



Presently, a number of oil and gas companies* who have already been *granted exploratory licences*, are preparing to use Hydraulic Fracturing ('Fracking'), which involves the pumping of millions of gallons of water, mixed with hundreds of highly toxic chemicals, thousands of feet deep into the ground) to profit from shale gas in the **Lough Allen and Clare Basin Regions** - an area which includes the counties: Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo, Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Clare, Limerick, Cork, Kerry & Fermanagh Antrim, Down and Derry/Londonderry

*Tamboran, LANGCO, Enegi Oil,- in ROI; Tamboran, Infratrata/Corp Oil and Gas, Rathlin Energy and Singleton- in NI

If this is allowed the aftermath may be an irreversible disaster for us and our environment. It may result in the contamination of our **water table**, and of Ireland's most extensive and important **river and lake network**. We will not allow the safety of our water and the health of our children to be put at risk in return for temporary jobs and a quick-fix and unsustainable energy project. Fracking may bring in a once off €15B to the economy, agriculture brings in €24B every year.

At present in Ireland there is no regulation in existence that covers this extraction method, and there has been no research published into the potential consequences of such activity here.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has only recently begun an investigation into the safety of the process. Their final report is not expected until 2014.

Countless cases of death have been reported among wildlife and livestock. A litany of serious 'fracking' related health problems for people in communities in areas where this technology has been used have also come to light. Because of this damning body of evidence, which includes academic reports, moratoria on 'fracking' have been put in place in the state of New York, in the state of New Jersey, in the North Rhine Westphalia (Germany), in South Africa and in France.

Already in the U.S.A and Australia, pollution caused by this process to land, to air, to surface water and to groundwater has resulted in a terrible health toll and catastrophic environmental damage.

Call on the Irish government to place an immediate and permanent ban on the process known as Hydraulic Fracturing ('Fracking') and all related preparatory and exploratory work in the Republic of Ireland.