

SLACctt strongly objects to West Cumbria Mining’s application for a “new underground metallurgical coal mine” at Whitehaven, and hope you can help support our objection.

The decision on WCM’s application is expected to be on **Tuesday 19th March in Kendal.**

The hearing starts at 10am at the **Cumbria County Council offices at Busher Walk**, but we hope you can assemble outside the entrance at **8.45am onwards** to increase the chances of you being seen by the councillor members of the Development Control committee as they arrive (which may be for a prior meeting hence the need to be there early).

Please also email as soon as you can CumbriaCC’s officer Ms Rachel Brophy: Rachel.Brophy@cumbria.gov.uk Your email at this stage could be very short, quick and simple, to add to the number of objectors to try and help that exceed the number of supporters. I suggest you could have a sentence putting across a message similar to the following paragraph, and you could then fully endorse the facts and arguments provided in the objection letters by SLACctt, Maggie Mason, Laurie Michaelis and the FoE (to save you the time writing longer letters).

South Lakes Action on Climate Change *towards transition* (SLACctt) objects to the above coal mining application because the quantity of greenhouse gases it will release over its projected years of operation would be totally incompatible with the urgent and steep reduction in carbon emissions that climate scientists state we will need to ensure, in order to have any good chance of meeting the temperature goals of the Paris Climate Agreement that the UK and almost all other nations have signed up to, and also to keeping below the 1.5 degree C threshold in the recent IPCC Special Report for 1.5.

Note: WCM aim to extract mainly coking coal for steel-making, but also “middlings coal” for industrial uses. Both result in high carbon emissions.

Please also read the brief but powerful statement on SLACctt’s website page on this issue, which links back to the present page <http://slacc.org.uk/whitehaven-coal-mine-hearing/>

On the following pages is a copy of SLACctt’s covering email on 12/3/19 to which was attached SLACctt’s second letter of objection, which is online here: www.bit.ly/SLACcttNOtoCOAL2
SLACctt’s first letter of objection to CumbriaCC (18feb18) is here: www.bit.ly/SLACcttNOtoCOAL1

Here is a link to the excellent objection letter by Maggie Mason, who has had years of experience in such planning matters:

http://www.dragonfly1.plus.com/letter%20of%20objection%20to%204-17-9007_MMason.pdf

I also strongly recommend for example the letters [by Laurie Michaelis](#), and by Dr Stuart Parkinson of SGR (both have, or still do, worked on climate science at a high level (eg re IPCC).

For event information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/209915829955925/> by Sam Moisha – who with Marianne Birkby et al. are part of [Keep Cumbrian Coal in the Hole](#)

Do make some placards against the proposals if you have time – though not essential. Best kept simple e.g. “NO TO COAL” felt-penned on an A3 or larger piece of cardboard would be fine, or whatever your creativeness comes up with. I have made a 1.7m banner stating **CLIMATE EMERGENCY** to which I hope to add words to the effect “Means NO MORE COAL”. *It would be helpful if 2 or 3 of you could hold it as I am registered to speak inside the building.*

SLACctt are registered to give a 5 minute oral presentation objecting to the application.

NB: please revisit this page nearer to 19th March to check for updates or changes.

Dr Henry Adams on behalf of SLACctt. Updated 12 march 2019

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Ms Rachel Brophy [also forwarded to Nicola.Harrison@cumbria.gov.uk]

Rachel.Brophy@cumbria.gov.uk

Planning Officer

Cumbria County Council

Dear Rachel Brophy,

Re: Application ref 4/17/9007 by West Cumbria Mining Ltd re proposed coal mine at Whitehaven

Last week's High Court judgement: A pro-fossil fuel Paragraph in the 2018 NPPF is effectively illegal

I am writing on behalf of South Lakes Action on Climate Change to make Planning Officers aware of a High Court Judgement which effectively makes illegal a paragraph in the 'Oil, gas and coal exploration and extraction' section of the 2018 NPPF, which has important implications as regards how climate change impacts should be considered as a planning consideration at local government level. **We at SLACctt most strongly advise that this ruling and their implications are given urgent and priority attention by the Planning Officers involved in producing their report to the Development Control Committee on WCM's coal mine application.**

The attached letter is an addition to our letter of objection dated 18/2/18 and covers the above key addition as well as important implications of IPCC's Special Report for 1.5 degrees, WCM's carbon emissions and the many thousands of consequential climate deaths, and also a critique of WCM's claims as regards emissions from shipping coal.

The attached letter was written just before I heard that the Planning Officers have produced their report to the committee on WCM's application.

We regard the implications of the High Court Judgement of sufficient importance, together with the implications of the IPCC SR1.5 report, and the consequent many thousands of deaths that the WCM project will cause, that the report should be withdrawn and revised.

The Court judgement means that Project Officers can no longer work on the basis that the NPPF, the Planning System, and indeed Written Ministerial Statements, are necessarily legally correct in facilitating or providing loop-holes for, the extraction of more fossil fuels. Fossil fuel extraction is now being legally challenged.

This means that the Cumbria County Council, its Planning Officers and Councillor Committee members, can no longer use an excuse that they have to follow government statements or policies that are pro-fossil fuel extraction, when they recommend or decide on fossil applications such as from the WCM.

This also means that any officers who advise councillors to accept WCM's application, and likewise any councillors who vote in favour, will share responsibility for causing the many thousands of climate deaths and air pollution deaths that will very likely result from their decision.

Yours sincerely

Henry Adams on behalf of SLACctt

Dr Henry Adams (retired Ecological Consultant)

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Attached was a copy of www.bit.ly/SLACcttNOtoCOAL2

SLACctt's first objection letter (in feb.2018) is here: www.bit.ly/SLACcttNOtoCOAL1