

Operations at Preston New Road

Keeping you informed

Update 4
14 November 2018

As the regulators of the shale gas industry we are committed to keeping local people updated on our work at the Preston New Road site over the coming months.

Air quality monitoring

The environmental permit includes a condition that requires Cuadrilla to submit regular air quality monitoring data. The results are checked by the Environment Agency to ensure compliance with the permit; to provide assurance that activities are being carried out in a way that does not harm people or the environment. In addition the Environment Agency is using its expert Ambient Air Monitoring Team to carry out independent air quality monitoring, located in the community, close to the Preston New Road site. Monitoring has been in place since August 2017

Initial monitoring was carried out to understand the background levels before the hydraulic fracturing and well testing stages commence. The pollutants that have been measured are oxides of nitrogen (NOX, NO, NO₂), particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), methane (CH₄), benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and m&p-xylene (BTEX), along with measuring wind speed and wind direction.

We are continuing to monitor air quality during the hydraulic fracturing stage and in to the well testing stages of the operation. The latest data, for October 2018, was made available last week and we will continue to publish reports on a monthly basis to our citizen space page.



The results to date show that pollution levels at the monitoring station are relatively low and considerably below levels that would indicate breaches in air quality objectives.

Please see more information on the [Citizen Space webpage](#)



Photograph of the Environment Agency's Mobile Monitoring Facility.

Environment Agency incident hotline 0800 80 70 60



Site Compliance

Environment Agency officers have been monitoring and scrutinising operations closely through regular site visits and audits to ensure that Cuadrilla comply with the conditions set out in their permit. Their inspection last week was to check compliance with the site's hydraulic fracture plan. No breaches were identified.

During an Environment Agency site inspection in October, Cuadrilla's sensitive air monitoring equipment, located at the on site boundary, detected the presence of methane. The levels (concentration of 11.74 parts per million) were very low, significantly below anything that would have an impact on human health, and lasted for a short period of time - 5 minutes. Levels higher than this were recorded in background monitoring prior to fracking and are not harmful to site staff or local people. We have assessed compliance with the sites permit and are currently working with the company to review their procedures for managing fugitive emissions from the process. Inspection reports will be published in early December

The Environment Agency has also identified an administrative error on some waste transfer notes when waste has been removed from the site. Waste was transported and disposed of correctly in all cases. However, the notes incorrectly listed the trading name, instead of the registered waste carrier's name. Advice and guidance has been provided to Cuadrilla.

The Health and Safety Executive have received the relevant Weekly Operations Reports from Cuadrilla and are content that they satisfy the regulatory requirements.

Seismicity

The Oil and Gas Authority is closely monitoring the operation and continuing to scrutinise data from the seismic monitoring array. Operations are progressing in accordance with the agreed strict controls in the Hydraulic Fracture Plan and in line with the traffic light system.

Our next update will be issued on Wednesday 28 November

Contacting us

Environment Agency

24 Hour hotline number 0800 80 70 60 or PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive at www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm

The Oil and Gas Authority at oga.correspondence@ogauthority.co.uk