**FRACKING – MY COMMENTS ON ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BY THIRD ENERGY**

The comments set out below should be read together with my comments on DECC’s answers to the questions.

**As regards answer to Question 1:**

It would help if Third Energy would give the reasons actually provided by the governments of France, Germany and New York State, instead of speculating on what might have motivated them.

**As regards to answer to Question 2:**

Noted TE do not deny the environmental damage which has been done in Australia

Noted that fractures are unlikely to have a range of more than a kilometre. However, there is an aquifer above the KM site – which presumably feeds the River Derwent and the aquatic life in it. Noted also that in order to fully exploit the KM gasfield, it will be necessary to sink several pads of wells. One well will not be the end of it.

Noted that well integrity for unconventional gas extraction will be no different to that for conventional extraction – in spite of the huge hydraulic pressures involved and the fluids used.

Accepted that the Australian coal gas extraction is different.

**As regards Answer to Question 3.**

Please see my comments on the various regulations etc. made in regard to the DECC replies. From their info, it would seem that the vaorious government agencies can do little more than enforce “industry standards”, and all on-site monitoring is through a “well-examiner” appointed and paid by the operator – who pays the piper calls the tune.

**As regards answer to question 4**

Question not answered.

**Answer to Question 5**

Noted

**Answer to Question 6**

This is misleading, as the extraction of unconventional gas is by a different method than that used for conventional gas. As UK has very little experience of fracking and USA has, the experience of operations in the US must be given greater weight.

**Answser to Question 7**

Unanswered. It’s interesting that DECC were able to answer this question.

**Answer to Question 8**

Question not answered.

Frack Free Ryedale should comment on the issue of permission by NYCC.

**Answer to Question 9**

Answer not quite correct: DECC say EA will not allow use of chemicals hazardous to ground water to be use” where they may enter groundwater and cause pollution”. So, in other words, this would not seem to stop hazardous fluids being injected into a well which passes through an aquifer. If the well pipe fractures, the hazardous fluid could pass into the aquifer.

**Answer to Question 10**

This question has not been fully answered.

**Answer to Questions 11 - 14**

Not answered. An answer is required – not a reference to a technical document which may be difficult to understand.

**Answer to Question 13**

Noted that the monitoring of the well will be by an examiner appointed and paid by the operator. Such a person cannot be described as truly independent.

**As regards Answer to Question 14:**

Even DECC accept that there are risks in regard to well integrity – please refer to my comments on the comments of DECC.

**As regards answer to Question 15:**

I repeat my comment on their answer to Question 9.

**As regards answer to Question 16**

Not accepted.

**As regards answer to Question 17**

Frackfree Ryedale to comment.

**As regards the answer to Question 18**

See my comments on the answers of DECC to this question.

CLLR. PAUL ANDREWS 2nd Feb 2015