

07 February 2018

INEOS SHALE DISAPPOINTED BY COUNCIL'S DECISION

Request was merely for a vertical core bore well, which has been done thousands of times, and not gas extraction

Planning officers recommended approval

Ron Coyle, CEO of INEOS Shale, said: “**This is a bad decision because I believe development of a shale gas industry will lead to an economic renaissance, similar to the one seen in the U.S.A, with high paying, highly skilled jobs and massive investment in manufacturing, which is desperately needed in this country.**

INEOS Shale is disappointed by the news that Derbyshire County Council has chosen to reject the application for test drilling at Marsh Lane. The application had been recommended for approval by the Council's own officers - citing no significant impacts in the areas of noise, ecology, archaeology and traffic safety.

We understand that decisions on hydraulic fracturing can be contentious and difficult politically for local Councils, but this is not a decision about unconventional gas production. This is a straightforward decision to allow the drilling of a single vertical core bore well to gain scientific knowledge of what is below the surface, which has been agreed by many councils many times in the past.

Ron Coyle, CEO of INEOS Shale, said: “Whether this is for the coal industry or for geothermal energy or even in the future for carbon capture, the knowledge and understanding of coring wells in planning authorities exists. The fact that it may help to make decisions about potential unconventional gas extraction sometime in the future should not change the fact that this was an application for a simple core bore well, and no more.

It is important to note that a completely separate application must be made for the extraction of gas. Shale gas is a resource that is of strategic importance to the UK and issues of energy security always have to be factored in. Whatever the outcome of a decision for a coring well, we will continue to talk with local communities about unconventional gas production with the message that should any further development of this site be appropriate, it will represent not only the right project in the right location but would also represent the beginning of a major industrial boon for the Midlands area that would create jobs, growth and investment on top of the energy security and lower costs it would bring.

Ron Coyle, CEO of INEOS Shale, said: “We had hoped that the Council's final vote would reflect these realities but instead the decision exposes the Council and Council taxpayers to costly appeal proceedings – all because the decision has been led by politics and not science and has confused a request to drill a simple core bore well with other

activities that may or may not happen in the future. It is also worth noting that INEOS Shale made this application to gather scientific data as part of its commitment to the Oil & Gas Authority to develop its license areas."

Ron continued: "This is a bad decision because I believe development of a shale gas industry will lead to an economic renaissance, similar to the one seen in the U.S.A, with high paying, highly skilled jobs and massive investment in manufacturing, which is desperately needed in this country."