

Address: _____

Post code: _____

Date: _____

TO: _____

Dear _____

I understand that you are considering planning applications for a permit to carry out exploratory drilling and 'acid stimulation' (fracking) various sites in South Wales, and many more areas are already licensed for future fracking.

I am concerned about this planning for numerous issues and have many questions that I have not found a suitable answer for in my research. These questions pose very real concerns and as some of the planning applications have already been agreed, I worry that these issues could not have been addressed properly in the consultations. I am no expert in this field and these concerns come from my own common sense and are being asked by many I have spoken to.

Where will the recovered frack fluid (known as Produced Water) be disposed of?

What permissions are required for disposal of this potentially very toxic waste, and how will compliance be monitored? Frack fluid consists of an aggressive mix of chemicals including carcinogens and mutagens including xylene, methanol and formaldehyde.

Where will water be abstracted from? Is it sustainable to take the large quantities required for fracking operations?

It is estimated that 4million gallons of fresh water per horizontal well is required for fracking in UK wells. Yet we are already subject to hose pipe bans as our water infrastructure is so volatile and greatly dependent on rainfall. We do not have great lakes or river systems from which to supply the fracking industry with these vast amounts of water.

What is being done to safeguard endangered species in the areas, such as great crested newts, dormice and water voles?

In Llantrithyd alone within 1km radius of 2 of the proposed drilling sites there are recorded sightings of Priority and Protected Species, Species of Conservation Concern, and Species of Local Conservation Concern. There is also the only Organic Deer Park in Wales, home to 160 red deer and 20 fallow deer which dates back to the 1640's and is listed in the historical records, a stretch of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and a family of peregrine falcons. The peregrine falcon is afforded the highest degree of legal protection under schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

What regulation is there on methane flaring and venting?

What safeguards are in place to prevent pollution of soil, water and air, and how will they be monitored?

It is admitted that up to 50% of the frack fluid can be 'lost in the geology'. This poses a huge environmental concern, especially when you consider that in reality up to 50% of the up to 5% of the 4 million gallons of fracking fluid used per well (there are 8 horizontal wells per vertical well) is

simply 'lost' – that is potentially **8 MILLION GALLONS** of aggressive chemicals, LOST in our environment and polluting our land and water system!

What safeguards will be put in place to protect the homes surrounding the well and to enable damage to property caused by the fracking process to be reimbursed in full with due responsibility for the damage?

In Blackpool there have been 2 wells drilled, the 2 wells were fracked and this has caused 2 seismic events up to 2.3 on the Richter scale. Cuadrilla, the drilling company in question, have admitted these seismic events were due to the fracking. The buildings insurers have refused to pay out for property damage caused by these earthquakes as they are deemed as an 'act of God' despite having been caused by the fracking process. **Now insurers are refusing to provide buildings insurance to many homes in Blackpool.**

In addition, the following questions are concerning compliance with EU and international law as raised by Keith Taylor MEP. As I am not an expert in these matters I have copied his questions below:

What arrangements have been made to ensure compliance with the EU Habitats Directive, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, the European Water Framework Directive, and other water quality Directives such as 2006/118/EC, 2008/105/EC and 1998/83/EC, the Waste Framework Directive, and the EU Mining Waste Directive? Under the EU Mining Waste Directive, for example, the fracking company would be required to monitor all waste, including waste left underground for decades.

What are the implications of European regulations on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)? Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 and subsequent amendments apply to a wide range of pollutants, including industrial chemicals and unintentional by-products of industrial processes. Can you confirm that no POPs are used or created – intentionally or unintentionally – by the fracking process?

Will the chemicals used in the fracking process, and the quantities thereof, be publicly disclosed, in compliance with the REACH regulation and the Seveso II Directive?

Given that the UK government has never publicly consulted on the environmental impacts of the fracking process, could the UK government be vulnerable under the Aarhus Convention? As I'm sure you are aware, this issue was raised in the defence of anti-fracking activists in Lancashire last year. The defence argued that as a signatory to the Convention, under Article 6, the UK government, the Environment Agency and Lancashire County Council had a responsibility to consult with the public in advance of any new development in relation to unconventional gas technologies. What is your view on this?

I am concerned that all these questions must be addressed before any permits are given to any company to frack anywhere in Wales or indeed the UK – and the answers publicly disclosed.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,