

Operations at Preston New Road

Keeping you informed

Update 12
19 December 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 operations

Following completion of well testing operations most of the surface equipment has been removed from the site. Cuadrilla's focus now is on an extended pressure build up test. This is to measure the rate at which the pressure of gas in the well increases over time. This is expected to continue for the next 3-6 months.

With all wastes now removed from the site and the reduction in operations the Environment Agency (EA) has agreed a revised programme of environmental monitoring for groundwater, surface water and air quality. This will start on 6 January.

The EA is satisfied that the proposed monitoring is proportionate to the level of activity on site during this well suspension phase. All other controls in the environmental permit remain in place to ensure ongoing protection. The EA will continue its own ambient air monitoring and surface water monitoring programme for the foreseeable future. Details of Cuadrilla's revised monitoring scheme are available on the Citizen Space webpage.

The Oil and Gas Authority continues to review micro seismic data from hydraulic fracturing operations in August.

The Health and Safety Executive remain satisfied that there are currently no well integrity issues and content with the plan for suspending well PNR 2, subject to continued monitoring taking place.



Emissions

In October we reported that the EA had approved a change to the environmental permit. Controls were put in place in for Cuadrilla to reduce emissions during 'nitrogen lift' operations. This process was done as part of well testing, to lift liquids from the well following hydraulic fracturing.

During these operations on the second well a total of 155kg methane was vented to air. This was compliant with the environmental permit, with minimal environmental impact and at levels that did not represent a risk of harm to people.



Monitoring audit

Between September and November the EA carried out an audit to assess compliance of Cuadrilla's ambient air monitoring programme against the requirements set out in their Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP).

As part of the audit we carried out a site inspection of the continuous monitoring equipment on the site boundary and air monitoring sites to the South-East and North-East of the site. All equipment was calibrated and well maintained.

There was one non-compliance identified during the audit due to the deployment protocol for targeted methane monitoring in the EMMP not being followed. Cuadrilla did not inform the EA of deployment of a methane monitor and the data was not reviewed for abnormal results within 48 hours of the end of the monitoring period. The data has since been reviewed to confirm that there were no abnormal results (the maximum methane concentration was 3.5 parts per million).

Notifications to the EA

As required, Cuadrilla provide notifications to the EA when levels of methane, nitrogen dioxide or PM10 exceeded the notification/reporting thresholds in the EMMP. The notification/reporting thresholds are set to give a very early indication whether levels of these substances may be above baseline levels at the site boundary.

Since the beginning of 2019 the EA received 23 notifications for nitrogen dioxide, 26 notifications for PM10, 4 notifications for methane and no notifications for benzene. None of these levels have contributed to an exceedance of the Air Quality Objectives at the site boundary.

For more information please see *Compliance with Permit Assessment Report dated 12/09/2019* on the PNR Citizen Space page.

Keeping you informed

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

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

Contacting us

Environment Agency 24 Hour hotline number on: 0800 80 70 60

or email PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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

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

Shale Environmental Regulator Group at SERG@environment-agency.gov.uk