

Briefing Note

March 2017

Environmental Permit application for Lower Stumble Farm Hydrocarbon Exploration Site, Balcombe, West Sussex RH17 6JH

We have received an application from Cuadrilla Balcombe Ltd to update its current environmental permit for the site. This permit application has been made at our request as part of a regular review. Planning permission for the exploration, testing and evaluation of hydrocarbons has been granted by West Sussex County Council (WSCC).

The application we have received has two elements

1. A variation application to update the current waste management plan. It also updates the monitoring requirements at the site taking into account different periods of operations.
2. A partial surrender to remove one of the permitted activities at the site which is now not required. The original permit included a mining waste facility that allowed the deposit of drilling mud in the borehole. This is to be removed as any drilling muds will be managed at the surface and included within the mining waste activity.

The application, supporting documents and details of how to comment are available to view here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/rh17-6jh-cuadrilla-balcombe/> The closing date for responses is 25 April 2017.

Site Update

Cuadrilla finished drilling at Balcombe in September 2013 but did not complete the entire evaluation and flow testing phase of its operations. As part of the environmental permit requirements, it left the site in a safe and secure condition. Since then we have received regular monitoring results as part of the existing environmental permit requirements.

The decision whether to conduct any further operations (in accordance with current permissions) is entirely at the discretion of the operator.

The operator will need to notify us and WSCC before any further operations start on site.

We have produced a public participation statement which explains how communities and organisations can participate in decisions on applications for environmental permits - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-public-participation-statement>

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