



Environment
Agency



Oil & Gas
Authority

Operations at Preston New Road

Keeping you informed

Update 2
30 October 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.

Seismic events

There have been a number of minor seismic events recorded in the Preston New Road area since fracturing operations started. These have included the first red event at a magnitude 0.76 M_L on Friday and a trailing event of magnitude 0.78 M_L that happened on Saturday, shortly after injection operations had completed.

A second magnitude 1.1 red traffic light event was detected at 11:30 yesterday (29 October) during stage 32. Early indications are that this seismic event has been induced by hydraulic fracturing operations at the site.

Hydraulic fracturing is known to cause minor seismic events of this magnitude. While the operations at the Preston New Road site have been designed to minimise any disturbance, minor events like these are expected.

Our assessment confirms that there have been no well integrity issues and no environmental permit boundary breaches.

The Oil and Gas Authority's (OGA) traffic light system and the operator's Hydraulic Fracture Plan (HFP) require a pause in operations following even these minor seismic events, to allow time for the OGA and the Operator to confirm if the event is in line with the HFP.



The OGA is continuously monitoring operations to ensure they remain in accordance with the operator's Hydraulic Fracture Plan (HFP), this includes:

- Suspension of pumping/injection activities for 18 hours.
- Reducing well pressure.
- Continue monitoring seismicity during the pause in injection operations.

Provided that the event is in line with the agreed HFP and the risk of induced seismicity continues to be appropriately managed, then operations may resume.

For more information on HFPs and the OGA's traffic light system for monitoring operations, please visit:
<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/onshore/well-operations/>

You may also find this link useful:
<http://www.earthquakes.bgs.ac.uk/research/PrestonNewRoadFAQ.html>

Environment Agency incident hotline 0800 80 70 60



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Site operations

- Environment Agency staff were on site on Wednesday 24 October to check compliance with the Environment Management and Monitoring Plan. This audit involved ambient air quality monitoring. The results of the audit will be published* on Citizen Space when they are available.
- The Environment Agency also carried out an inspection yesterday to focus on hydraulic fracture plan compliance.
- HSE is continuing to receive weekly operations reports from Cuadrilla required during the hydraulic fracturing operations. HSE is content that the reports satisfy the regulatory requirements and are consistent with information in the Notification, supplied by Cuadrilla before the activity started.

Keeping you informed

If you would like to receive updates such as this direct via email during operations please contact us at: PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

*We have set up a web page on Citizen Space to regularly update you on information from our audits, site inspections and reports from the operator.

Website link

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

Contacting us

Environment Agency at:

24 hour hotline number 0800 807060 or PNREnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm>

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