



Dear Supporter,

We would like to keep you up to date with what is happening in County Clare and Ireland with regard to fracking, what we are currently working on and most importantly *what we need you to do to help us.*

**Our name change:**

Clare Fracking Concerned has become **Fracking Free Clare**. We still have the same goals: to raise awareness about fracking within County Clare and to Keep Ireland Fracking Free.

**The Clare County Council “Ban”:**

**Fracking is not banned in County Clare!** After Clare County Council’s unanimous vote in January 2012 in opposition to fracking, it seems that many people in Clare mistakenly believe that fracking has been banned here. **It has not.** In fact, Clare County Council has no power to ban fracking in the county, nor even to amend the County Development Plan to designate fracking as an undesirable development. The decision to allow or prohibit fracking in Ireland rests with the central government, specifically with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Fergus O’Dowd and Pat Rabbitte).

**The Current Situation:**

As you may be aware, Enegi Oil Plc was awarded a licensing option for 495 square kilometres of West Clare encompassing the areas of Quilty, Kilmihil, Kilrush, Kilkee, Loop Head, Carrigaholt, Doonbeg and everywhere inbetween. This licensing option allowed the company to assess the natural gas potential of the area (desk top studies and sampling). In February 2013, at the end of the licensing option period, Enegi Oil Plc. applied to the government for an exploration license over this area.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) is currently researching the potential environmental impact of fracking in Ireland. The EPA received over 1400 submissions from concerned citizens about their proposed research content when they asked for public consultation at the beginning of 2013. The EPA report on their research findings is in early 2015.

Pat Rabbitte says there will be no decision made about issuing exploration licenses until his department has had time to review the EPA research and is satisfied that there will be no environmental impact from the fracking process.

However, there is increasing evidence from the US, Canada and elsewhere that hydraulic fracturing cannot be performed safely. We are therefore calling for a permanent ban on hydraulic fracturing in Ireland. We believe that Ireland has much more to gain from remaining Guaranteed Fracking Free.

### **Fracking Free Clare is currently working on:**

#### **Public Awareness:**

- We are working on a series of public information sessions to raise awareness in the West Clare area. We will have dates over three consecutive weeks in September and October (see attached poster). We hope these preliminary sessions will raise interest in the local community and encourage people to come along to a larger public information event hosted by Doonbeg Golf Club in October (date to be confirmed).
- We are printing cloth shopping bags, leaflets and car stickers to be distributed in County Clare to raise awareness.
- We are writing letters to newspapers about different aspects/impacts of fracking.
- We are posting on Facebook and Twitter about fracking.

#### **Lobbying:**

We are writing letters to Fergus O'Dowd (who is currently responsible for issuing licenses for fracking) to let him know of our concerns about fracking in County Clare. Our main concerns are about water, land and air pollution and the associated serious risks to human and animal health, the threat to existing sustainable industries of farming and tourism in fracking areas (Loop Head was awarded the Top Tourism Destination of Ireland) and the industrialisation of the landscape. Fergus O'Dowd recently stated that 'fracking does not create an industrial landscape' based on his trips to fracked areas in the USA. We are currently emailing him pictures of fracked landscapes to highlight the fact that concrete pads, large trucks, fracking towers and associated machinery are most certainly creating industrialised landscapes.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

#### **What can you do to help us?**

- Become an active member of Fracking Free Clare. **We simply need more people on the ground to achieve our goals.** We meet every second Thursday night 7-8:30pm in the Rowan Tree Café, Ennis. Our next scheduled meeting is October 17<sup>th</sup> (after our public information sessions are all done). Please contact Becky if you are interested in attending.
- **DONATE!** If you would like to help us but simply do not have the time, donations will help us cover our printing and other costs and help us get the **FRACKING FREE** message out as widely as possible. Our Kilrush Credit Union account details are as follows:  
BIC: KIENIE21  
SORT CODE: 99 10 97

IBAN NUMBER: IE43KIEN99109710429070  
PAYEE NAME: FRACKING FREE CLARE  
INTERMEDIARY BANK CODE (BIC): BNPAIE2D  
INTERMEDIARY /CORRESPONDENT BANK: BNP Paribas Dublin  
ACCOUNT BRANCH: KILRUSH CREDIT UNION, COUNTY CLARE  
The bank must transfer funds using SWIFT and quoting BNP Paribas as the Intermediary Bank.

- Help sell and distribute bags, stickers and leaflets.
- Write to Fergus O'Dowd about your concerns:

**Fergus O'Dowd TD**

Email: [fergus.odowd@oir.ie](mailto:fergus.odowd@oir.ie)

Phone: 01-6782024

Address: Dept of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,  
29-31 Adelaide Rd,  
Dublin 2.

- Tell others that fracking is **NOT BANNED** in Clare.
- Come along to our public information sessions to hear more or to help on the nights.
- Watch Gasland on Youtube, Gasland 2 on <http://viooz.co/movies/20372-gasland-part-ii-2013.html> and the new Lush animation on <http://brand-e.biz/lush> (Lush Cosmetic Company in the UK are campaigning against fracking in UK and Ireland and offering support to campaign groups. They raised awareness about fracking in their 105 shops over a ten-day period recently). Lush also supports the Guaranteed Fracking Free logo campaign ([frackingfreeireland.org/campaign-news/guaranteed-fracking-free/](http://frackingfreeireland.org/campaign-news/guaranteed-fracking-free/)).
- Subscribe to the Shale Gas Bulletin [subscribe.sgbi@gmail.com](mailto:subscribe.sgbi@gmail.com) or check it out on this link <http://sites.google.com/shalegasbulletinireland> and The Fracking Matters Newsletter – contact Ineke: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org). Both publications offer more information on national and international fracking news and research.

**Contact:**

Becky on: [clarefrack@gmail.com](mailto:clarefrack@gmail.com) or on 0879160175

Websites: [www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org) and [www.frackingfreeclare.org](http://www.frackingfreeclare.org)

Facebook: Fracking Free Ireland.

**Keep Ireland Fracking Free!**

**We look forward to hearing from you,**

*Becky*

**Fracking Free Clare.**