

QUESTION TO CABINET 5th August 2013

From: Councillor P Nash

To: Councillor Barry Collins

Question

Have any licenses been issued in respect of any plans or requests in the future for licenses for “fracking”?

Response

Before a company can see whether oil or gas reserves are available, they must obtain a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) from the DECC (the Department for Energy and Climate Change). This licence gives them the power to ‘search and bore for and get’ the Crown’s resources, such as oil and gas. The company must then come to the Minerals Planning Authority, which in Calderdale is the Borough Council, for planning permission for exploration.

Before starting works the operator must also gain a ‘well consent’ for exploration from the DECC. At this stage, if the intention is to ‘frack’, the DECC would impose the new controls introduced in December 2012. These controls require a geological assessment identifying faults, a ‘Frack Plan’, and monitoring of seismic activity before, during and after fracking. The DECC also consult the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive.

The Environment Agency may also require an Environmental Permit at the exploration phase, and are likely to require an abstraction licence if more than 20,000 litres per day is to be abstracted.

If they then wish to go into production to actually extract gas, the company must gain a new planning permission from the Minerals Planning Authority, a Field Development Consent from the DECC, and an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency.

I am not aware that any companies are planning to undertake fracking within Calderdale; however, as outlined above, applications for licences would be handled by DECC rather than Calderdale Council, although they would also need to apply to us for planning permission. I have attached a map published by DECC in March to 2013 showing those areas benefiting from licences under the Petroleum Act 1998.

I hope you find the above response satisfactory.

Link to appended map:

[deccmap_onshorelicences_mar13\[1\].pdf](#)

