

Subject	RE: OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report
From	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] Defra)
To	[REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	06 December 2017 13:48

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry, I thought I had responded but now realise the email was stuck in my drafts folder.
[REDACTED] .

I'm not an expert in air quality (far from it) but I had a quick read through and I can see that the report has been suitably caveated, which I think was a major concern before given that much of the existing evidence base was from the US. However as the majority of the earlier comments came from DECC (now BEIS) science and the Environment Agency I would suggest you need to work with them on lines (not least because EA ought to be able to provide an update on the further research they were going to undertake). The BEIS shale team would also need to be in the loop. They have recently been subsumed into a broader 'Oil and Gas Exploration and Production' team and I'm not sure who would be best placed to take this forward, but suggest sending to [REDACTED] as she's Deputy Head. I would also suggest keeping my deputy [REDACTED] (cc'd) in the loop as she's a comms expert and may well be able to add value to any lines produced by others; she would be quite happy to take this on.

Apologies again for the delay in responding.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Defra | Water Quality| Shale Gas, Groundwater and Priority Substances
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (Defra)
Sent: Wed 06/12/2017 11:02
To: [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report

Hi [REDACTED]

We do need some input on lines which should help with drafting the submission for publication of this report. I would welcome your views and could have a telephone conversation if that would be more helpful. Please could you let me know when you will be able to provide some lines?

Thank you,

[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat]

From: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra)
Sent: 29 November 2017 15:47
To: [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report

Hi [REDACTED]

Could you please give me some indication of when you can get back to me on this? I have a meeting of the Air Quality Expert Group next week and will need to update them.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

From: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra)
Sent: 24 November 2017 10:23
To: [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report

Hi [REDACTED]

Have you managed to have a look at this?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent: 09 November 2017 13:49
To: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Subject: RE: OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes I do recall this and wondered what had happened to it. Do you have a publication date in mind? I am actually off now until next Weds so if it can't wait till then I will forward to my deputy, [REDACTED], and DD [REDACTED] to take forward. We will need to work with BEIS on lines as they lead on shale gas and may also want to draw this to the attention of their Ministers. You should be aware that this is a particularly sensitive time for the industry as fracking is due to start imminently in North Yorkshire.

[REDACTED]
| Defra | Water Quality | Shale Gas, Groundwater and Priority Substances |* [REDACTED]
@defra.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra)
Sent: 08 November 2017 11:57

To: [REDACTED] (Defra)

Cc: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Subject: OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report

Dear [REDACTED] (cc for info),

I know that you have been contacted about this report (Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK) before and expressed some concerns. The report was sent last year to the Environment Agency and to BEIS for comment. The independent Air Quality Expert Group have considered their comments and edited the report as they see fit. Attached is the final report signed off by the group. We are now taking the steps needed to publish this and so we would welcome any comments you have that would feed into the development of comms lines and briefing for Ministers. We are aware that this report is now significantly out of date but it was written using the evidence available at the time of writing. As this is not yet published please treat it as confidential and do not share further without permission.

<< File: AQEG_Shale_Gas_Extraction_Advice_Note_v12.3.docx >>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] | Climate, Noise, Data & Analysis | Environmental Quality |
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
Please Note new phone number:
Direct line [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Address: [REDACTED]
Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> <<http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/>> | Twitter: @defraukair |

Subject	RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK
From	[REDACTED] (Defra)
To	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA)
Cc	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent	27 February 2018 14:40
Attachments	<<RE OFFSEN - AQEG Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Report.msg>>

[REDACTED]

Almost none of the names in your email below are still working on shale [REDACTED] at least have all left). I provided [REDACTED] with the name of the current lead in BEIS ([REDACTED]) back in November (see attached) and suggested [REDACTED] work directly with BEIS and EA contacts on lines to take - air quality is neither [REDACTED] 's nor my area of expertise, although I suggested [REDACTED] be kept in the loop given her background in comms. The last contacts we had in BEIS Science and the Environment Agency who were involved in commenting on the draft report were: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] .

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Defra | Water Quality| Shale Gas, Groundwater and Priority Substances

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject	RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK
From	[REDACTED]] [Environment Agency]
To	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Energy Development); [REDACTED] [Environment Agency]
Cc	[REDACTED]]@beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (Defra)
Sent	15 March 2018 10:19

[REDACTED] ,

That looks fine to me.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Environment Agency

From: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA)

Sent: 15 March 2018 10:03

To: [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Energy Development) [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

Dear all,

I've brought your helpful contributions together into some draft lines, attached, along with the report undergoing typesetting. We no longer think a late March publication is likely but will seek a date as soon as feasible, so your returns by 23rd March would be most helpful.

We additionally propose an introductory preface to the report, explaining when it was produced and that DECC references were accurate at the time of the work but that those areas of responsibility now come under BEIS.-Your contributions to the wording of this would be helpful, noting that AQEG have finished their work on this report, we will now only make secretariat-level typesetting and proofreading changes.

Please copy [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** into your comments who will progress this in my absence, as I am on leave until 27th Mar.

[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat]

[REDACTED] | **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Direct line: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Address: [REDACTED] | Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> | Twitter: @defraukair

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 March 2018 13:29

To: [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] | (DEFRA) ; [REDACTED] | (Defra) ; [REDACTED] | (Energy Development)

Cc: [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk ; [REDACTED] | (DEFRA) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

[REDACTED]

Thanks. The report is actually quite old now and I think the last two lines to take rather show that. BEIS, both directly and via the Research Councils, has been investing heavily in research on various subsurface energy projects but particularly shale gas related so perhaps we could combine/refine the lines somehow:

Recommendations reflect the state of knowledge at the time of producing this report. Our understanding has since increased with regards to on-shore shale gas extraction activities in a UK context and extensive baseline environmental monitoring has been conducted around likely shale gas sites and is publicly available.

Government recognises that this is still a nascent industry in the UK and we continue to pay close attention to relevant research.

The report (I haven't re-read it) was not great as I recall, but it was rather negative to a degree that seemed not right.

We have a report which is in a long publications queue and which calculates air emissions based on different shale industry scenarios. All are quite reassuring really though of course if there is somewhere with already poor air quality then even a tiny bit more emission may cause an exceedance.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Environment Agency

Email [REDACTED]

Mobile [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] | (DEFRA)

Sent: 13 March 2018 12:29

To: [REDACTED] | (Defra) [REDACTED] | (Energy Development)

Cc: [REDACTED] <>; [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

Thanks [REDACTED]

It was from previously provided EA comments. [REDACTED] , can you provide an update on this?

[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat]

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)

Sent: 13 March 2018 12:27

To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Energy Development)

< [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk >

Cc: [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk;

[REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk >

Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

[REDACTED]

Thanks for sharing – I'll leave it to BEIS colleagues to agree lines on this from the research point of view, but I would take issue with the last line in particular. I have no idea where it came from but it's not in line with our existing Government lines and is definitely not something we would want to say.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Defra | Water Quality| Shale Gas, Groundwater and Priority Substances |:

[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Sent: 13 March 2018 11:48

To: [REDACTED] (Energy Development) [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk >

Cc: [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] (Defra)

[REDACTED]]@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk

Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to my previous email we are seeking to publish this in a batch on **26th March**. Have you had chance to consider lines to take from a BEIS perspective?

Essentially we envisage saying:

This report, developed by independent air quality experts, has fed into our wider research on development of Shale in the UK [REDACTED] [what are BEIS doing on this issue now?]

- The objective of this report was to review the available evidence base at the time, associated with air emissions from shale gas extraction activities, and draw conclusions regarding the potential for impacts on air quality in the UK.
- This report highlights the care required when applying results from overseas experience to UK because of differences in geology, meteorology, population exposure, and public perception of onshore oil and gas.
- Recommendations reflect the state of knowledge at the time of producing this report and have since developed with regards on-shore shale gas extraction activities and its environmental impacts in UK context. [What more recent reports can we cite here?]
- Government recognises that its experience with other onshore oil and gas operations in UK over the past 60 years at non-shale sites, is not necessarily sufficient to inform

its regulation of new shale gas activities – so that additional sector-specific research is still needed.[Update needed?]

We welcome your input.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Direct line: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk | Address: [REDACTED]
| Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> | Twitter: @defraukair

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [[mailto: \[REDACTED\] @defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk)]

Sent: 27 February 2018 13:54

To: [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (SICE); [REDACTED] (SICE); Clarke [REDACTED] (Energy Development); [REDACTED] (Energy Development); [REDACTED] (Energy Development); [REDACTED] (Energy Development)

Cc: [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] DEFRA); [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra)

Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

Importance: High

Dear all,

There has been quite a delay in developments on publication of the report by the Air Quality Expert Group “Advice Note: Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK” (final version requiring typesetting attached), partially due to staff changes. Indeed, I’d be grateful for **review and update of appropriate contacts in this addressee list**.

I have recently joined the Secretariat in the Air Quality Expert Group ([REDACTED] is now in a different role) and am pushing for a grid date for a soft publication on the AQEG website of this report alongside a number of other outstanding AQEG reports prior to the local election period.

As I understand it Defra’s and BEIS’ shale teams were going to jointly produce draft lines-to-take for Defra comms. [REDACTED] , please can you provide me with an update on this?

We thank BEIS science team colleagues for helpful comments on a draft of the report which have been reflected in the final version (Individual responses [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]’s comments are available and can be sent on if you haven’t already seen them?) We are conscious that much of the evidence is now out of date as the report was completed in 2016 so lines should reflect this and explain that this report played its part in a larger body of evidence that has since developed.

Very happy to discuss.

[REDACTED] Air Quality Expert Group Secretariat

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Direct line: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk | Address: [REDACTED]
| Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> | Twitter: @defraukair

Subject	FW: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK
From	[REDACTED] DEFRA)
To	[REDACTED] @phe.gov.uk'
Sent	04 April 2018 10:53
Attachments	<<20180313_Lines to Take on Shale Report-rev BA_EA.docx>> <<AQEG_Shale_Gas_Extraction_Advice_Note_v12.3_typesetting.docx>>

Dear [REDACTED]

There has been quite a delay in publication of a report by Defra's Air Quality Expert Group "Advice Note: Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK" (final version requiring typesetting attached), partially due to staff changes. Please can you review the report and draft lines attached, noting that there is now no opportunity to update the report, therefore lines should reflect the difference in time between the report's production and present.

Please could you return comment to me by 11th April?

Happy to discuss,

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
I Air Quality Expert Group Secretariat
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Direct line: + [REDACTED]
| Email [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent: 29 March 2018 10:32
To: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**
Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

[REDACTED]

I've slightly amended the helpful lines to take that you circulated on 15 March (in tracked changes) and added EA's top lines (in blue). EA have also prepared more detailed lines which I have added at the end.

Could you also please send this to [REDACTED] at PHE: [REDACTED] [@phe.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@phe.gov.uk), who will have an interest in the ozone aspects.

Finally, please note that on page 27 (section 4.3) of the report there is a typo: High not igh.

[REDACTED] please shout if I've omitted anything.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Head: Shale Gas, Groundwater and Priority Substances
Defra, Water Quality, [REDACTED]
([REDACTED] Mobile [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Sent: 28 March 2018 16:32

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Subject: RE: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

[REDACTED]

Sorry for the slow reply-other events took over along with some annual leave.

The finalised version by AQEG (requires proofreading and typesetting) is attached along with draft lines you are very welcome to edit/contribute to. We feel this is a Defra lead given the air quality angle.

As far as I can tell the US context has been fully explained in the new exec. summary. The report has informed the general body of evidence in Defra when it was submitted nearly 2 years ago. Of course the evidence and policy landscape has since moved on and lines need to reflect the changes since the report was produced but we cannot expect AQEG to make further changes to the content of the report now.

The planning considerations are thus:

- "Furthermore, it can also be concluded that collecting data that supports the evaluation of impacts on regional ozone formation will be important. This evidence base will provide more detailed information on potential impacts that can be used to support planning decisions. The Environment Agency is currently undertaking a study to review the potential for regional air quality impacts." Can EA provide an update on the study alluded to here?
- Recommendations on monitoring air pollution: covered by bullet 4 in lines to take document.

Publication is expected by AQEG on their website (<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/aqeg/publications>) in line with other publications. It is likely we will now seek publication in mid May after the local elections.

The publication batch contents is subject to change but likely to include other AQEG reports on zero emissions vehicles (possibly alongside DfT's Road-to-zero planned publication) and the impact of vegetation on urban air quality.

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

From: [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk

Sent: 15 March 2018 13:21

To: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

Cc: [REDACTED] <@environment-agency.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Energy Development) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (Energy Development) [REDACTED] Defra) <>

Subject: FW: AQEG report on Potential air quality impacts of shale gas extraction in the UK

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**,

I manage the Environment Agency's programme on onshore oil and gas. I have not been sent a copy of this report and I would like to read it ASAP please.

We did read the previous version and I recall that a significant issue for us was that the authors referenced the USA regulatory context rather than the UK's own regulatory controls and best practice. Do you know if that has been rectified this time round? And if not then we need some strong Defra and BEIS lines to explain this and to highlight the differences in practices such as enclosed tanks, minimised venting, leak detection and repair protocols.

You say that the report has been taken into account – but by whom, for what? What are the implications for the report for local planning, air quality control and environmental permitting?

Who is leading on the press lines – Defra or BEIS – and what else is in the batch that you are referring to?

Thank you
[REDACTED]

Subject	RE: [Official: Sensitive] [REDACTED] : Publication of Three Air Quality Expert Group Reports
From	PS/Therese Coffey
To	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA); PS/Therese Coffey
Cc	[REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (Defra); [REDACTED] DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent	31 May 2018 17:20

[REDACTED]

Thank you for this submission, which the minister has now considered. He is content for these reports to be published.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent: 31 May 2018 15:51
To: PS/Therese Coffey <ps.therese.coffey@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] @Defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED]@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [Official: Sensitive] [REDACTED] : Publication of Three Air Quality Expert Group Reports

Dear [REDACTED] ,

Following your discussion with [REDACTED] , you requested a revised submission for Minister Rutley with revision of the likely media risk for the reports. This has been considered and the revision attached. The revised sub also clarifies that, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees, the timing of the publication of independent scientific advice is a matter for the advisory body but should be discussed with the Government beforehand. AQEG prefer to seek Ministerial agreement prior to publishing their reports to ensure a "no surprises" approach as they want their advice to be genuinely helpful to policy development.

I hope this revision is helpful for Minister Rutley's consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] , [REDACTED] , Air Quality Expert Group Secretariat
To: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Minister Rutley.
Issue: Publication of Three Air Quality Expert Group Reports:
1. Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK
2. Ultrafine Particles (UFP) in the UK
3. Air Pollution from Agriculture

Summary: The independent Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) has prepared three reports for Defra, and the Devolved Administrations, in line with their work programme. Your approval is needed to publish these reports.

Recommendation: That you note the above reports and approve their publication on the Defra UK Air website once a No10 grid slot is secured.

<< File: 180531_Submission AQEG reports_UFP_Shale_Agriculture.doc >>

Timing: By 4 June to enable publication plans for June to be coordinated

Annex A: Report 1, Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK, Executive Summary << File: 180530_Annex A_Submission AQEG reports_UFP_Shale_Agriculture.doc >>

Annex B: Report 2, Ultrafine Particles (UFP) in the UK, Executive Summary << File: 180530_Annex B_Submission AQEG reports_UFP_Shale_Agriculture.doc >>

Annex C: Report 3, Air Pollution from Agriculture, Executive Summary << File: 18052_Annex C_Submission AQEG reports_UFP_Shale_Agriculture.doc >>

Clearance: [REDACTED] for [REDACTED]

With thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Direct line: + [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk | [REDACTED] > Address: [REDACTED] | Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> <<http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/>> | Twitter: @defraukair

[REDACTED]

Subject	Re: AQEG Shale gas report
From	[REDACT (Defra)
To	[REDACTED] (Defra)
Cc	[REDACTED] (DEFRA) [AQEG Secretariat]
Sent	19 June 2018 18:56

[REDACTED]
As you say, perhaps we need to discuss this.
Ian

On 19 Jun 2018, at 18:30, [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED] > wrote:

[REDACTED]

This is all very frustrating for AQEG. I think the report they did was entirely relevant, and in accordance with agreed terms of reference of the study. They did not set out to define what low emission technologies could be used by shale gas industry or make recommendations about what technologies should be adopted.

So, at the time, their report was relevant to the exam question that was set at the time. Publication has been badly delayed, because Comms and Spads get nervous. So, if you think this is now redundant, this will not land well with IRE and AQEG. I think we also need to avoid a perception that you are "marking their homework". You really helped when [REDACTED] , but it's not usual to drag you in to comment on a report completed by independent experts when someone gets nervous about what they may be saying.

There is a real issue about reports of this nature being badly held up which we need to sort out with Comms.

Can we discuss about how this is now handled?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACT (Defra)
Sent: 14 June 2018 18:36
To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) **[AQEG Secretariat]**
Cc: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Subject: RE: AQEG Shale gas report

Dear [REDACTED] ,

Thank you for sending this. I note all the caveats about how long this has taken to produce. I suspect a judgement has to be made by [RE as to whether this is still 'current'. I suspect it might not be.

My main problem with it is that it's entirely retrospective in terms of its analysis. One issue I have, in general, with these kinds of reports which take a purist view is that they are, by

definition, totally reliant on a historical set of studies. In a fast-moving area, and credible assessment has, therefore, to project these observations in to the future and assess against current and future technologies. I suspect most fracking literature is based on 1990s technologies. The main question is whether current and future technologies present the same risks, irrespective of the different in circumstances in the UK compared with the US? My experience of gas extraction sites once fracking has been completed is that they are almost invisible to people living nearby let alone a hazard in terms of air pollution. This, of course, presumes appropriate levels of management and regulation.

Consequently, I feel that this report in its current form isn't really being very realistic. At very least, it should be able to assess the difference between two different scenarios – one where gas fracturing is done using the same technologies as in the US and one where alternative approaches are used. There is actually no real need for NOx emissions, for example, if electrical power supplies are used. I also have experience of working with oil companies in the North Sea who took the "zero emission" regulation in their stride. They didn't like it but they did not find it especially technologically difficult to implement.

Consequently, I suggest it is perfectly possible to "zero emission" fracking, in which case this whole report becomes redundant. Let me know if I need to speak to IRE .

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent: 14 June 2018 13:41
To: [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACT @defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] Defra) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AQEG Shale gas report

Dear [REDACTED]

Attached is the report (requires final checks before publication).

It's a tricky one in terms of the extended delay between AQEG finalising it and publication because it cites work 'DECC' were doing at the time and frankly much else in the report is also out of date. Many of the authors have since left AQEG the report was handed to us as complete last year and this is no longer in their agreed work programme so asking for significant revision at this stage would be difficult.

Whilst we have clearance to publish it from Minister Rutley we are yet to get a grid date.

I've also attached the reactive press lines agreed with BEIS and EA in April-we will seek updates to this once a grid date is secured. Our lines will also need to reflect the delay between AQEG finalising the report and publication (if published).

Grateful for your contribution to this issue.

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**
[REDACTED] | **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**
Direct line [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] Address: [REDACTED] | Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> | Twitter: @defraukair

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent: 14 June 2018 13:23
To: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**
Subject: Fwd: AQEG Shale gas report

Can you bring Ian into the loop?
Thanks

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)" <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Date: 14 June 2018 at 13:09:45 BST

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: AQEG Shale gas report

[REDACTED] ,

Can I get a copy of the current draft AQEG draft report on shale gas? I've had a discussion with the BEIS CSA on this. I don't think there is a major problem but I think there are some questions around precise wording. I might need to have a call with IRF , but let's see.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Subject	RE: our meeting (shale and AQEG)
From	Wallace, Harriet (DEFRA)
To	[REDACTED] (DEFRA)-AQEG Secretariat; [REDACTED]
Cc	[REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience); [REDACTED] (Energy Security, Networks & Markets); [REDACTED] (Defra) (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra)
Sent	03 July 2018 17:24

[REDACTED] is supportive of publication and is discussing with BEIS spads. I'm checking in with No 10 policy who seem ok with it if it's later this summer not next week
Harriet

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent: 03 July 2018 15:18
To: [REDACTED] DEFRA) **[AQEG Secretariat]**
Cc: **Wallace, Harriet (DEFRA)** [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: our meeting (shale and AQEG)

I don't think the sticking point was just BEIS.

Spads were not keen for the shale report to go out. We will need to check back with them unless press colleagues have heard different.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Jul 2018, at 14:34, [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear comms,

To confirm BEIS are now content for the shale report go out in a low profile way. This is supported by both Harriet Wallace, her BEIS counterpart (Helena Charlton) and [REDACTED]

Our strong preference would be for this to be alongside the "AQEG batch" tentatively gridded for 12th July (as I understand).

Can you provide an update on this please?

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

Great, thanks.
[REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 July 2018 14:19
To: [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED]@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>
Cc: [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk; [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: our meeting (shale and AQEG)

Thanks [REDACTED]

I'll ensure we refer to the monitoring, as requested.

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

From: [REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience) [mailto:helena.charlton@beis.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 July 2018 13:56
To: Charlton, Helena (Energy Development & Resilience)' <helena.charlton@beis.gov.uk>; Wallace, Harriet (DEFRA) <Harriet.Wallace@defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] >
Cc: <[REDACTED]@beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Energy Security, Networks & Markets) <[REDACTED]@beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] Defra) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: our meeting (shale and AQEG)

Thanks [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**, that's fine. Will you refer specifically to the fact that monitoring is taking place in that foreword (ie rather than saying generically that evidence has moved on)?

Helena

From: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**
Sent: 03 July 2018 10:18
To: [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience) [REDACTED]@beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED]@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>
Cc: [REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience) [REDACTED]@beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Energy Security, Networks & Markets) [REDACTED]@beis.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: our meeting (shale and AQEG)

Dear Helena,

Thanks for these helpful comments.

The monitoring you allude to commenced in September 2015-after AQEG's evidence assessment occurred (which completed in early 2015).

Thus, I propose to incorporate your comments provided in a 'Foreword from the Secretariat', which will explain that AQEG assessed the evidence base as it was in early 2015 and to explain that evidence (and the responsible department) has moved on since. We can say that this is a fast developing area so reports were inevitably going to be a bit out of date, but it's important to reflect AQEG's thinking at the time and the action that has been taken since.

I (or my colleagues since I am on leave from COP Thurs) will keep you informed of publication intentions. This is now looking more likely to be 12th then 5th July.

I hope this is agreeable.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Air Quality Expert Group Secretariat
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
[REDACTED] Twitter: @defraukair
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Sent: 02 July 2018 22:19

To: [REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience) <[REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED] @DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>

Cc: [REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience) <[REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] (Energy Security, Networks & Markets) <[REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (Defra) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: our meeting (shale and AQEG)

Helena, – thanks v much. If we can make those amends are you ok for this to go out with the others on Thursday?

[REDACTED] - **AQEG Secretariat**, [REDACTED], hopefully the below factual amends to the shale report are easy to take on? Pls can you check in with IRE as chair of AQEG?

Assuming we can make those amends and BEIS are happy, can you then please work with comms to ensure No 10 are also ok with it going out with the others in a low key way?

Harriet Wallace | Deputy Director, Air Quality and Industrial Emissions

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Subject	RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July
From	[REDACTED] (DEFRA)
To	[REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] -AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA)
Cc	[REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent	24 July 2018 14:06

[REDACTED]

Late morning sounds ok to publish the AQEG reports on UK-Air.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Air Quality communications

Communications group | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |

Tel: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk

< [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk> |

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Sent: 24 July 2018 13:44

To: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED] (DEFRA) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Defra)

< [REDACTED] @DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED] (Defra)

< [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

Thanks [REDACTED]

I've lined up [REDACTED] to publish the four AQEG reports (so including the agriculture report) on Thursday. [REDACTED] – is there a specific time in the day which we would prefer to publish? If we don't have a preference I'll get them uploaded late-morning.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA)

Sent: 23 July 2018 19:43

To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

>
Cc: [REDACTED] DEFRA) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk> >; [REDACTED] (Defra) [REDACTED] @DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK

< [REDACTED] @DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK> >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk> >; [REDACTED] (Defra)

[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk < [REDACTED] > >

Subject: RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

Thanks [REDACTED]

I assume the AQEG Agriculture report should be included alongside CoGAP too? This is as discussed in the batch for the CoGAP launch and has ministerial approval but I assume has just been missed in translation to the list?

I've edited as such for your approval.

In addition please find the lines we have already worked up linked below:

Vegetation lines <../Working_documents/Vegetation/170223%20AQEG%20Draft%20report%20-%20lines.docx?Web=1>

UFP lines

<../Working_documents/UFP/180602%20UFP%20report%20key%20messages%20and%20Q%20A%20clean.docx?web=1>

Agriculture: See lines for CoGAP

<../..../aa09/sc/env/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Sites/aa09/sc/env/airqual/Agriculture%20and%20Ammonia/Comms%20strategy%20and%20planning/180621%20Communications%20Handling%20Ammonia%20_%20CoGAP%20launch.docx&actio>

Shale lines

<../Working_documents/Shale_gas_extraction/20180405_Lines%20to%20Take%20on%20Shale%20Report.docx?Web=1>

[REDACTED] will be able to provide any specific lines on the production of the Evidence Statement lines but as for the AQEG Agriculture report these will be broadly the same as the CoGAP report.

[REDACTED] please can you follow up with [REDACTED] in prep. For a Thursday launch as per the table I already sent you? I confirm the report versions linked within are now final.

I'm at an all day off site meeting on Tuesday, more reliably in contact on Wednesday.

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Sent: 23 July 2018 17:44

To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk>>

Cc: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] (non-Defra) <[REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>; [REDACTED] (EA) <[REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@environment-agency.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>>

Subject: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

Importance: High

All,

We have set out in one handling plan all the AQ announcements scheduled for release on Thursday 26 July. Please can you review the handling attached/below – we need to get this up asap tomorrow morning.

<https://sp.demeter.zeus.gsi.gov.uk/Sites/aa09/sc/env/airqual/Submissions/Communication%20Submissions/180719%20Communications%20Handling%20AQ%20Announcements%20Thurs%2026%20July.docx?Web=1>

AQIE –

- * Please can you add in links to where docs will be published?
- * We also need a lead to supply lines to take on the AQEG reports & the evidence statement on nitrogen.
- * Press notices/Gov.uk stories for CoGAP & CfE Tyres & Brakes have been shared separately.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

July 2018

Communications Handling – Air Quality announcements Thursday 26 July

Issue: Communications handling for a series of air quality announcements on Thursday 26 July.

Recommendation: Agree the communications handling outlined below.

Background:

On Thursday 26 July Defra is publishing a number of reports and guidance linked to air quality and the Clean Air Strategy.

- * Code of Good Agricultural Practice for reducing ammonia emissions
 - * Evidence Statement effect of nitrogen deposition on ecosystems
 - * Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) reports on ultrafine particles, shale and urban vegetation
 - * Call for Evidence Non exhaust emissions (Tyres & Brake wear)
 - * The Environment Agency is publishing its State of the Environment report on Air Quality.
- Below sets out the handling plan for each element.

[Out of scope]

Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) reports

Background: We have been given a grid date by No.10 to publish three publications from the Air Quality Expert Group. We do not expect these reports to get picked up as they will just be published on Defra's UK Air website however we will have reactive lines in place ahead of publication.

* Shale: This is the most potentially newsworthy of the three publications as it includes estimates of the impact of fracking on air pollution including the potential release of NOx. However the report looked at fracking in the US which is different from the UK and since the report was finalised it has been superseded by work looking at the type of fracking that would take place in the UK.

Handling: We are finalising a cross government reactive line with BEIS which emphasises fracking here is not directly comparable to the US. Our domestic knowledge base has increased since the report was written and we continue to invest in research into shale gas extraction to ensure that a scientific evidence-based approach is taken.

* Ultrafine particles – the report suggests a need for monitoring of ultrafine particles in more locations – they are currently only monitored at a few sites.

Handling: If we are approached for comment we will emphasise that our existing extensive PM2.5 monitoring network measures UFP among larger particles and we intend to accept the recommendation of further, more specific monitoring.

* Vegetation – this report looks at the effects of vegetation on urban air pollution. Its findings are that while overall vegetation, and trees in particular, are regarded as beneficial for air quality, but they are not a solution to the air quality problems at a city scale.

Handling: we will work up reactive lines emphasising that this is a useful addition to the evidence base but cautioning that the evidence shows that the use of vegetation isn't a universal fix for helping improving air quality.

[REDACTED]

Air Quality communications

Communications group | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |

Tel: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[mailto:](mailto:[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk> |

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Subject	RE: Official: Sensitive- AQEG reports for publication this week/next week
From	[REDACTED] DEFRA)
To	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] ; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk); [REDACTED] @gov.scot; [REDACTED] @wales.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (Energy Development & Resilience)
Cc	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent	25 July 2018 10:58

Hi all,

A slight amend to the dates below – they will either go altogether on Friday 27th or split with agriculture going on Thursday 2 August.

To inform you that the attached reports from the Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) are planned for (soft, low key) publication at <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/aqeg/publications> Friday/next Thurs. -Pending final confirmation, Shale, UFP and Vegetation are to be published Friday (27th) and the Agriculture one will go out either Friday or next Thursday (2nd).

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Air Quality communications

Communications group | **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** |

Tel: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] [@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

From: [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat](DEFRA)

Sent: 25 July 2018 10:34

To: [REDACTED] @daera-ni.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk)

< [REDACTED] @environment-agency.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] @gov.scot; [REDACTED] @wales.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED] Energy Development & Resilience)

< [REDACTED] @beis.gov.uk>

Cc [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat]((Defra) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (Defra) < [REDACTED] @DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) < [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: Official: Sensitive- AQEG reports for publication this week/next week

**[Official: Sensitive, Embargoed AQEG reports until publication attached]
For information**

Dear DA/OGD colleagues,

To inform you that the attached reports from the Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) are planned for (soft, low key) publication at <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/aqeg/publications> Friday/next Thurs. -Pending final confirmation, Shale, UFP and Vegetation are to be published Friday(27th) and the Agriculture one will go out either tomorrow or next Thursday (2nd).

Attached are the respective reports , -not for further circulation except with your respective comms teams until published at the above link. Note shale has a new Foreword from the Secretariat explaining the timing delay.

Our comms handling plan is briefly summarised as follows, please put your press teams in contact with [REDACTED] should they need specific lines:

* Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK: This is the most potentially newsworthy of the three publications as it includes estimates of the impact of fracking on air pollution including the potential release of NOx. However the report looked at fracking in the US which is different from the UK and since the report was finalised it has been superseded by work looking at the type of fracking that would take place in the UK.

Handling: We are finalising a cross government reactive line with BEIS which emphasises fracking here is not directly comparable to the US. Our domestic knowledge base has increased since the report was written and we continue to invest in research into shale gas extraction to ensure that a scientific evidence-based approach is taken.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | Air Quality Expert Group Secretariat

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Direct line: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Address [REDACTED] | Web: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk> | Twitter: @defraukair

[REDACTED]

Subject	RE: HANDLING TO CLEAR: Ammonia guidance and other air quality publications
From	[REDACTED] (DEFRA)
To	[REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); PS/George Eustice, [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Cc	[REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] DEFRA); PS/Therese Coffey; PS/Michael Gove; PS.Advisers; Moriarty, Clare (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent	26 July 2018 12:11

This has been cleared by SpAds off- chain.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] DEFRA)

Sent: 25 July 2018 16:41

To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk> >

Cc: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] Defra) <[REDACTED] @DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk < >; Leat, Paul (Defra) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED] > >; PS/Therese Coffey <ps.therese.coffey@defra.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:ps.therese.coffey@defra.gsi.gov.uk>> >; PS/Michael Gove <Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk>> >; PS/George Eustice <ps.george.eustice@defra.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:ps.george.eustice@defra.gsi.gov.uk>> >; PS.Advisers <ps.advisers@defra.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:ps.advisers@defra.gsi.gov.uk>> >; Moriarty, Clare (DEFRA) <Clare.Moriarty@defra.gsi.gov.uk <<mailto:Clare.Moriarty@defra.gsi.gov.uk>> >; [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED] > >; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <<[REDACTED] > >
Subject: HANDLING TO CLEAR: Ammonia guidance and other air quality publications

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find below our communications handling for the launch of guidance for farmers on reducing ammonia emissions and for other air quality items we have a grid slot for on Friday.

We intend to sell the ammonia release in tomorrow under embargo for Friday so if you could provide feedback by around 10am tomorrow that would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Communications Handling – COGAP and other Air Quality announcements Friday 27 July

Issue: Communications handling for the launch of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice (CoGAP) for reducing ammonia emissions and other air quality publications.

Recommendation: Agree the communications handling outlined below.

Background:

On Friday 27 July we will publish:

- * Code of Good Agricultural Practice for reducing ammonia emissions
- * Evidence Statement effect of nitrogen deposition on ecosystems
- * Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) reports on ultrafine particles, air pollution from agriculture, shale and urban vegetation

The Environment Agency is also publishing its State of the Environment report on Air Quality.

Below sets out the handling plan for each of Friday's publications and a press notice for the CoGAP publication.

[Out of scope information removed]

Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) reports

Background: We are publishing four reports from the Air Quality Expert Group on Defra's UK Air website (<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/library/aqeg/publications>)

* Potential Air Quality Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in the UK - this is the most potentially newsworthy of the four publications as it includes estimates of the impact of fracking on air pollution including the potential release of NOx. However the report looked at fracking in the US which is different from the UK and since the report was finalised it has been superseded by work looking at the type of fracking that would take place in the UK.

Handling: We are finalising a cross-government reactive line with BEIS which emphasises fracking here is not directly comparable to the US. Our domestic knowledge base has increased since the report was written and we continue to invest in research into shale gas extraction to ensure that a scientific evidence-based approach is taken.

Risks

Recent coverage of shale gas extraction – earlier this week there was extensive coverage of the decision to grant permission to Cuadrilla to create the first ever onshore fracking site in the UK. If the AQEG report is picked up journalists could use it to question the decision

Key messages

Air pollution is not just an urban issue and with 88% of ammonia emissions coming from farming, the government is taking concerted action

88% of all emissions of ammonia come from the agricultural sector

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP) for Reducing Ammonia Emissions sets out simple steps all farmers can take to reduce ammonia emissions

[REDACTED] | Communications Officer |

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Direct Line: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Out of Hours: 0345 051 8486

[REDACTED]

Read our media blog <<https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/>> here.

Subject	RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July
From	[REDACTED] (DEFRA)
To	[REDACTED] [AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] DEFRA)
Cc	[REDACTED] (DEFRA); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent	26 July 2018 14:39

Final clearance from TC just 4 minutes ago – all good to go!

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)

Sent: 26 July 2018 14:27

To: [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] DEFRA [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) [REDACTED] @defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

I understand we have clearance too.

[REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]**

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)

Sent: 26 July 2018 14:25

To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] (>); [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (Defra) <[REDACTED] (@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] (>); [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED] (@defra.gsi.gov.uk <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

Hi everyone,

I understand we now have clearance to publish tomorrow. I'll upload the AQ evidence statement shortly so it goes live tomorrow morning. Let me know before 3pm if that isn't the case though!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Chief Scientific Adviser's Programme Office & Strategy Team

Defra

Tel: [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)

Sent: 24 July 2018 18:14

To: [REDACTED] (DEFRA) <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] (DEFRA >; [REDACTED] **[AQEG Secretariat]** (DEFRA) <>

>; [REDACTED] (> >; [REDACTED] ((DEFRA) >; [REDACTED] ((DEFRA)
Subject: RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

Ok, thanks. Please can you keep me in the loop on timings. We can upload in advance (as a non-published report), but we can only trigger publication the day before as the system updates overnight. We'll therefore need to know for definite by 4pm the day before publication.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Chief Scientific Adviser's Programme Office & Strategy Team
Defra

Tel: [REDACTED]

; Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (DEFRA)
Sent: 24 July 2018 18:00
To: [REDACTED] (Defra) >; [REDACTED]
(DEFRA) >; [REDACTED]
[AQEG Secretariat] (DEFRA) >
Cc: [REDACTED]
(DEFRA) >; [REDACTED]
(Defra) >; [REDACTED]
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Subject: RE: Handling AQ Announcements Thurs 26 July

Hi [REDACTED]

Just to add some complexities - we are awaiting on some toing and froing on timings.

There is chance that the CoGAP may hold until next week – Thurs 2 August - if that is the case then we suggest the Evidence Statement and the AQEG agriculture report go alongside that.

We should have clarity tomorrow.

Could the report be uploaded onto the system and held for a week?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Air Quality communications

Communications group | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |

Tel: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]