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Introduction

Oil and gas are primary sources of energy in the United Kingdom and to the population of the East Midlands. However, they are both finite natural resources which are being depleted through our energy and manufacturing requirements.

There is a national and local need to sustainably secure oil and gas resources.

Historically, conventional oil and gas extraction has taken place.

Unconventional oil and gas (such as shale) extraction is now emerging as a form of energy supply. The Government believes shale gas has the potential to provide the UK with greater energy security, growth and jobs and to this end has announced financial inducements to local authorities where drilling for unconventional gas *extraction* may take place.

The use of the modern Hydraulic Fracture (Fracking) and other extreme extraction techniques to extract gas and oil deposits trapped in shale rock and coal seams presents many dangers to the people in the areas where licences for test wells are being granted. These dangers include triggering seismic activity (New Ollerton is already the most seismically active town in the UK due to old mine working settling) and the possible leakage of waste water, contaminated by the highly toxic chemicals used & by radioactively from the rocks themselves, used in fracking and other techniques into the surrounding water table.

The problem is that there has been no scientific study analysing and weighing the risks involved with hydraulic fracturing. Professor Mike Stephenson of the British Geological Survey gave a speech in October 2012 asking for a proper and reasoned debate which will require independent scientific assessment to be carried out in public.

Motion

Given these dangers, this Conference expresses grave reservations in the planned expansion of the use of these techniques in the East Midlands and calls for the granting of further licences to halted and existing licences to be suspended, at least until these techniques can be shown to be safe.

The Conference also notes that the promised benefits from Fracking and other extreme extraction techniques are largely illusionary and that exploiting this energy source will not give long term benefits to the people in the communities near to where this activity will happen or indeed to the UK as a whole

Instead of investing more money in an energy source that is by its nature going to run out sometime in the future, we call on the Government to put more money into developing the truly sustainable energy resources the country is blessed with (wind, tidal, geo-thermal, solar, bio-mass, hydro and also energy storage and energy conversion, for example electricity to hydrocarbon fuels, technologies) so that the UK can become truly energy independent.