be bringing his own work force with him, and I am sure that the construction engineers will bring their own experienced workers with them. Promises are easily made but soon broken.

I would earnestly request that you will carefully consider the concerns of the people who live here, and very carefully consider the long term outcome of allowing this planning application to go through. Don't let the most beautiful place we have here now become, like my home town, a place people want to escape from rather than come to enjoy.

Yours sincerely

B M Sillito

Copy to: ✓
Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP

Stonebeck
Main Street
Allerston
Pickering
North Yorkshire
YO18 7PG

Mr M Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Wednesday 12th May 2010

Dear Sir

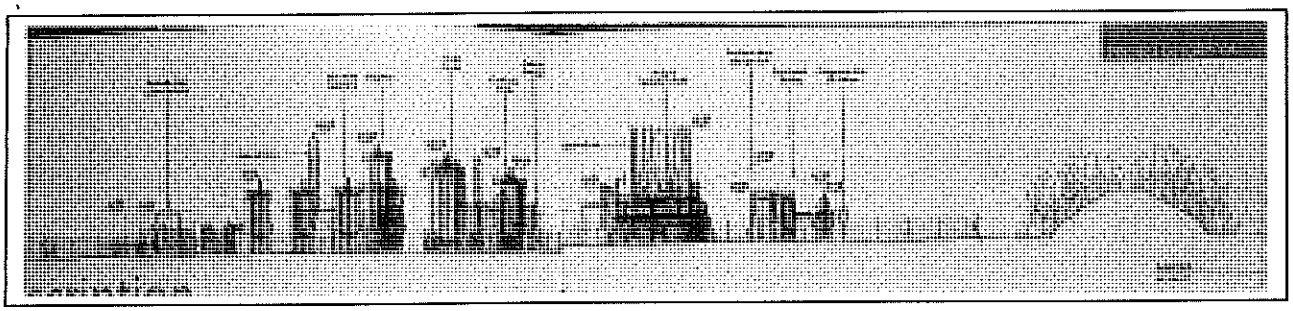
Objection to planning application **NY/2010.0159/ENV**

On Saturday 6th March I attended a public exhibition hosted by *Moorland – Ryedale Gas Project* in Allerston Village Hall. I was staggered by what I saw and could not believe that Ryedale District Council Planning Office or indeed North Yorkshire County Council Planners would even begin to consider a project that would have such visual impact from all angles in a flat bottomed vale. I assumed, perhaps it now appears wrongly, that the planners and particularly Ryedale District Council would act in my best interest as a resident. I am aware of planning applications for new buildings where old fashioned, single glazed, wooden framed windows were insisted upon because of the visual impact on the locality. I therefore thought to myself, "There is no way they would get permission for a project like this". Now I understand that this project has just passed the first hurdle in the planning application process.

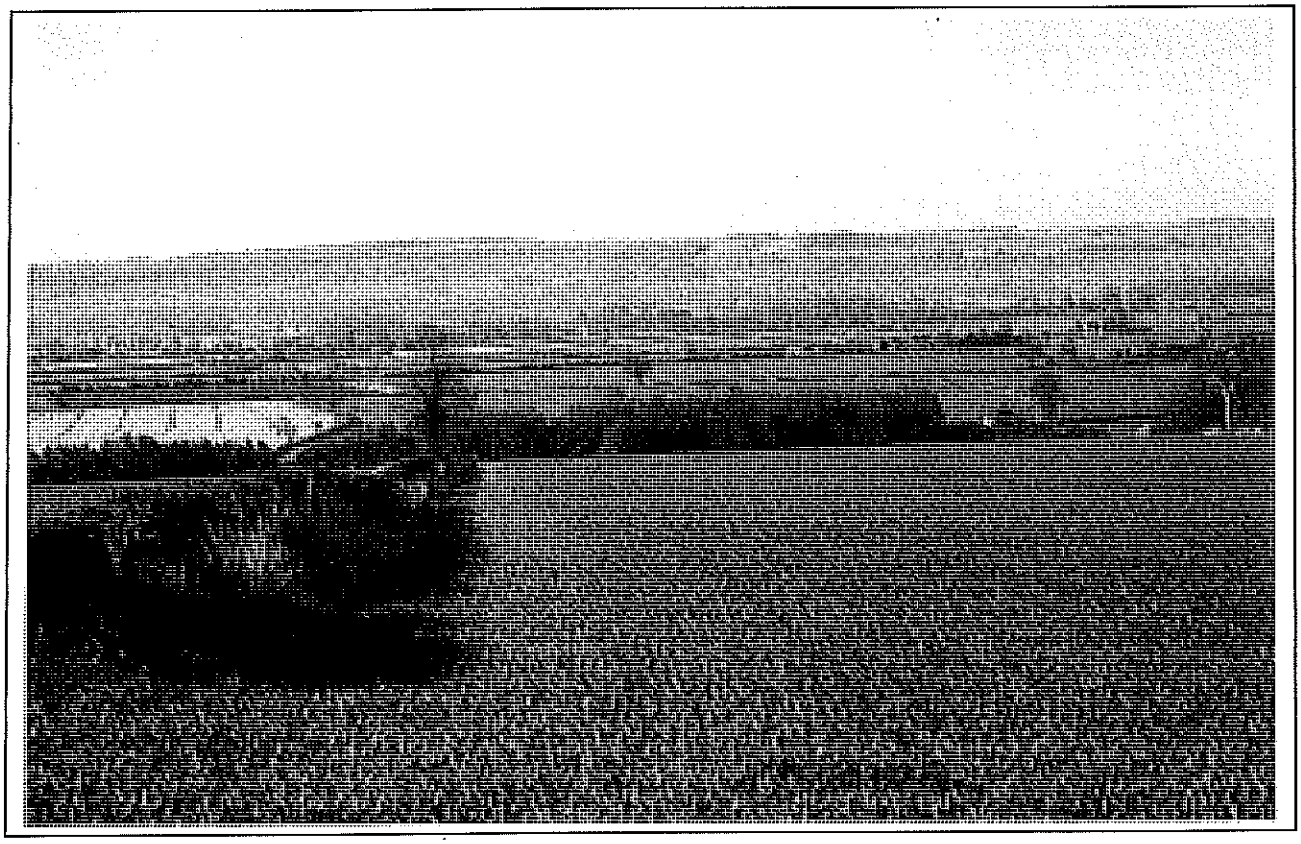
I asked specific questions of Mr Erasmus and Mr Jenkins regarding the gas processing plants impact visually and environmentally as well as problems that could specifically affect my quality of life here in Allerston. Would there be noise, night time light pollution (we already suffer considerable light pollution from the floodlights of a Golf Range in Snainton) and smells. The Gas Plant at Knapton occasionally emits a smell of rotten eggs and this can be smelt at East Heslerton where I work. The prevailing westerly wind would bring any odours from this proposed Gas Plant straight to my front door.

Why do you not advise them to locate the processing plant at the well head or in an old quarry or somewhere less obtrusive? It will be highly visible to all travellers and walkers along the A170 and from the western side of Wilton village and any poor person renting the holiday homes to the north and south of it will have a lovely close-up view of a shiny new Gas Processing Plant. I would think those businesses would suffer considerable hardship as a result.

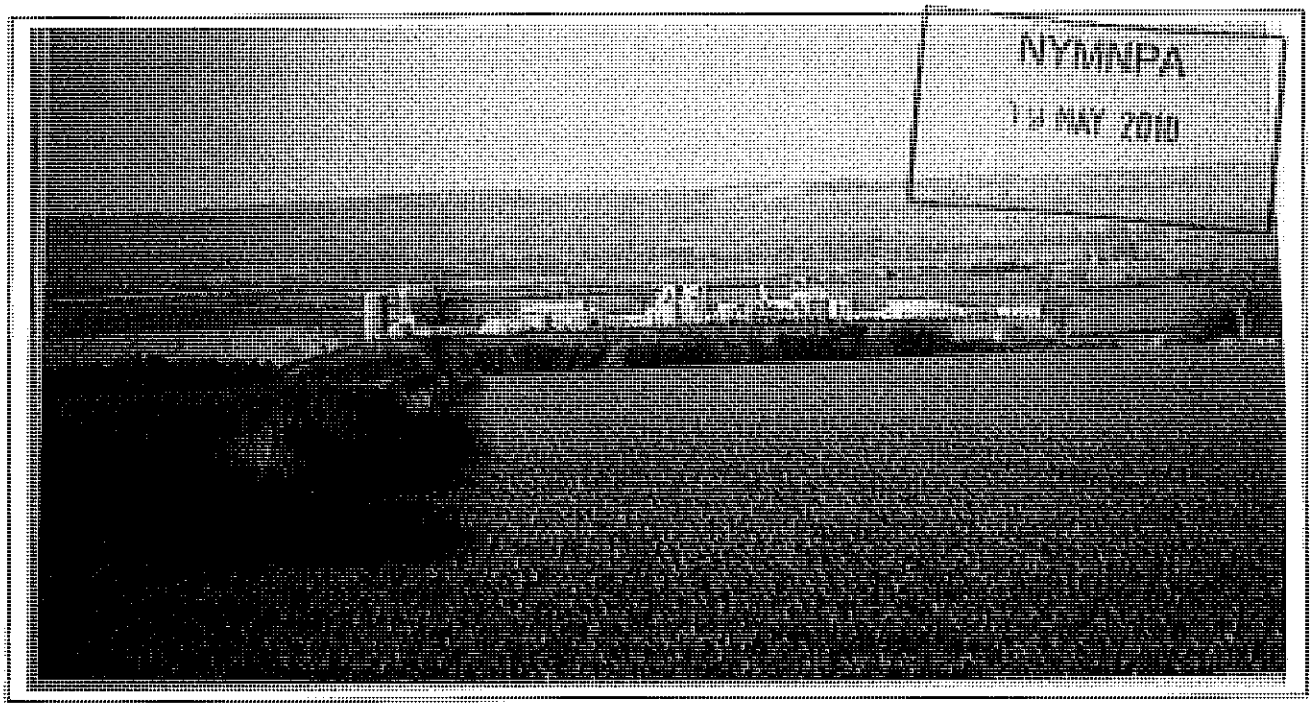
The publicity brochures show an artist impression of the visual impact on the landscape from a very low lying private road and not what most people will see from A170. The existing embankment and mature trees that grow on it will not screen the higher parts of the building and this can clearly be seen from the artist impression at the top of pages 4 and 5 in the exhibition brochure. I asked Mr Erasmus why he did not have a 3D relief model of the valley and proposed gas plant. I think it would show just how obtrusive this will be to the area.



North View of Proposed Gas Plant



View from A170 of proposed gas plant site



Artist impression of proposed gas plant

I asked if there would be jobs, training or apprenticeships created for the local population, (I have three adult children and have been a parent governor at Thornton Dale and Lady Lumley's Schools). I was told by Mr Erasmus that only twenty people were required to run the plant, about 4 - 8 on a shift basis, some ground maintenance but no training or apprenticeships as it was a computerised plant. Recent communication from Moorland refers to the creation of a modern apprenticeship scheme for up to ten young people and links with local colleges/ universities. What are these young people going to do?

Should the building of the Gas Processing Plant go ahead I am also very concerned about construction traffic, noise, dust and pollution. Mr Erasmus told me that the traffic would be coming from Middlesbrough and Hull. The Hull traffic would almost certainly try to cut across the valley from the A64 at West Heslerton, through Yedingham and Allerston to get to the A170. These roads are narrow country lanes and often have stock herded from one field to another and are not suitable for heavy traffic from 8am to 7pm.

Another concern I have is that if this plant is built and more gas deposits are discovered it will slowly grow to become a huge carbuncle on our landscape. If you have any knowledge of Knapton Silo you will know how that building has been added to over the years and can be clearly seen from Fryup dale which is twenty miles away.

I would ask you to consider very carefully what this project will actually do for our villages and communities. Allerston and Wilton villages are not even connected to the gas main that this gas processing plant would feed into. The quantity of gas collected from this project is very small compared to projected need in the country

How many local jobs would actually be created? On what payscale?

Who will not benefit?

The tourist industry.

The residents of Thornton Dale, Wilton, Allerston , Ebberston, Yedingham, Knapton and wider Ryedale.

Ryedale District Council will have to repair the roads post construction.

Who is going to benefit?

The person selling the land for the plant.

Laurie Erasmus, Fergus Jenkins and their financial investors.

Local shops during the construction period only.

Yours faithfully,
On behalf of Raymond Kemp, Mary Kemp, Ben Kemp, Toby Kemp and Cheryl Kemp

Mary Kemp

Graham & Ruth Hunt
Hill Top
Wilton Road
Thornton le Dale
Pickering
North Yorkshire
YO18 7QP

Mr. M. Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Objection to planning application **NY/2010/0159/ENV**

Dear Mr Convery

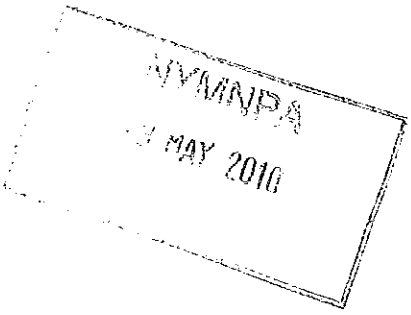
I would like to put forward my objections to the above proposal. From the plans it appears to be the kind of development that you would possibly see in a heavily industrialised area and not in an area of outstanding natural beauty. My specific concerns are:

- Is this development actually required? Do we really need this gas?
- The visual impact is totally out of character for the area. It is far too large and although Moorland say it will be screened the height of the chimneys mean that it will seen all over Ryedale
- I am very concerned about the real possibility of pollution from noise, vibration, dust, odour and particularly light. This pollution becomes even more important when you consider that the most adjacent properties are retirement ones. Thornton le Dale is very much a retirement village and these pollutants may well impact on the health of the elderly population in the village
- We are going to be faced with a massive increase in heavy traffic during construction running 7.00am – 7.00pm for seven days a week and an increase in traffic for the life of the site
- When the site is finished we will be left with a brownfield site

- I am very concerned about safety. There is now a distinct possibility that we will become a terrorist target. There is always going to a be a high risk of accidents when dealing with a volatile product
- The site is right next to a National Park. Surely from a planning perspective this is a complete non starter?
- I am concerned that any possible job creation will be totally offset by the negative effect that would be created. The effects on tourism and the village economy could be catastrophic
- As developers Moorland Energy have not provided the village with much information. The exhibition of their plans was hardly publicised. I asked for feedback after attending the exhibition and have received nothing. If they are not prepared to enter proper consultation now what chance have we got when this massive construction project starts?

In short I am totally against this development. It appears to a project that will bring very little (if any) benefit. We are governed, quite rightly, by strict planning controls within our beautiful village. To allow such a monstrosity to be built on our doorstep would be a complete travesty

Yours sincerely



Graham Hunt

Copy to -
Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York YO62 5BP

Church Farm,
Wilton,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire,
YO18 7LE.

Mr M. Convery
Snr. Dev. Control Officer
NYCC
Northallerton
DL7 8AH.

Dear Mr Convery.

Re: Proposed Kyedale Gas Project

Objection to planning application NY/2010/0159/ENV.

We wish to object to the proposal to locate this proposed operation on land which should be regarded as :-

a) Green belt on the edge of the National Park
b) Tranquil area of the dramatic Vale of Pickering which consists of fields.
c) Outside the development area/boundary where commercial operations are excluded.

d) Visually intrusive

e) Safeguard the environment.

Additional Factors

a) Additional disruption to an area which already has a large & varied traffic flow.

b) The noise factor caused by the development

c) The lighting at night ~~which will be~~ detrimental to the area

d) The affect on the residents

e) the detrimental effect on the varied wild life including protected species in the vicinity

f) The obnoxious smells which will emanate from the plant on occasions.

g) the serious affect on our considerable tourist industry.

h) Living in the area will be downgraded

j) The obvious fear that there will always be the possibility of an explosion in the future.

k) Concern that there will always be the possibility of expansion in the future.

In conclusion the proposal is totally undesirable in that location and as described by a local resident that it is an obscene concept.

Yours Sincerely

cc. Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park
Helmsley
York.

Copy for NYMNPA

Mr. M. Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Objection to planning application **NY/2010/0159/ENV**

Dear Mr Convery,

I would like to register my objections to the planning application above as follows; -

1. **Non Compliance with Government National Objective**

Within http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/152993.pdf, One of the Govt's national objectives is

9 to protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape value and nature conservation importance from minerals development, other than in exceptional circumstances detailed in paragraph 14 of this statement;

North York Moors national Park Authority is not in compliance with the Government's national objective because the North York Moors is a Special Protection Area (.and therefore a nationally designated area of landscape value (see http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030228),

In allowing gas to be pumped from the well head from within their Park to the proposed new site just outside their boundaries, North York Moors National Park Authority is culpable for the adverse visual impact they subject the public to. There is no reference to this being an exception to paragraph 14 mentioned above and therefore this is not a special case for exception from the Government's national objectives.

2. **Non compliance with Development Control activities**

Also in North York Moors National Parks Authority's own public leaflets, they confirm one of their main activities

"Development Control"

We ensure that villages, historic buildings, and the landscape are not spoiled by inappropriate development. This is the most contentious area of our work because we need to take decisions for the long term benefit of the National Park"

I believe this is inappropriate development likely to spoil Thornton Dale through increased HGV traffic, noise and pollution. It is difficult to see how they are protecting the culture and heritage of Thornton Dale.

3. **Contravention of planning policies**

It is not possible to adhere or comply with planning policies because of

- **Reliance on one visual assessment**
- **Reliance on inappropriate surveys**
- **Reliance on out of date data (1989)**

leading to false assumptions and conclusions and arguments in favour of the plan.

4. Ecology

- **Undue Reliance on Desktop research**
- **Only one visual assessment-a snapshot in winter**
- **Survey of impacted area not large enough**
- **Spring, Summer, Autumnal cycles not taken into account**
- **Important Wildlife not identified**
- **Impacts not correctly identified**
- **Conclusions inaccurate due to methodology of research**

There has been undue reliance on desktop analysis leading to inappropriate and inaccurate conclusions, assumptions and decisions because Ryedale Gas project Ecology Statement chapter 7 says

(7.38) no physical survey was undertaken during spring summer or autumn when natural wildlife and habitats are at their most active, but in this case, unrecorded.

(7.61)"It is possible that some species were under-recorded because of the time of year"

(7.39) only small strip measuring 50-100 meters in addition to the proposed development site was examined (and this was only an out of season snapshot).

Further desktop analysis concluded there were "No habitats of significant value that could be adversely affected by the proposals beyond 100m from the Development Zone were identified during the surveys"

Table 7.2: Fauna Survey Methods and Programme; -This confirms only one visual assessment was undertaken. Other searches "were undertaken for different purposes and relied upon as far back as 1989 and cannot possibly be relied upon for this proposal.

In spite of all these surveys and searches, there is no mention of the

- wild deer
- wood pecker
- barn owls
- swifts
- red legged partridge
- grouse,
- pheasants
- sparrow hawk

which I have seen less than a mile west of the proposed site.

I am aware of local bats, which typically shelter in barns such as the one in the picture ~~above~~ below.

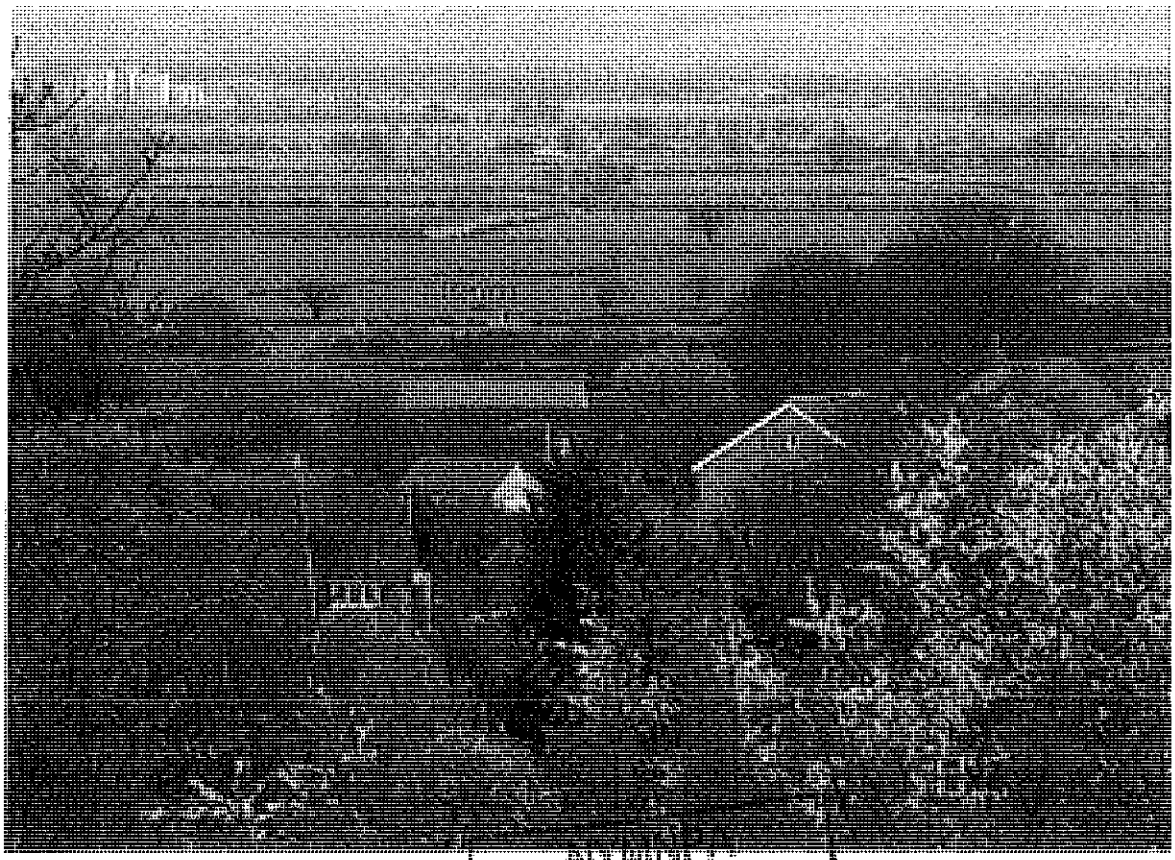
5. Visual Impact

Proximity of National Park

The Gas Plant is not in the National Parks but it will have a very strong visual impact. One side of Hurrell Lane is in NYMNP the other side is not. Natural beauty of the area, Wildlife, cultural Heritage.

As seen from the National Parks boundaries and within (why not take a stroll up Lime Kiln Lane for an hour into the forest). The impact will be visually intrusive. You can enjoy the Wolds, the Howardian Hills, the open fields. The proposals will be entirely out of character with the rest of the landscape.

Below is the view, which will be adversely impacted. Note the barn which is not hidden from view, so the 18M high construction would similarly not be hidden from view, in spite of reassurances.



6. Pollution Concerns - Noise, Vibration, Dust, Odour and Light Spill

Our family regularly walks near and on Hurrell Lane, also Dog Kennel Lane. Here there is peace and nature on the doorsteps for villagers to enjoy. The quiet surroundings and natural environment are also a boon to users of the cemetery and allotments, which although on Dog Kennel Lane, would be impacted by the proposals

7. The elderly

Also in the vicinity is wardened accommodation for the elderly on Hurrell Lane – any new heavy traffic, noise, dust, pollution and smell would decrease their quality of life and increase stress levels. Stress in the elderly is proven to decrease well-being and advance mental deterioration. They deserve better.

8. Social Effects

The village has a large retirement population, depending on local services and events taking place in the village. The effects of the proposals will impact events such as the Annual show in August, the Christmas light switch on ceremony in December, the Gala in May. The "best kept village" award will never again be attainable. The character will be changed forever, and this will impact the tourist industry, which provides valuable income for local families. A few local jobs, which may be created, will not replace this.

9. Traffic

There will be considerable disruption and noise during construction hours; - 7am to 7pm 7 days a week! This will also impact on tourism. Long queues of traffic do develop in summer due to the pelican crossing in the middle of the village. The Sunday concerts on the green will certainly be impacted.

10. Safety and Security

Safety does not seem to have been given a high priority.
There are no details about Evacuation procedure, what to do in event of Terrorist attack (remember this is only a few miles from RAF Fylingdales listening station)

11. Effect on Tourism Economy

During and after construction desirability of the region will be reduced. Tourism already had several knocks. Tourism is being promoted then hit by this project. Jobs may be lost over time from tourist industry.

12. Statements of need

This project will only make a small contribution to energy supply.
The need for gas has been over exaggerated and the contribution will be at significant cost to the area.

I should be grateful if you would consider my objections to the proposals and take action as appropriate to prevent them proceeding

Copy to –
Chief Planning Officer
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York YO62 5BP

Yours Faithfully

Richard T Benson ACIB CEMAP
1 Heron Close
Thornton Dale
Pickering
YO18 7SN

Hurrell House,
Hurrell Lane,
Thornton Dale,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire
YO18 7QR

12th May 2010

Mr. M. Convery
Senior Development Control Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Dear Mr Convery,

Re: **Objection to planning application NY/2010/0159/ENV**

Gas processing plant on Hurrell Lane, Thornton Dale

I am writing to object to the planned Gas Processing facility to be built along Hurrell Lane in Thornton Dale. As a resident of Hurrell Lane, I have strong concerns about the impact that such a development would have on Hurrell Lane and its immediate surroundings in terms of:

- **Safety** – the potential for a major incident (accident or terrorism). I have a young family and the thought of what might happen if there was an explosion at such a facility is very worrying. In addition, much of the housing closest to the proposed site is for elderly people which would make any evacuation procedures very difficult and traumatic for those concerned.
- **Visual Impact** – this is a beautiful rural location, and the building of a highly industrial gas processing plant here would be completely out of keeping with the surroundings. Given that the National Park boundary runs alongside the proposed site, I find it hard to believe that the NYMNP Authority would be happy to agree to the development.
- **Pollution** – the location is currently a quiet, clean, rural area. The building of a gas processing plant here would result in a marked increase in pollution to the area, in terms of dust, noise, odour and vibration. This will not only have a detrimental effect on the health of the human residents but also the wildlife in the area.

- **Increase in traffic** – I am obviously concerned about the anticipated marked increase in traffic along Hurrell Lane (which is currently a very quiet and narrow rural road) before the planned access road from the A170 is constructed. The increase in traffic has safety implications since children, dog walkers etc. regularly use the Lane, and of course will result in increased noise to the local residents.
- **Impact on tourism in the village** – Thornton Dale is a thriving rural community due in no small part to the large number of tourists who visit the village. The building of an ugly, industrial gas plant on the edge of the village will have a huge impact on the desirability of Thornton Dale as a holiday location and could be very damaging to the local tourist industry which is so important to the economy of the village. We are well served in the village with local amenities (Post Office, Pharmacy, village shops, pubs and restaurants), but if the level of tourists was reduced as a result of this development I am very concerned that some of these businesses would not survive.
- **Potential impact on property prices** – house prices have remained fairly steady in this area despite the recent problems in the UK housing market. This is due to the desirability of the village as a tranquil rural location in which to live. I am certain that the building of a gas processing plant on the edge of the village, and the consequent 'industrialisation' of the area would have a negative impact on the value of our properties. This is obviously a concern to me, living so close to the proposed site, and I'm sure to the other residents of the village.

In summary, I am horrified at the possibility of this development going ahead on the edge of our village. When my family and I moved to North Yorkshire 7 years ago from the south of England, we specifically chose to live in Thornton Dale because of its rural, unspoilt nature, and the potential for it to provide a safe environment for our young children to grow up in. The proposed gas processing plant would completely change the nature of this area and, I think, in the long term would have a very negative impact on the local economy. If such a gas processing facility is really needed (and I'm still not convinced that the projected short term supply of gas from the Ebberstone well merits this level of disruption to the local area), I strongly believe that a gas processing plant could be sited in a more suitable existing brown-field industrial location, NOT on the edge of a beautiful rural village like Thornton Dale.

Many thanks in advance for taking my concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Halliday

cc. Chief Planning Officer, North York Moors National Park

Chief Planning Officer

North Yorkshire Moors National Park

The Old Vicarage

Bondgate

Helmsley

YO 62 5BP

Greenlands

South Lane

Thornton le Dale

Pickering

YO 18 7QU

7th May 2010

Dear Sir

Pease find attached a copy of our letter of objection to the building of a Gas Processing Plant at Thornton le Dale

Yours Faithfully

Sheila A Barnes

Mr M.Convery

Senior Development Control Officer

North Yorkshire County Council

County Hall

Northallerton

DL7 8AH

Greenlands

South Lane

Thornton le Dale

Pickering

YO18 7QU

3 -05 -2010

Planning Application NY/2010/0159/ENV

Dear Sir

Three years ago we moved back to the area and chose to live in Thornton le Dale feeling confident that as our house was within the National Park we would be assured that strict controls were in place regarding any future developments and so could look forward to living in a beautiful, unspoilt village. When you choose to live within a National Park you are subjected to stringent planning controls and accept that this is necessary to protect the character of the area.

Therefore we are dismayed with this proposal to build a gas processing plant adjacent to the National Park boundary. The area recognised as a National Park which is set up to protect the character and wildlife of the village and it's environs must be affected by something built a country lane's width away especially something that is an industrial development and completely alien to the agricultural nature of the surrounding land.

There is no over-riding reason why this plant should be built on the proposed site apart from convenience and the shortest possible pipeline (and therefore cheaper)for Moorland. Energy. There are more suitable sites further away from the National Park eg Knapton or Pickering.

Moorland Energy in their shiny News Update admit that the Thornton Dale site has been chosen because it is the cheapest option as the pipe line would be longer to any other location, but it would be at a high cost to the residents of Thornton le Dale.

These people will have their lives permanently altered.

- Some will have to look out at the plant from their homes. No amount of screening can hide the site completely when their properties are on higher ground .
- Even with a separate access road construction and maintenance traffic have to use the existing roads, passing through the village.
- Disruption caused by noise and dust during construction which is to be 7 days a week, 7am to 7pm
- Effect of pollution from burning of the flare with possibility of smell and certainly light .Site lights and the flare will pollute the sky over the whole village. Smell when we have a south easterly wind.
- Concerns about safety procedures with a high pressure gas pipe so close to habitation.

Tourism in the village is a very important source of income to many people. An industrial site on the approach to the village will spoil it's rural charm. Moorland Energy talk about bringing families into the area but this will limited as only a very small number of people will be needed to operate the plant once it is up and running. They talk about possible plans for apprenticeships for up to 10 young people. This again is a small number. If local people apply and are trained where will there be employment for them unless they are prepared to move to other gas processing plants in other parts of the country.

We trust that you will listen to the concerns of the residents and visitors to our lovely old village and help us to protect it in it's current form to be enjoyed by generations to come.

Yours Sincerely

Anthony G Barnes

Sheila A Barnes

Mr. M. Hill, Planning Department
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YO62 5BP

Dear Mr. Hill

14th February 2011

Planning Application Number: NYM/2010/0262/EIA

Proposal by Moorland Energy Limited to commence gas extraction and Building of a gas process plant at Hurrell Lane, Thornton-le-Dale

I have been working in the oil and gas industry for over 28 years and I am also the owner of a house situated in Hurrell Lane Thornton-le-Dale. I do not currently live in the house, which is at present rented out, but I do plan to shortly return to live in Thornton-le-dale. I am therefore both an interested party but to some extent also an expert in the debate that continues with regards to the referenced planning proposal. In this regards I have decided to write to you with my opinion on this matter, trying to be reasonable about the proposal.

Importance of this development to the UK energy picture.

Moorland energy have made some strong statements about the importance of this project to the UK energy picture. At the proposed 10 Million Scf/d of gas, this plant will produce less than 0.1% of the UK's gas, i.e: 1/1000 of the total demand. This is hardly "vital to ensure the UK does not end up in a future bidding war to buy gas from abroad when North Sea supplies began to dwindle", as claimed by Moorland Energy.

Location of the processing plant and dangers of H2S (Hydrogen Sulphide).

It is generally a rule (and certainly one I would follow) to locate any gas plant as far away from a residential community as is reasonably practical. However, this is not "any" gas plant this is a "sour" gas plant. Sour gas (H2S) is dangerous as any oil and gas expert will tell you and for such plants it is in my experience a basic design criteria to choose a location that is as far away as is physically possible from a residential community. Indeed in my experience that is exactly how the location is chosen based on a population density map.
Between 2005 and 2009, I had the pleasure of managing a key gas project in China and building a gas plant there. Sadly during that period I came to learn of an accident at a sour gas project in Chongqing. On December 23, 2003, near the city of Chongqing in central China there was an uncontrolled release of natural gas and hydrogen sulfide. The toxic cloud of "sour gas" killed 243 people, caused the hospitalization and treatment of more than 9,000 and the evacuation of more than 60,000 nearby residents. Only two of those killed were gas field employees. The rest were residents of the surrounding area.
I simply quote this to highlight that sour gas plants are uniquely dangerous and very different from any other gas plant. Of course gas plants can be operated very safely and I am sure Moorland Energy is a competent operator but prudence suggests that you locate them in a sparsely populated position just in case the unthinkable happens (as it did for BP last year) and there is a major gas release. Given this, it seems an extraordinary decision by Moorland Energy to choose a site that is so close to a residential community.

Is there an alternative?

Clearly for many in the area there is a simple alternative, which is to reject the application and not allow the project to proceed. However, my faith in the industry within which I have worked for many years leads me to look to the potential alternatives to allow the project to proceed. I can think of two alternatives:

1) Electricity generation.
   Rather than transport sour gas across large distances and then process it to remove the sulphur before injecting it into the national gas grid, why not us the gas to generate electricity at or close to the well site and then export the power? This may be economically less attractive for Moorland energy but is certainly a very sensible approach which minimises the sour gas risks. Interestingly more than 1/3 of the UK gas from the grid is already used to generate electricity, so this would simply cut out the complex process of transportation and processing.

2) Location
   I do not know the logic of choosing the location for the gas plant but it is almost certainly economic. Economics should be a secondary concern after safety (though I am sure with the oil and gas prices increasing daily the project will have robust economics even if re-located). Concerns about Moorland Energy profitability should not be in the minds of the planning authority. The safety, livelihood and quality of life of the people in the area should most definitely be on the mind of the planning authority and Moorland Energy. All these aspects suggest that Moorland Energy should be asked to think again and choose a location that is the maximum possible distance from any residential population.

Summary

I think that the proposal to build a "sour" gas processing plant so close to a significant residential community is unacceptable and I would urge the planning authority to reject this current application. While this project will only produce a very small amount of gas (0.1% of UK gas demand), it may still be sensible to proceed but then I would suggest either the alternative of a gas fired power station located close to the wells or re-locating the gas plant to a position as far as practically possible from any residential community.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Simon Durkin
High Hall
Thornton-le-dale

7 Castle Road,
Thornton Dale,
Pickering,
YO18 7TR.

8th July 2010

Chief Planning
Officer
NYMNP Authority

Dear Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to North Yorkshire County Council protesting at the proposed site for Moorland Energy's gas plant at Thornton Dale.

Yours Faithfully,

MRS MARJORIE RHODES