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**Fw: EIA Screening Opinion for Wressle Wellsite, PA/SCR/2025/4**

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**From** Planning <Planning@northlincs.gov.uk>

**Date** Mon 17/03/2025 13:46

**To** David Jackson <Dave.Jackson@northlincs.gov.uk>

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**From:** Weald Action Group <wealdactiongroup@gmail.com>

**Sent:** 17 March 2025 13:30

**To:** Planning <Planning@northlincs.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: EIA Screening Opinion for Wressle Wellsite, PA/SCR/2025/4

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Dear Mr Law

On behalf of the Weald Action Group – a network of community groups and activists campaigning against oil and gas extraction across the Weald and Southeast of England – we are writing in response to the consultation regarding Egdon Resources' request for a second EIA screening opinion for proposed plans to expand oil and gas development at Wressle.

As you know the Supreme Court ruling in *Finch v Surrey County Council* in June 2024 found that greenhouse gas emissions which will inevitably result from burning hydrocarbons should now be properly assessed and taken into account in planning decisions regarding fossil fuel developments. It was the Weald Action Group that initiated the original judicial review of the Horse Hill onshore oil development which ultimately led to this ruling.

Regarding the 2017 EIA Regulations we consider Egdon Resources' proposal a Schedule 2 development (it is "likely to have a significant effect on the environment" by virtue of certain factors, including climate change).

However, having commissioned Sustain:able to undertake an assessment of the potential scope 3 greenhouse emissions arising from the combustion of all future sold oil and gas from an expanded site at Wressle, Egdon Resources have concluded that the “Proposed Development does not constitute EIA development” as the effects are deemed to be “insignificant”.

They have come to this conclusion by taking a flawed singular approach to assessing the project’s scope 3 emissions against UK carbon budgets. Any individual project can claim it is not significant when compared in this way (for example the same argument was made about a third runway at Heathrow Airport).

Such an approach fails to consider existing and approved projects and hence makes no reference to the actual space, if any, left in the carbon budget. As such the conclusions reached by Egdon Resources are misleading and do not reflect the true significance of the scope 3 emissions that expanding the site would inevitably lead to.

Climate change is caused by countless individual sources of emissions, each of which may represent only a small proportion of the overall total global emissions. It makes no sense to assess the significance of each individual project by itself. A consideration of the cumulative emissions overall and ultimately the risk of breaching 1.5 degrees centigrade global average temperature rise must be taken into account.

Key to the Supreme Court’s finding in the Finch case was also that for the EIA regime to function effectively, and for decisions to approve projects with likely significant environmental effects to be made lawfully, those decisions must be subject to “public debate” and made with “full knowledge of the environmental cost”. Without requiring Egdon Resources to submit a full EIA this crucial part of the process will be circumvented.

Therefore, we urge the council to take a rational precautionary approach and screen positively for EIA in this case.

Yours faithfully

Kirsty Clough and Sarah Finch

**Weald Action Group**

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