

news release

Monday 30 September 2013 – JG/102/13

Environment Agency grants further waste permit at Balcombe

The Environment Agency has today, Monday 30 September, granted a permit to Cuadrilla to manage wastes which may contain naturally occurring radioactive substances arising from their exploratory borehole to test for oil and gas reserves at Balcombe.

Under the environmental regulations the company was required to apply for a further permit to manage any waste water or solid waste generated during well testing at the West Sussex site. This waste may contain low levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), which are present in many types of rocks. This permit is required to ensure safe disposal of any waste that may fall within the scope of the regulations.

Cuadrilla did not need this permit to drill a borehole, but the company will need it if it returns to the site to carry out well testing in the future. Cuadrilla is not proposing to carry out any hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as part of this activity.

Before reaching its decision, the Environment Agency reviewed concerns raised by local people during the 6 week consultation with communities, interested groups and other organisations.

The permit requires the company to manage its waste effectively in order to protect local people and the environment. Environment Agency officers will now enforce these operating conditions.

Chris Wick of the Environment Agency said: "We would like to thank all those people who responded to this consultation.

"If the well testing goes ahead we will monitor Cuadrilla's operations and work with other regulators to ensure that the activity does not cause harm to people and the environment."

The environmental permits and the decision documents outlining how we reached our decisions are available here <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal/rsr/app/balcombe/cuadrilla>.

ENDS

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