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26th February 2021

The Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick,
Secretary of State
The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government,
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

Sent to – PPC@communities.gov.uk

Dear Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick

I am writing to you on behalf of those named below and our residents, with regards to the recent developments surrounding the ongoing works being carried out by Rathlin Energy at their site in West Newton, Mid Holderness, East Riding of Yorkshire.

20/04265/EIASCR - EIA Screening Opinion request - Proposed extension of the existing West Newton A (WNA) wellsite, test, appraise and produce from the two existing wells and drill, test, appraise and produce from up to six (6) new wells over a 25 year period.

Rathlin Energy submitted on the 17th December 2020 an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) Screening Opinion request to East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Following this submission East Riding of Yorkshire Council wrote back on the 20th January 2021 to say “the LPA considers that the development proposal would not comprise EIA development.”

“Schedule 2 development (and changes/extensions thereto) is only EIA development if - in the opinion of the LPA - it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as size, nature or location.” By East Riding of Yorkshire Council not setting out that this is an EIA development, they believe it will not have significant impacts on the environment.

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Councillor Jacob birch
Mid Holderness Ward

In East Riding of Yorkshire Council's decision and reply they state that "it would not have the potential to have significant adverse impact on the environment". This we feel is truly wrong, the proposals by Rathlin Energy will in our opinion have significant impacts on both the local environment and also the wider environment. This can be clearly seen in their report which was submitted with the application (attached).

Section 3.6 Phase 6: Process Facility clearly shows that there will be 20 to 25 HGV movements per day, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. These HGV movements will pass through and around many rural communities, and thus continuing further on into the East Riding until they reach their final destination. These actions are clearly going to have a detrimental impact on the environment with each vehicle polluting the surrounding area.

Possibly one of the safest and most environmentally friendly ways to transport hydrocarbons is via a buried cross-country pipeline, so this should be the only option considered.

Furthermore, there will be a significant number of HGVs travelling on country lanes, which are often used by the local community in their day-to-day business. The traffic will no doubt have a detrimental effect on horse riders, cyclists, dog walkers and school buses. It is estimated that over 180,000 tanker journeys will be made over the 20-to-25-year period. The works carried out and the movements of HGVs will be huge contributors to noise and light pollution as well as odours and vibrations.

I recently wrote to the Chief Executive of East Riding of Yorkshire Council on behalf of my fellow Ward Councillors and residents, raising the above concerns in a letter dated the 1st February 2021 (attached).

In Caroline's reply (attached) it was stated that "The issues raised in your letter are material planning considerations that can be taken into consideration by the council if a planning application is subsequently submitted for consideration". We believe this also to be incorrect. The concerns raised are those that affect the environment. These are the very considerations and concerns that should be taken into account when issuing a screening opinion on such a proposal as this one.

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We therefore request that you issue your own screening opinion in the hope that you see that the proposals by Rathlin Energy do constitute an EIA development.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jacob Birch
Mid Holderness Ward

Dictated by and signed in the absence of Councillor Jacob Birch

With, and on behalf of;

Councillor Paul Nickerson – Minster and Woodmansey – Conservative Group
Councillor Paul Lisseter – East Wolds and Coastal – Conservative Group
Councillor Richard Meredith – Dale – Conservative Group
Councillor Bernard Gateshill – Beverley Rural - Conservative Group
Councillor Denis Healy – St. Mary's – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor David Nolan – Hessle – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Tim Norman – Bridlington South – Yorkshire Group
Bilton Parish Council
Councillor Ann Dalton – Sproatley Parish Council
Councillor Terry Wright – Sproatley Parish Council
Councillor Amanda Werendel – Wawne Parish Council
Councillor Brian Skow – Mid-Holderness – Conservative Group
Councillor Mike Medini – Cottingham South – Conservative Group
Councillor Linda Bayram – Howdenshire – Conservative Group
Councillor John Bovill – Hessle – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington North – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Viv Padden – Tranby – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Andy Walker – Bridlington South – Yorkshire Group
Burton Constable Parish Council
Councillor Mitch Cochran – Sproatley Parish Council
Councillor George Fairburn – Sproatley Parish Council
Ruth Skinner – Hatfield
Councillor John Holtby – Mid-Holderness – Conservative Group
Councillor John Dennis – South West Holderness – Conservative Group
Councillor Kevin Beaumont – Beverley Rural – Conservative Group
Councillor David Boynton – St. Mary's – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Linda Johnson – St. Mary's – Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Margot Sutton – Tranby – Liberal Democrat Group
Ellerby Parish Council
Councillor Dave Gunnis – Sproatley Parish Council
Margaret Cockbill – Sproatley Parish Council



Councillor Jacob Birch
Mid Holderness Ward