

feargal.quinn@oireachtas.ie

Dear Senator Quinn,

I read with dismay your suggestion to allow fracking in Ireland as a possible way to create jobs.

I fully appreciate that you have the welfare of both the Irish people and the land at heart, and so do I.

The problem about fracking is that it is such a harmful, dangerous process with a disastrous track record wherever it has been allowed to proceed.

The facts about water & air contamination, damage to human and animal health, setting off earthquakes, release of chemicals, lack of disclosure of the facts by the industry etc. are well documented and known, but if you would like me to provide you with independent respected research data please do not hesitate to ask!

The one area Ireland in the present dire economic circumstances remains successful in is food export, any contamination of water, grass, crops, animal feed etc., thus entering into the food chain would be disastrous and have a long term negative impact. Another area considered promising for growth is tourism, it is in those areas that jobs can be created, marketing healthy food and tourism, particularly the kind of tourism that makes use of our beautiful unspoilt landscape, walking, birdwatching etc. this would be totally undermined by any fracking development

The era of fossil fuels is coming to an end, this is acknowledged globally by every expert in the field, and this is an opportunity for Ireland to lead the way in switching to promoting and using/developing sustainable and renewable energy technology now, instead of causing harm by fracking that will be felt for many generations in the short-sighted view of creating a few jobs now, but sacrificing & harming so much more in the process, and in the knowledge that this is only postponing the inevitable - the depletion of fossil fuel is an inescapable reality.

i would like to keep this island in as good health as is possible, for my children and grandchildren and for all children of today and the future, and I urge you to carefully consider all the negative implications any fracking development would have.

This is a time to think big, be bold, promote innovative solutions for our country, not be used by a corrupt, dishonest industry that in its search for global profits has left a legacy of ruined, contaminated scarred landscapes, & countless dead and sick people and animals.

The study, "[Impacts of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction](#)" from the EU Parliament (which I'm attaching) comes to the following conclusions:

KEY FINDINGS

- + Unavoidable impacts are area consumption due to drilling pads, parking and manouvering areas for trucks, equipment, gas processing and transporting facilities as well as access roads.
- + Major possible impacts are air emissions of pollutants, groundwater contamination due to uncontrolled gas or fluid flows due to blowouts or spills, leaking fracturing fluid, and uncontrolled waste water discharge.
- + Fracturing fluids contain hazardous substances, and flow-back in addition contains heavy metals and radioactive materials from the deposit.
- + Experience from the USA shows that many accidents happen, which can be

harmful to the environment and to human health. The recorded violations of legal requirements amount to about 1-2 percent of all drilling permits. Many of these accidents are due to improper handling or leaking equipments.

- + Groundwater contamination by methane, in extreme cases leading to explosion of residential buildings, and potassium chloride leading to salinization of drinking water is reported in the vicinity of gas wells.

- + The impacts add up as shale formations are developed with a high well density (up to six wells per km²).

And

RECOMMENDATIONS

- + There is no comprehensive directive providing for a European mining law. A publicly available, comprehensive and detailed analysis of the European regulatory framework concerning shale gas and tight oil extraction is not available and should be developed.

- + The current EU regulatory framework concerning hydraulic fracturing, which is the core element in shale gas and tight oil extraction, has a number of gaps. Most importantly, the threshold for Environmental Impact Assessments to be carried out on hydraulic fracturing activities in hydrocarbon extraction is set far above any potential industrial activities of this kind, and thus should be lowered substantially.

- + The coverage of the water framework Directive should be re-assessed with special focus on fracturing activities and their possible impacts on surface water.

- + In the framework of a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA), a thorough cost/benefit analysis could be a tool to assess the overall benefits for society and its citizens. A harmonized approach to be applied throughout EU27 should be developed, based on which responsible authorities can perform their LCA assessments and discuss them with the public.

- + It should be assessed whether the use of toxic chemicals for injection should be banned in general. At least, all chemicals to be used should be disclosed publicly, the number of allowed chemicals should be restricted and its use should be monitored. Statistics about the injected quantities and number of projects should be collected at European level.

- + Regional authorities should be strengthened to take decisions on the permission of projects which involve hydraulic fracturing. Public participation and LCA assessments should be mandatory in finding these decisions.

- + Where project permits are granted, the monitoring of surface water flows and air emissions should be mandatory.

- + Statistics on accidents and complaints should be collected and analysed at European level. Where projects are permitted, an independent authority should collect and review complaints.

- + Because of the complex nature of possible impacts and risks to the environment and to human health of hydraulic fracturing consideration should be given to developing a new directive at European level regulating all issues in this area comprehensively.

The study finally explains that

Even an aggressive development of gas shales in Europe could only contribute to the European gas supplies at one-digit percentage share at best. It will not reverse the continuing trend of declining domestic production and rising import dependency. Its influence on the European greenhouse gas emissions will remain small if not negligible, or could even be negative if other more promising projects are skipped due to wrong incentives and signals.

This technology is way too risky that we can afford to put at stake the entire future of our country.

Thank you very much for your time, I'm looking forward to hearing from you ,

Yours sincerely,