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To
The Cabinet
B&NES
Guildhall
Bath

Dear Members of the Cabinet,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my views regarding coal bed methane (CBM) extraction and fracking

I oppose the use of these methods in our area for the following reasons:

1. The industrial site could use green belt land
2. The drilling sites are unsightly
3. The rigs operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week causing a lot of noise and are lit at night.
4. The sites increase the level of heavy traffic. The traffic around populated areas, e.g. the Hicks Gate roundabout is already high and difficult especially during rush hours
5. These methods are not appropriate for densely populated areas. In the USA, CBM and fracking are used in sparsely populated regions such as the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, etc.. In the case of Keynsham, the nearest houses are less than 300 meters from the Hicks Gate roundabout. An area within 2-3 miles radius includes Keynsham, Saltford and Brislington.
6. There is a serious risk of ground water and drinking water contamination. Coal bed methane extraction requires large volumes of water to be pumped out from the ground. This water is not only several times saltier than sea water but also contains many toxic contaminants. It is difficult to guarantee the integrity of the wells which could be 1000m deep or in case of fracking 3000m deep. The damage will be discovered after the water becomes polluted. This poses a serious public health risk.
7. This contaminated pumped out water cannot be discharged in rivers. One of the major problems of these methods is how to treat and dispose of the water. There are no easy solutions, all expensive and problematic.
8. Due to the removal of the large amounts of water the ground may become unstable. This could lead to subsidence affecting properties, roads, utility lines and railway lines.
9. Aquifers could be depleted. The hot water springs of Bath could be affected.
10. A very large number of wells will be needed for an effective extraction of methane. Around 2000 wells would have to be drilled in Somerset.
11. There will be detrimental effects on the environment.