



NEWSLETTER 4 - 2017

EKAF UPDATE

The Government's active promotion of fracking is resulting in drilling activity now progressing towards production around the country so, despite there currently being no applications within the East Kent PEDL areas, the EKAF committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis and offers support to other groups if required. Our constitution requires that we hold an AGM and this will be held on **Wednesday 13th December at Dealability**. The plan is to combine the AGM with a Christmas social gathering at **1930** with mince pies, mulled wine or tea and coffee. All are welcome but if you intend to come it will help with the arrangements if you could let me know:

eastkentagainstfracking@gmail.com

(No need to let me know if you don't intend to join us.)

CAMPAIGNS

The group 10:10 are currently raising funds to access government planning documents covering the restrictions placed on onshore wind farms and the promotion of fracking:

https://secure.1010uk.org/help-us-expose-what-governments-trying-keep-quiet-about-onshore-wind?utm_source=1910_BAinvestigation1

PROTEST NEWS

Regrettably, despite Scotland's ban and increasing opposition from residents within the areas where drilling permits have been granted, Theresa May has personally emphasised the government's determination to ensure that fracking goes ahead. Consequently, as drilling activity increases and the test wells progress towards production there are an increasing number of protests. These are now far too numerous to detail in this newsletter but Drill or Drop provide regular updates:

<https://drillordrop.com>

GENERAL NEWS: UK

Government Quarterly Opinion Statistics

The latest government statistics show opposition to Fracking at its highest ever level and support at its lowest ever level.

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/11/02/opposition-to-fracking-at-record-high-and-support-at-lowest-level-ever-latest-government-survey/>

Fracking for gas imminent in the UK!!

Despite the growing opposition fracking is set to commence

<http://edition.independent.co.uk/editions/uk.co.independent.issue.061017/data/7985776/index.html>

Scotland has now banned fracking

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/03/scottish-government-bans-fracking-scotland-paul-wheelhouse>

UK overseas aid supports fossil fuels

<http://edition.independent.co.uk/editions/uk.co.independent.issue.110817/data/7887411/index.html>

Cuadrilla cuts costs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/06/11/cuadrillas-cuts-costs-stem-losses-shale-project-faces-opposition/>

Further doubt thrown on viability of UK shale

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/08/17/uk-geology-unsuitable-for-fracking-and-shale-gas-overhyped-scottish-research/>

David Smythe expands on the geological fault problems for frackers in the Weald

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/08/29/guest-post-by-david-smythe-the-geology-and-oil-potential-of-horse-hill/#more-50590>

An analysis of the flaws in EA's issuing of permits and subsequent fracking site monitoring

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/09/21/guest-post-by-jon-and-val-mager-why-the-government-must-block-fracking-based-on-what-we-learned-about-regulation-of-the-km8-site/#more-52810>

Concerns over liability to landowners highlighted

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/09/22/landowners-accuse-government-of-major-failing-over-liability-for-fracking/#more-52844>

£8m study commissioned to study the effects on the environment from Fracking. In a case of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted, the Royal Society and Public Health England have recognised that the existing shale gas studies are outdated and inadequate, <https://drillordrop.com/2017/10/02/researchers-debate-ideas-for-8m-study-on-fracking-impacts/>

OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EXXON “knowingly misled “ public over climate change

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/exxonmobil-climate-change-oil-gas-fossil-fuels-global-warming-harvard-a7908541.html>

USA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has admitted that fracking can adversely affect water resources. the report summary can be read at the following link:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/hf_final_assessment_fact_sheet.pdf

OTHER (POTENTIALLY GOOD) NEWS

Shale gas exploitation slowed in USA:

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/10440002-74/pipeline-gas-projects>

Shale analysis predicts USA bust

<http://consciousnessofsheep.co.uk/2017/08/12/the-shale-revolution-ends-with-a-bang/>

Billiton pulls out of shale

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/bhp-billiton-us-shale-oil-gas-profits-surge-world-largest-mining-company-a7906011.html>

Another professor openly questions the viability of UK shale

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/fracking-uk-55-million-years-late-shale-gas-extraction-geology-unsuitable-seismic-activity-john-a7897711.html>

RENEWABLES NEWS!

With over 70% preferring onshore wind to fracking and the cost of wind power now highly competitive with all other energy generation even without subsidy the Energy and Climate Change Intelligence Unit (ECIU) are questioning the Government's effective ban on onshore wind:

<http://www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Onshore-Wind-Utility-Week.pdf>

A presentation detailing the real **demise of fossil fuel extraction**.

<http://www.jeremyleggett.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/170921springtij-jeremyleggett-170928115425.pdf>

Tidal turbines break generation records

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/pentland-firth-tidal-power-station-electricity-generation-energy-renewables-a7922141.html>

Wind working!

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/26/offshore-wind-power-energy-price-climate-change>

New floating wind turbine farm opens

http://gcaptain.com/hywind-sctoland-worlds-first-floating-wind-farm-opens-up-off-scotland/?goal=0_f50174ef03-05010ab6bc-139797193&mc_cid=05010ab6bc&mc_eid=b89e50ec40

Article examining some future renewable energy sources

<https://www.theguardian.com/nrg-the-energy-of-choice/2015/aug/19/alternative-energy-sources-ocean-biomass-geothermal>

In keeping this newsletter relatively brief I've just included the main items which I consider to be of relevance to our supporters. Around the country much is happening with many of the companies starting drilling. Daily updates of the latest developments can be followed on Ruth Hayhurst's excellent Drill or Drop website:

<https://drillordrop.com/2017/07/03/july-2017-drilling-headlines/>

John Clandillon-Baker 10/11/17
EKAF Secretary

email: eastkentagainstfracking@gmail.com

website: www.eastkentagainstfracking.org.uk