



Frack Free Lancashire

PRESS RELEASE 17 NOVEMBER 2017

LANCASHIRE FRACKING COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS FOUND GUILTY OF OBSTRUCTION

12 local residents who took part in the direct action of a lock-on at Cuadrilla's Preston New Road fracking site in Lancashire over the summer of [Rolling Resistance](#), were sentenced today at Blackpool Magistrates' Court.

County Councillor Gina Dowding, borough Councillor Julie Brickles, town Councillor Miranda Cox, Nick Sheldrick, Michelle Martin, Sarah Boyle, Barbara Cookson, Nick Danby, Daniel Huxley-Blythe, Catherine Jackson, Alana McCullough and Jeanette Porter, took part in the group action on [Monday 03 July 2017](#).

All 12, including three councillors, were found guilty of wilful obstruction of the highway, under the Highways Act 1980, section 137(1), but the charges relating to the Trade Union Act and Labour (Consolidation) Act 1992, section 24, were all dismissed due to the Crown Prosecution failing to provide sufficient evidence to their case. The judge stated that he saw "no evidence of civil wrong" in relation to the Trade Union charge.

Each defendant was each given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay court costs and victim surcharge totaling £270. There were no fines issued.

The trial began on Monday 13 November 2017, hearing evidence against 12 local residents, including three councillors, who locked-on to weighted objects in the early morning to raise awareness against the increasing threat of a shale gas industry in Lancashire.

Green Party County Councillor Gina Dowding said:

"Shale gas is neither needed nor wanted. The UK government's commitment to go all out for shale and impose this on the British people, and particularly to impose the risks on the people of Lancashire, is nothing short of perverse.

"The biggest risk to our local and national interest is that of climate change: it is the overriding national issue. I was driven to take direct action to raise publicity and persuade our national politicians to act now to try and prevent it."

Retired civil servant, Nick Danby issued a statement to the industry:



“Speaking directly to the fracking industry, its supporters and apologists: you will never have the social license here or anywhere. You will meet sustained resistance.

You are not welcome and we will do all that we can to protect our friends and families, our homes and our communities. And to those that invest in this industry – pull out now – you will never get your money back.”

ENDS

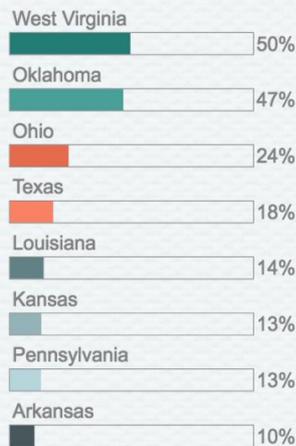
Notes to Editors:

1. Original press release from July 03, 2017: [Lancashire Councillors and Residents Lock-Down Fracking Site](#)
2. Attached: Group photo of local residents. Additional photos available via [Flickr](#).
3. Video interview of Day One of the court case can be found [here](#).
4. Reclaim the Power is a UK-based direct action network fighting for social, environmental and economic justice. They have been working to oppose fracking since 2013 when they organised mass action at Balcombe. Since then, they have hosted anti-fracking action camps in Blackpool and at Didcot Power station, and taken countless actions to expose and resist the industry as well as the businesses in its supply chain. In April this year, Reclaim the Power implemented a fortnight of action against the fracking supply chain – leading to a number of companies cancelling their contracts. Read more at www.reclaimthepower.org.uk
5. For immediate release on behalf of Frack Free Lancashire.



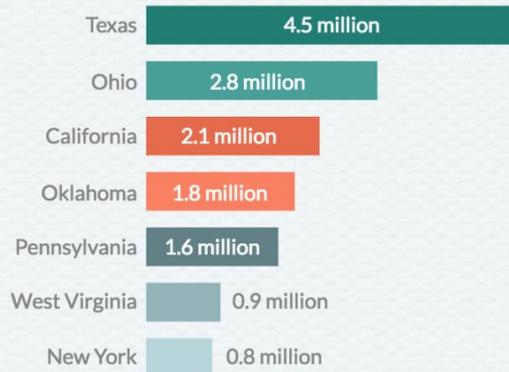
Oil and Gas Development Proximity to U.S. Residents

Top 8 states* by percentage of population



These states have 10 percent or more of their total population living within a mile of active oil and gas development.

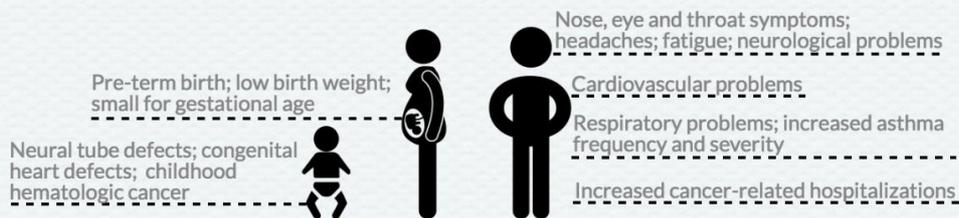
Top 7 states* by number of people



These states have more than, or close to, 1 million residents living within a mile of active oil and gas development.

* Population data were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. Drilling data were obtained from DrillingInfo Inc., the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Data for Indiana and Illinois were not available, even though both states have active oil and gas production operations.

Increased health risks correlated to potential exposures**



The health risks depicted in this graphic are aggregated from findings of separate peer-reviewed studies that have observed increased population health hazards, risks and impacts of living near oil and gas development. The graphic depicts the findings of the health studies cited in our paper and is not intended to indicate a causal relationship between oil and gas development and these health issues.

For more information please see: "Toward Consistent Methodology to Quantify Populations in Proximity to Oil and Gas Development: A National Spatial Analysis and Review," Environmental Health Perspectives, August 23, 2017 online edition.