

PRESS RELEASE

Inhabitants campaign against landscape pollution proposed by French company.

PIETERBUREN AGAINST EDF'S PLANS FOR UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE

The inhabitants of Pieterburen and the surrounding area are very worried about French energy company EDF's application for an underground gas storage facility in the village of Pieterburen.

Pieterburen is a traditional village in Groningen that has remained untouched throughout the ages and is has become a very popular tourist destination. Pieterburen is situated in the Hoogeland, an area that is characterized by its open, unspoiled countryside with fields, dykes and villages. Furthermore, it borders directly on the world heritage site Wadden Sea.

EDF has submitted an application for a large-scale natural gas-storage project immediately next to the village centre. The application now only concerns test drilling, but afterwards the EDF is hoping to excavate the salt layers in the soil for the storage of natural gas. One of the consequences will be a large-scale mining installation that will be built directly next to the village.

Many inhabitants of Pieterburen are against such a scheme in Pieterburen because:

- it will damage the open landscape that is unique to the province of Groningen
- the installation, unsuitable in such an environment, will cause light, noise and sight pollution
- such activities are expected to cause ground subsidence
- it may have an adverse effect on the delicate (natural)environment
- it will have negative effects on tourism in the village and the area
- there is no need for such a storage installation in Pieterburen; there are enough alternative locations.

An action committee, named Pieterburen Tegengas (Pieterburen Against Gas), has already been founded. People opposed to the gas storage scheme will join the action committee to voice their opposition and fight the EDF's plans. The action committee shall be present at an information meeting, organized by EDF, on Monday, October 18th, 2010 in café Bulthuis in Eenrum, to voice the opinions of the local residents.

Pieterburen, October 14th, 2010.

Note for the editor, not for publication:

A photo for this press release can be found on <http://pieterburen-tegengas.nl>

For more information on Pieterburen Tegengas you can contact Annemarie Smits, chair and spokesperson, telephone +31 625238304, or Raul Henriquez, spokesperson, telephone +31 633774430, e-mail info@pieterburen-tegengas.nl