

Suggested topics for questions at the Fracking Seminar on 3rd Feb 2013

Professor Geoff Clayton (Thermal History):

- Q.1. How accurate are your thermal figures for west Clare?
- Q.2. Why do the thermal figures on the map vary?
- Q.3. Where would be a realistic place to explore for hydrocarbons in or around Ireland?
- Q.4. Why should anyone choose to explore in west Clare when the picture you paint is not good for the availability of gas?
- Q.5. What is the difference between resources and reserves (of gas) in the ground?
- Q.6. If you were advising a shale gas exploration company, would you advise them to look in west Clare?

Assistant Professor Chew and/or Professor Geoff Clayton:

- Q.1. How deep should fracking be below the ground surface to avoid problems?
- Q.2. Would there still be the danger of leakage of gas, or any contaminants to the surface or into groundwater, wells and boreholes?
- Q.3. Is there any danger from radioactivity being leaked to the surface by fracking?
- Q.4. Is it possible to be protected from such dangers, considering that the County Council takes the danger from leaking radon very seriously in mid Clare?
- Q.5. Why is the continental margin so well fractured on the west coast of Ireland?
- Q.6. Could it be related to the separation of the tectonic plates that produced the opening of the Atlantic Ocean?

Senior Lecturer Peter Haughton:

- Q.1. What shape is the Clare Basin? And when was it formed?
- Q.2. What was the climate like at that time? Were there any fossil animals as well as plants?
- Q.3. What was the depth of the sea in the Clare basin? How were the sediments formed?
- Q.4. How were hydrocarbons formed in the Clare basin? Why was the Clare Shale rich in them?
- Q.5. Why do Enegi Oil state that the Clare deposits are similar to those of Marcellus Shale in eastern USA? Are they really? In which case the environmental problems that have occurred there would surely occur here in Ireland?

Professor Pat Shannon:

- Q.1. UCD have been drilling recently on Loop Head. Is this drilling related to the even more recent activities of Enegi Oil in west Clare?
- Q.2. We are grateful that you and your colleagues have come down today to support us in our anti-fracking campaign by explaining so many of the technical aspects of exploration for hydrocarbons. We would be so grateful if you could assist us further by perhaps producing a technical dossier that would support what we have now learned, and which we could forward to the Minister for Energy, etc?
- Q.3. We have learned that much of the information available to the public and companies such as Enegi Oil is old and should be updated. This would be good for Ireland, as it would probably concentrate exploration on offshore areas where undoubtedly most of our oil & gas resources occur. Should it not be part of our energy policy to encourage exploration first by non-destructive means?
- Q.4. We would like to make a submission in March to the recent EPA request for comments about onshore exploration for shale gas and its development by fracking. In light of what you have seen and heard today, would you (and your fellow specialists) be willing to assist us in this matter?