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Secretary of State
Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
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SE 95 Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration Licence – East Yorkshire

Dear Secretary of State

I write regarding the offering of the SE 95 Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration Licence to Cuadrilla.

Following an invitation from myself, as Chair, representatives from Cuadrilla attended a Parish Council meeting, held on 29th September 2015 at Kirkburn Village Hall. They provided an overview presentation relating to the offer of the SE95 Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration Licence and a general presentation on hydraulic fracturing and the regulatory framework.

Included in the presentations were maps relating to the locations of the various “zones” that constitute the Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration Licence areas for the United Kingdom. What became apparent was that the “Zone’ SE95, which covers the western part of our Parish, was not included in the Habitats Regulations Assessment: 14th Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round. Yet the eastern area of the Parish (which forms part of the area in TA05) was to be included in the Habitats Regulations Assessment: 14th Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round.

The springs and associated Eastburn Beck, rising within Kirkburn, form part of the River Hull Headwaters SSSI, and yet for some reason known only to your Department this extremely important environmentally sensitive area was not incorporated within the Habitats Regulations Assessment: 14th Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round. The section of Eastburn Beck which flows within TA05 is presumably covered by the Habitats Regulations Assessment: 14th Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round so quite why the section within SE95 was omitted is hard to understand.

The whole of the River Hull Headwaters SSSI ultimately provides the potable water supply for much of the East Riding of Yorkshire and the city of Kingston upon Hull. Therefore it is

important that all assessments are undertaken in a robust and comprehensive manner and not in a manner which may be construed as “fast tracked”.

The SE 95 Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration Licence was discussed further at the next planned Parish Council meeting, which was held on 24th November 2015. An action was placed on myself by the Parish Council members to write to yourself in your capacity of Secretary of State as the person ultimately overseeing this matter.

There has quite obviously been an error, namely the failure to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment for SE95, which requires addressing. This should be rectified immediately and the offer of the SE 95 Onshore Oil & Gas Exploration Licence to Cuadrilla suspended until the appropriate Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken.

On behalf of Kirkburn Parish Council I look forward to your reply on this important matter.

Yours faithfully

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CC: Sir Greg Knight
Cllrs Symon Fraser, Felicity Temple, Barbera Hall - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Francis Egan (CEO) - Cuadrilla