

Dear Cumbria County Council,

Re: Planning application Ref No: 4/17/9007

For a number of reasons I am concerned about and opposed to the planning application for the new coal mine at the former Marchon Site to St Bees Coast in Whitehaven.

Cumbria is at significant risk from climate change, with many places projected to be underwater by 2050 due to annual coastal flooding. This includes Workington, Walney Island, Maryport, Barrow and the Solway Coast, among other places and is shown here: <https://coastal.climatecentral.org/map>. The increased emissions associated with this mine will contribute directly to this devastation.

Contrary to West Cumbria Mining's claims, the mine will increase total global emissions. New, cheaper supplies of coal will not replace American coal; it will reduce the price of coal, and thus increase demand.

The decision on Heathrow's third runway shows the UK's obligations under the Paris agreement are legally binding, the development of this coal mine is incompatible with those obligations. Continued investment in coking coal will lock us into this high-carbon technology and suppress the development of lower-carbon alternatives which are essential for the UK to meet its Paris Agreement commitments.

It is also concerning that WCM is owned by EMR Capital, a private equity firm with an office in the Cayman Islands, an offshore tax haven. I am worried that they aim extract as much wealth from Cumbria as possible while investing as little as they can.

I think its vital we take all possible steps to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change and the building of a new coal mine would take us in the wrong and opposite direction.