



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Cllr Mark Crane
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Dear Cllr Crane,

Thank you for your letter of 12 November to the Secretary of State, regarding the planning application under the Council's consideration. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

Planning applications are a matter for the local planning authority and I am unable to comment on this specific case.

In response to the question regarding the Secretary of State's speech at Labour Party Conference, on 1 October the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero announced legislation to end new onshore oil and gas licensing in England, including new licences that could be used for high volume hydraulic fracturing for shale gas (commonly known as "fracking").

There is an effective moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing for shale gas ("associated hydraulic fracturing" as defined by the Petroleum Act 1998) in England, and this will continue to apply to existing licences. This is in place because of concerns around prediction and management of induced seismicity from this type of hydraulic fracturing. There are similar restrictions in place across other parts of the UK.

Low volume hydraulic fracturing activities, including for example "proppant squeezes", take place at lower volumes than the thresholds for "associated hydraulic fracturing" and in a variety of geological contexts. These activities are not currently in scope of the effective moratorium in England, however we are keeping all regulation under review.

Thank you for taking the time to write, I hope you find this response helpful.

Best wishes,

MICHAEL SHANKS MP
Minister of State for Energy