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Reclaim the Power

Near Blackpool, Lancashire

14-20 August 2014

Press pack

Contents

1. What is Reclaim the Power?
2. Why are we in Blackpool?
3. Timeline and filming opportunities
4. Code of conduct
5. Resources

1. What is Reclaim the Power?

Reclaim the Power is a six day camp organised by a coalition of climate, social and economic justice activists. The camp's participants will take direct action against gas drilling, as well as share skills and knowledge in a variety of workshops. Last year, Reclaim the Power shut down Cuadrilla's operations near Balcombe, Sussex, for 6 days. This year from 14 – 20 August, we are responding to the call for support from the community in Lancashire opposing this industry.

We share their serious concerns about the environmental and social impacts of fossil fuel drilling in their area. Blackpool is the fracking industry's test grounds – already in 2011 it experienced earthquakes due to fracking. If allowed to continue, the dash for fracked gas could see two thirds of UK's territory licenced for drilling.

Fracking is an integral part of the 'dash for gas'. Our government is pushing for the extraction, transportation and combustion of more fossil fuels to make huge profits for oil and gas corporations. For large parts of the population in the UK, this means fracking on their doorstep, it means fuel poverty, and for the planet it means climate crisis. We see community-controlled renewables as the basis of a sustainable and just future energy system.

2. Why are we in Lancashire?

We are responding to a call for support from Lancashire residents who are taking action against fracking. From August 7th a group of local grandmothers and mothers are occupying a field earmarked for development by Cuadrilla. Karen, a Fylde resident:

"I was excited by the thought of jobs and prosperity coming to Blackpool until I learned about the short-term nature of shale gas and I came to see we were being sold a con about "lower energy prices", "energy security", "long-term employment". We are being sold a brief boom and bust, with nasty long-term consequences. We need permanent solutions to our energy supply and use, not this get-rich-quick then get-the-hell-out industry."

Tina of Residents' Action on Fylde Fracking:

"The shale gas industry and Cuadrilla in particular have not acted honestly in their dealings with our community and are not to be trusted with the health and well-being of our children. We do not want them here and so are gathering to make sure we are heard and we are calling others to help us amplify this. As air and water do not recognize county boundaries, the defence is for everybody in the UK."

Ginette of Fleetwood Folk Say No Fracking:

"I vividly remember the earthquake of 2011 that I thought was an explosion. Since then I have found out the real reason it happened and it needs to be stopped."

Hilary of Keep East Lancashire Frack Free:

"There's a lot of reasons to be here and do this. We've taken this situation for too long and enough is enough. We need to protect our communities and they are being misled by this industry and the government."

Bex of Fleetwood Folk Say No Fracking:

"I grew up here on the Fylde Coast, my children grew up here and no-one is listening – I need my grandchildren to now be able to grow up in a clean, safe environment. This is my obligation as a grandmother."

3. Timeline and filming opportunities

Our media team is available for interviews throughout the time of the camp and can provide contacts for local residents taking action against fracking, as well as images, on request.

Thursday 14: Camp location revealed. Camp set up. Cameras welcome onsite 1pm-3pm: please identify yourself to the crew on the gate.

Friday 15 – Sunday 16: Trainings, workshops, assemblies. Cameras welcome onsite 1pm-3pm: please identify yourself to the crew on the gate. Please ask the media team (07447027112) if you would like images of workshops.

Monday 17 – Tuesday 18: Days of action. Cameras welcome onsite 1pm-3pm: please identify yourself to the crew on the gate. Please ask the media team (07447027112) if you would like to attend an action or would like images from one.

4. Code of conduct

At Reclaim the Power we are keen to communicate our reasons for being camped near Blackpool as widely as possible; this means engaging in mainstream, alternative, and social media. However, it is vital that our engagement with the media is balanced with camp participants' ability to live, eat, socialise, and plan for action. For this reason, we have put together a media policy to guide both participants and journalists alike:

General information

- A member of the media team is placed outside the limits of the camp in order to direct journalists towards the delegated spokespeople and / or the media tent.
- We will be holding media briefings daily to provide the media with the latest information and give interviews. The location of these is to be announced.
- During Sunday 17th August, much of the day will be spent planning for the mass action the following day. Therefore, mission groups planning for the action will have the opportunity of opting out of being filmed on this day and the media group will ensure this is enforced. If print or web journalists join a mission group they must identify themselves to their group so the group can make an informed decision on what can be reported.

Film and TV

TV and film camera crews will ordinarily be allowed on site during a two hour time slot (1pm-3pm) each day. The media group is empowered to use their discretion to extend this for individual film and camera crews. All TV and film camera crews will be accompanied by a member of the camp's media team, identifiable in high-viz vests.

Print and online

Print journalists and bloggers should let the Welcome Tent or Media Team that they are in the camp; they should also introduce themselves at village morning meetings if they are camping. This enables participants to make an informed choice about whether or not to speak to you.

Photography

All photographers must get permission before taking photos of people, whether working for the media or not. Everyone is asked to be mindful of the fact that many people attending will not want to be photographed and are probably enjoying a week away from techno-gadgetry overload, so give them a break.

Documentation Working Group

A Reclaim the Power documentation working group will be working to produce a range of images, footage, and writings from the camp; if you would like to contribute to their work, please introduce yourself at the media tent. They will be following the same rules in terms of asking people for permission to take images.

If you are a print or online journalist/blogger and you would like images or footage from the camp, follow us on Flickr at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/reclaimthepower/> , ask on Twitter at @nodashforgas,, ring us, or ask the media group onsite. You can also get on our press list by emailing press@nodashforgas.org.uk.

5. Resources

No Dash for Gas: Disaster Gas - An overview of why the government's plans to build 30 new gas-fired power stations is a disaster for people and the climate: <http://www.nodashforgas.org.uk/why-we-must-stop-gas/>

Residents Action on Fylde Fracking <http://stopfyldefracking.org.uk/>

Lancashire Frack Free Food movement: <http://www.lfffa.co.uk/cms/?file=frack-free-food>

Fuel Poverty Action: Why Gas is a fuel we can't afford - a short, introductory guide to why our bills are rising, what's going on with climate change, the situation with UK energy policy and the emerging social movement against the 'dash for gas'. <http://fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/2013/04/23/new-resource-gas-a-fuel-we-cant-afford/>

Platform: Connecting the dots - A blog from oil and gas watchdog Platform outlining why frontier gas means more repression and environmental injustice: <http://platformlondon.org/2013/07/12/reclaim-power-no-dash-for-gas/>

Frack Off: Briefing Sheet: A short introduction to the dangers from fracking: <http://frack-off.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/ExtremeEnergyBriefingJuly2013e.pdf>