

Proposed changes to Cuadrilla's environmental permit for the Preston New Road site at Little Plumpton

16 July 2019

Your chance to comment

The Shale Environmental Regulator Group (SERG) was launched on the 5 October 2018. It brings the onshore oil and gas regulators (Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and the Oil and Gas Authority) together as a virtual regulatory group for the environmental aspects of shale gas exploration and production.

The Environment Agency is responsible for regulating shale gas sites through environmental permits. It is now seeking views on an application by Cuadrilla to vary the conditions of its environmental permit at Preston New Road, Little Plumpton, Blackpool.

The company's existing Environmental Permit governs activities at the site relating to the management of wastes produced from shale gas exploration, the protection of ground water and flaring of natural gas.

The permit imposes the strict conditions that Cuadrilla must follow to protect people and the environment. We will now assess proposals to vary the conditions of the permit to ensure that the changes proposed by Cuadrilla continue to meet these same strict requirements.

The permit variation seeks consent for the use of 'nitrogen lifting.' This commonly practiced technique in the oil and gas industry involves pumping nitrogen gas, under pressure, into the well to bring injected hydraulic fracturing fluid and formation fluids from the borehole to the surface. This clears the well and eases the flow of natural gas.

As part of our assessment of the application, we are seeking views from the local community and interested groups. We would welcome comments on local environmental factors that people feel are important and relevant to our assessment.

People will be able to make comments on the application from Tuesday 16 July to Tuesday 13 August 2019. You can view the documents and make comments online at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/pr4-3pj-cuadrilla-bowland-limited-ab3101mw-v006/>

People can also submit consultation responses by:

- emailing: PSCpublicresponse@environment-agency.gov.uk
- writing to: P&SC – EP Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF

Further information about the Preston New Road Site can be found at:

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