

Operations at Preston New Road

Keeping you informed

Update 7
16 January 2019

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.

Site Regulation

Cuadrilla has now completed their hydraulic fracturing programme for well 1z. Since our last update, the company has removed hydraulic fracturing equipment from the site.

They continue with their flow testing programme on the first well, with waste flowback being removed from site.

We have included a separate document with this update on the control of waste from the site.

The Environment Agency carried out a site inspection yesterday (Tuesday 15 January). This was the second (of three) environmental management and monitoring plan audits focussing on the operator's leak detection and repair. The initial findings of the audit will be published on Citizen Space in the next few weeks.



Keeping you informed

Please visit our Citizen Space webpage to see the latest information from our audits, site inspections and reports from the operator.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/onshore-oil-and-gas/information-on-cuadrillas-preston-new-road-site>

Our next update will be issued in 2 months' time.



Judicial Review

In our December update we reported that we were awaiting a decision from the High Court on a legal challenge brought against the Environment Agency by Friends of the Earth, challenging the decision to approve changes to Cuadrilla's environmental permit. On Friday 11 January the court dismissed Friends of the Earth's claims and ruled that the Environment Agency did not act unlawfully in approving changes to Cuadrilla's operations at the Preston New Road site.

The judge agreed that the Environment Agency did not need to reconsider electrocoagulation (a method to separate solid and liquid effluent) as a 'best available technique' for treating waste water, when granting changes to the environmental permit in December 2017. The Environment Agency remains satisfied that Cuadrilla is using appropriate methods for treatment of flowback water. The judge also accepted that the Environment Agency was not required to reconsider or review the waste management plan, with there being no substantial changes to the operation of the waste facility.

We welcome the Court ruling, which affirms that we correctly made our decision to approve changes to the environmental permit for hydraulic fracturing operations at the Preston New Road site. We are committed to ensuring that shale gas operations meet the highest environmental standards. Our staff continue to carry out regular on-site checks and audits to ensure that the company is meeting the conditions of the permit.

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