

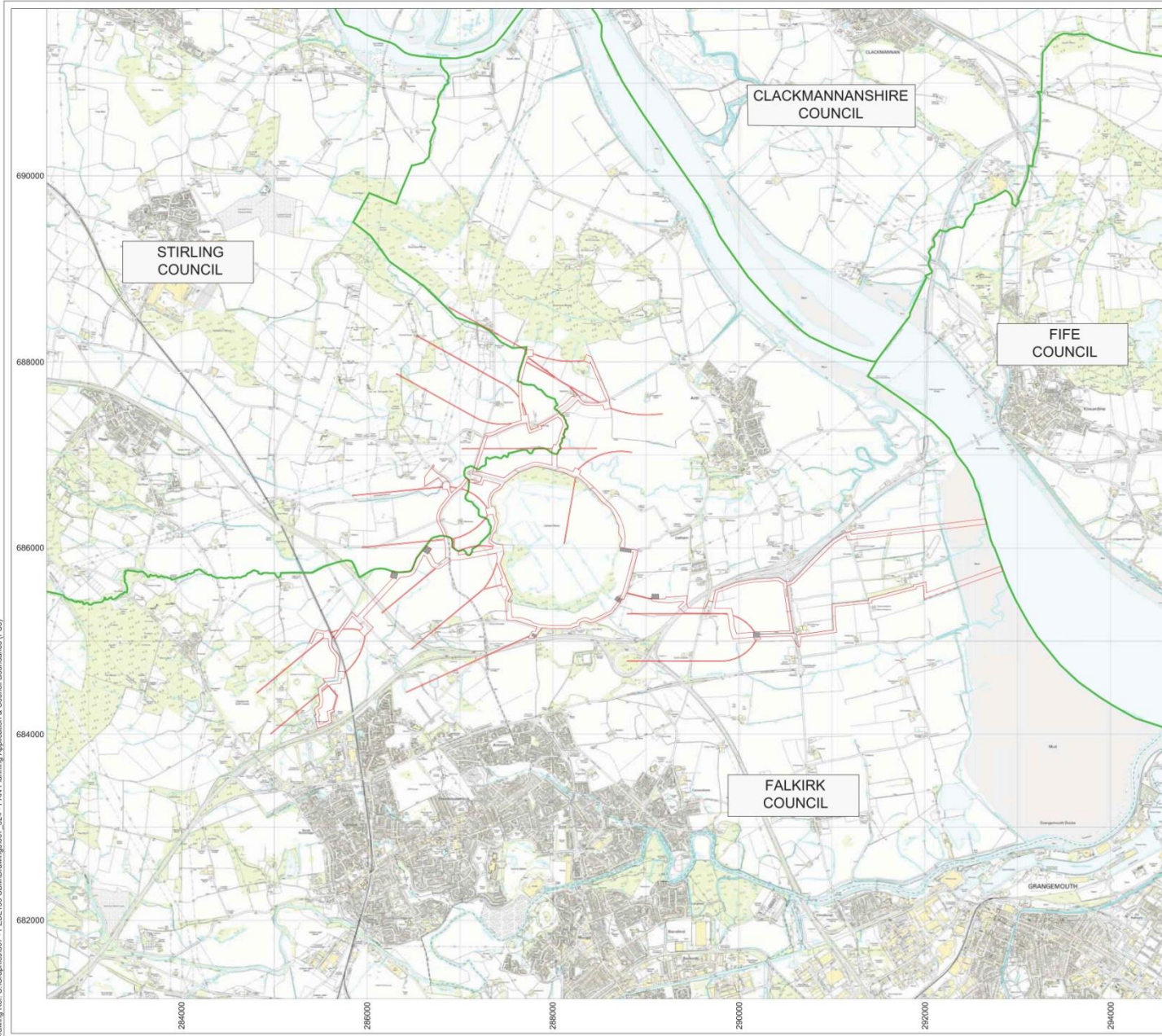
Coalbed Methane extraction and the Planning Process – a Practical Example

The Proposal




The background image shows an industrial drilling site. A tall, complex drilling rig is the central focus, with various pipes, ladders, and mechanical components. In the foreground, there are stacks of long, cylindrical pipes or rods. To the right, a large, dark, cylindrical storage tank is visible. The overall scene is in grayscale, giving it a technical and industrial feel.

- 14 Well Sites
- Permanent Gas Delivery and water Treatment Facility
- Works at existing sites
- Below ground borehole trajectories
- Site access tracks
- Inter site connectors
- Above ground drill rig operations

Drawing Ref: S:\Graphics\007 - PEDL 133 CBM\Drawings\007_524 - PAN Planning Application & Council Boundaries (PS3)



Legend

-  Proposed Application Boundary
-  Council Boundary
-  Existing Dart Energy Site



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Project: PEDL 133 CBM

Title: **Planning Application & Council Boundaries**

Date: 23.08.12 Scale: 1:20,000 Original Paper Size: A1

Drawn: nf Checked: lc Rev:

Figure No: PS3

Pre Application

- Major application
- Community consultation required
- Views of community sought prior to application
- Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)

Proposal of Application Notice

- 12 weeks before planning application
- Served on –
 - Cowie Community Council
 - Plean Community Council
 - Airth Community Council
 - Larbert, Stenhousemuir & Torwood Community Council
- 5 public exhibitions
 - 43 attendees
 - 20 opinion surveys completed
- Environmental Statement

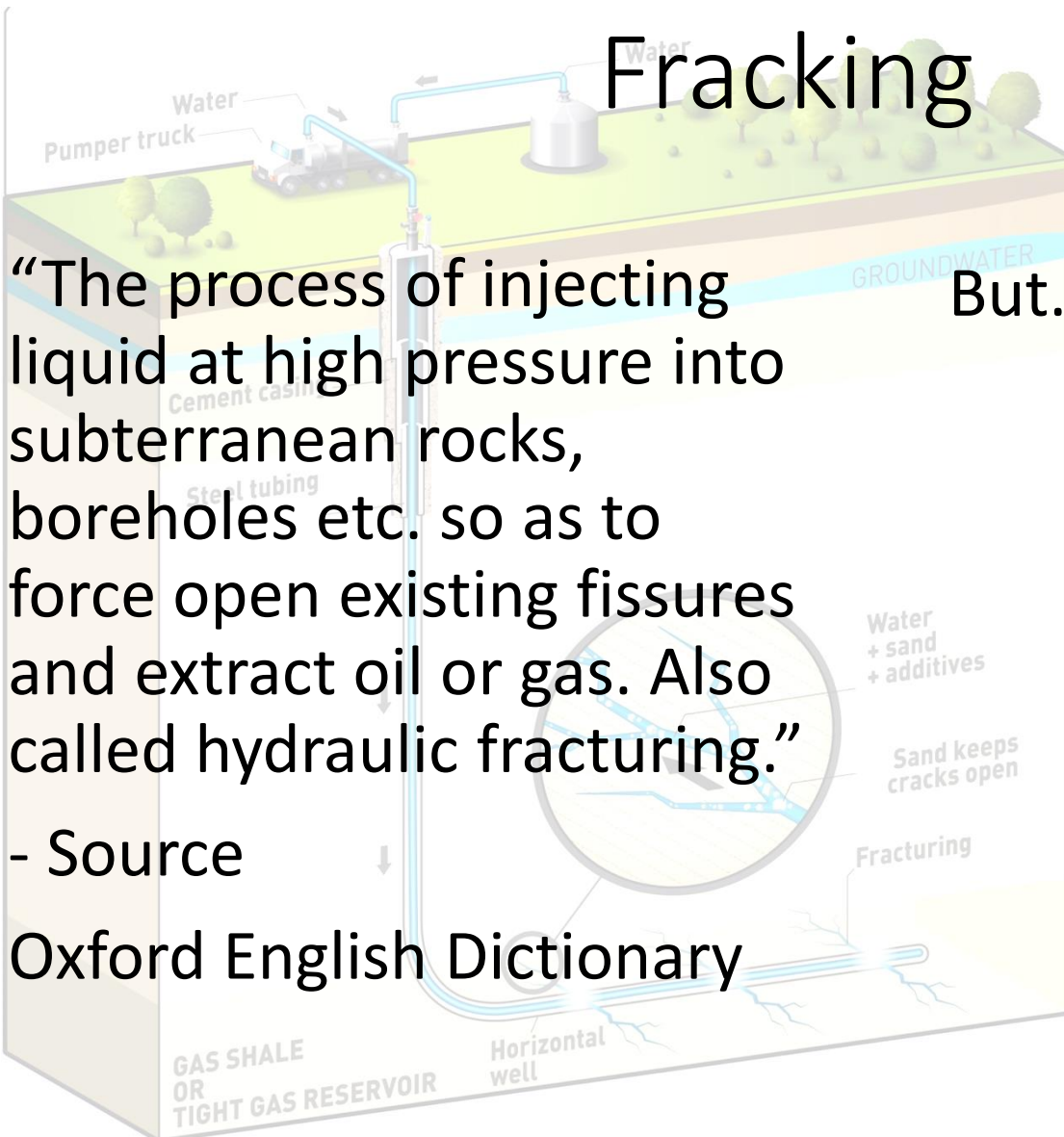
Fracking

“The process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks, boreholes etc. so as to force open existing fissures and extract oil or gas. Also called hydraulic fracturing.”

- Source

Oxford English Dictionary

But.....

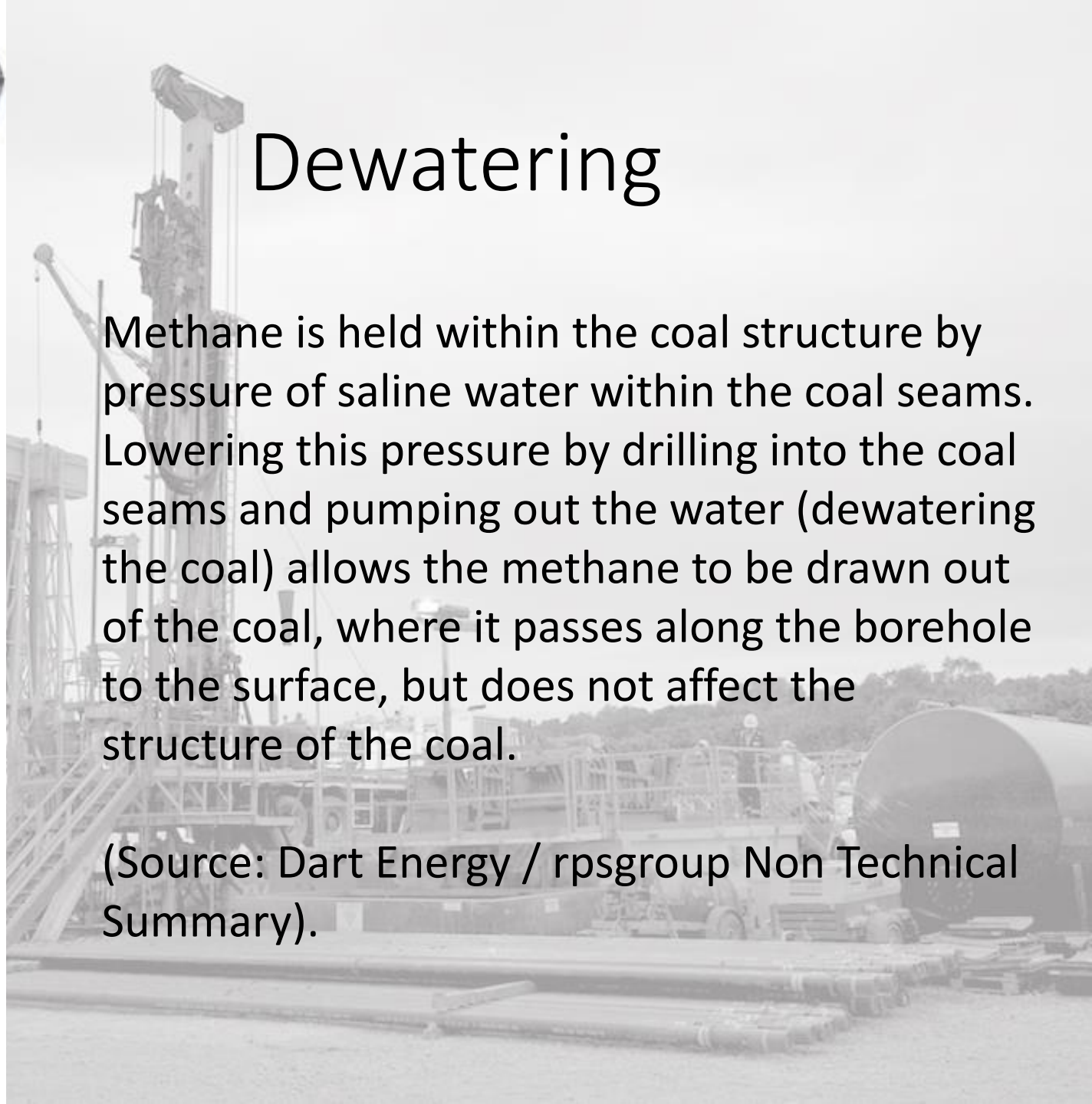




Dewatering

Methane is held within the coal structure by pressure of saline water within the coal seams. Lowering this pressure by drilling into the coal seams and pumping out the water (dewatering the coal) allows the methane to be drawn out of the coal, where it passes along the borehole to the surface, but does not affect the structure of the coal.

(Source: Dart Energy / rpsgroup Non Technical Summary).



Falkirk Council

- Scheme of delegation
- Power to make decisions locally
- Legislation
- Circular advice

Lessons Learned



- Participation in the process Pre-application.
- Document Management
- I.T. Capacity
- Storage of hard copy
- Public Access to documents and case officer.
- Planning – an opportunity for public participation and expression.
- Technical Evaluation: External Consultant
- Legal Advice
- Early dialogue with D.P.E.A. regarding productions.
- Freedom of Information Requests.
- Costs and timescales.



Questions?

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