

- **List of Fracking Bans and Moratoriums - Johnny Linehan**

- site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FellowFractivists/>

**Countries with a ban or moratorium:**

- **France**

June 30 2011: The French parliament voted to ban the controversial technique for extracting natural gas from shale rock deposits known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Oct. 4 2012: France will maintain a ban on fracking until there is proof that shale gas exploration won't harm the environment or "massacre" the landscape, President Nicolas Sarkozy said.

The new Minister of Ecology in Mr Hollande's Socialist government , Ms Brick, is fiercely against fracking and the opponents of fracking are asking that Parliamentary Bill 377 be put on the top of the stack for action.

- **Bulgaria**

19 January 2012: Bulgaria has become the second European country after France to ban exploratory drilling for shale gas using the extraction method called "fracking".

Bulgarian MPs voted overwhelmingly for a ban on Wednesday, following big street protests by environmentalists.

Bulgaria has revoked a shale gas permit granted to US energy giant Chevron.

17th May 2012: Temporary Parliamentary Commission for study, analysis and discussion of best practices and regulatory solutions for exploration and mining has decided at its meeting today that the moratorium on exploration and extraction of shale gas has to drop some of the provisions. Environmentalists have threatened new protests.

The Bulgarian minister of economy, Delyan Dobrev, commented on the adopted changes in the shale gas moratorium stating that 'the moratorium shall remain, as long as the people are not properly assured that shale gas production does not pose a threat to them or the environment'.

- **Romania**

May 16, 2012: In response to a petition that garnered the support of 50,000 residents concerned about the environmental impact of drilling, along with the criticism of several regional governors, Environment Minister Tomáš Chalupa (Civic Democrats) has said he will propose a moratorium on shale gas exploration for up to two years until clear rules for the sector are established.

- **South Africa**

South Africa's Mining Minister Susan Shabangu has decided to extend the ban on the practice of hydraulic fracturing used to break through shale rock formations underground to tap once inaccessible gas reserves. The moratorium will last another six months, while the nation's appointed team to investigate the safety of hydraulic 'fracking' continues its research.

▪ **Germany**

May 8th 2012: Germany has apparently halted plans to use fracking (hydraulic fracturing), a controversial method used to extract natural gas in difficult places to reach. According to Spiegel, Environment Minister Norbert Rottgen and Economy Minister Philipp Rosler have been sceptical of the process and have decided to oppose it for the time being.  
Germany

▪ **The Czech Republic**

May 11, 2012: The Czech Republic is considering a moratorium on fracking. The moratorium would last two years and would give the Czech environmental ministry time to determine what regulations should be in place for gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

▪ **Spain**

VALLADOLID, July 5 (EUROPE PRESS) -  
Valle de Mena (Burgos) has declared the municipality "fracking free" because of the absence of "information and transparency" This was passed by the autonomous government against the possible exploitation and extraction of gas in the area of Great Enara, which includes the town.

▪ **FUERTEVENTURA (BIOSPHERE RESERVE) SAYS "NO" TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION (SPAIN) TO ALLOW OIL EXPLORATION IN THE SEA**

▪ **Switzerland**

The Canton of of Fribourg has banned fracking.

▪ **Italy**

Bomba, a tiny city in the south of Italy has refused a drilling project - drilling in Pantelleria Island, between Sicily and Tunisia, has also been stopped by a government's decision

▪ **Northern Ireland**

7 December 2011: Northern Ireland's Assembly has voted for a moratorium on "fracking", a method of extracting natural gas from shale, pending an environmental assessment. The Minister has still failed to enact the moratorium.

▪ **Ireland**

May 12, 2012: Minister For Energy Pat Rabbitte has reiterated that no hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” for gas would take place in Ireland pending further “detailed scientific analysis and advice”.

- Roscommon County Council unanimously support a ban on fracking
- Leitrim County Council voted for a moratorium on fracking
- Clare County Council unanimously support a ban on fracking and unanimously voted to amend the county development plan
- Donegal and Sligo: Ban on fracking
- (16-01-2012) Sligo Borough Council supports the proposal from Clare County Council and Sligo County Council calling on the Government and the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to BAN the practice of fracking/hydraulic fracturing.
- Fermanagh District Council have also voted for a moratorium on fracking.
- **The United Kingdom**

The British Government has rejected shale gas technology as a solution to Britain's energy crisis, conceding it will do little to cut bills or keep the lights on.

Supporters of the fracking technology – which blasts water, sand and chemicals at extreme pressures to release gas trapped deep in rock – argue it could be the single greatest factor in transforming Britain's energy market, reducing our reliance on foreign imports and dramatically reducing costs.

But The Independent on Sunday has learned that industry experts made clear at a meeting attended by senior ministers, including David Cameron and Ed Davey, the Lib Dem energy secretary, that the UK's reserves were smaller than first thought and could be uneconomical to extract.

Now senior coalition figures have agreed that shale gas has the potential to be deeply controversial without securing major benefits in lowering carbon emissions or reducing energy costs.

- **The Netherlands**
- A court in the southern Dutch city of Boxtel recently ruled that a temporary planning for an exploratory borehole was invalid. The judge ruled that exploratory wells are by definition not temporary – if gas is discovered the intention is to extract it. This landmark ruling against UK fracker Cuadrilla sent shivers up the fracking industry's spine – without the ability to secure temporary planning it's difficult to see how frackers can perform the exploratory testing required.

- **Australia**

- **Dunoon** 11th June 2012 12:00 PM
- DUNOON is the latest Northern Rivers community to declare itself CSG- free. Dunoon is now one of several communities that have declared themselves or are in the process of declaring themselves CSG-free. Others include The Channon, Modanville, Whian Whian, Rosebank and Numulgi.

- **Marrickville Council in Sydney**, unanimously voted on Tuesday 9/5/2012 to impose a condition prohibiting CSG mining from going ahead at the site as part of the development application.

- **23rd May 2012: CANADA Bay Council** has joined other inner-west Sydney councils in opposing coal seam gas mining in the area. Greens Cr Pauline Tyrrell said Dart Energy's coal seam gas (CSG) exploration licence covered the whole of the Sydney metropolitan area, including the Canada Bay Council area. Cr Tyrrell raised a motion against CSG mining which was passed at the council meeting last week.

- **June 30, 2012 at 4:55 pm** The small town of Tyalgum made history today, as the first community in the Tweed Valley in NSW, to declare itself CSG free. It's hoped other towns in the region will follow suit.

### **Aotearoa (New Zealand)**

- 14 April 2012: "The Christchurch City Council has declared their city a 'fracking-free zone' in a unanimous vote this afternoon. "It is a very strong sign from the Council that we do not want fracking taking place in this city. "We hope that the strong stand we are taking is picked up by councils in other areas," he says."
- 18 April 2012: Kaikoura District Council voted 6 to 2 to declare itself a frack-free zone (NZ). It will be revisited after the independent investigation by Dr Jan Wright of the Parliamentary Commission for the Environment (PCE) due out at the end of the year. This resolution followed a request in February for a moratorium from Central Government until the study but that was denied.

### **Canada**

- **British Columbia**
- First Nations people in NW British Columbia enacted a four year moratorium against drilling for natural gas by Royal Dutch Shell in the Sacred Headwaters. Members of the Tahltan First Nation are blockading Shell's coal bed methane project in the Sacred Headwaters, the birthplace of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine Rivers.

- **Nova Scotia**
- Nova Scotia citizens call for ban on Nova Scotia fracking. Graham Hutchinson says the province should impose a moratorium on the controversial practice. The group recently presented a petition to Energy Minister Charlie Parker calling for a ban.

- **Québec**
- March 17, 2011: Nathalie Normandeau, Quebec's natural resources minister, announced Wednesday that the province would no longer authorize hydraulic fracturing operations in the province in the hunt for oil and gas.

## The USA

### ▪ **The State of Vermont**

- May 17, 2012: Vermont became the first state to ban the controversial natural gas drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. Governor Peter Shumlin signed the ban into law Wednesday afternoon.

### ▪ **New Jersey, NJ**

- **May 17, 2012: TRENTON, N.J.** - The New Jersey Legislature has accepted Gov. Chris Christie's recommendation for a one-year ban on a natural gas drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, rather than continue to pursue a permanent ban.
- **June 30, 2012 New Jersey Legislature Bans All Fracking Waste** Mindful of a court ruling in 1978 striking down a law they passed banning waste disposal from other states, New Jersey legislators this week passed a new law banning all disposal of fracking wastewater within its borders, even if the waste water is produced within New Jersey. The new law is aimed at prohibiting shipment of 1.3 billion gallons of fracking waste water already generated in neighboring Pennsylvania from being shipped into New Jersey for deep well injection.

### ▪ **Pittsburgh, Pa**

- *November 16, 2010:* In a historic vote, the City of Pittsburgh today adopted a first-in-the-nation ordinance banning corporations from natural gas drilling in the city (Pittsburgh is finding it difficult to enact the ban because of 'variances' issued by the State's Public Utilities Commission overruling their decisions)

### ▪ **Morgantown, WV**

- June 6th 2011: Morgantown City Council went ahead on Tuesday evening with its proposed ban on fracking concerning the drilling of Marcellus Shale. The council approved the first reading of the ordinance which would prohibit fracking in the city and within one mile of the city limits as well.
- 15th August 2011: On Friday, Monongalia County Judge Susan Tucker ruled Morgantown's ordinance to be invalid, clearing the way for Northeast to resume drilling. In the court's opinion, Tucker said the state had exclusive control of regulation. Tucker also noted strides made by the state to implement comprehensive rules for drilling.

### ▪ **Syracuse, N.Y.**

- October 24, 2011: SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Syracuse common councilors ban hydrofracking in the city.

- **North Carolina, RALEIGH 1st July 2012--** Governor Bev Perdue vetoed the controversial fracking bill Sunday, the last day she had to act before it would have become law. The governor said she supports hydraulic fracturing, also

known as "fracking," but believes additional safeguards are needed in the bill. Without those safeguards in place to protect drinking water and the health of North Carolina families, Perdue said she was forced to veto the bill.

## ▪ **New York State**

### **Animated film of bans, moratoriums and groups in New York State**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJIIdBfvvCt8&feature=colike>

- Two legislative bills on hydrofrack drilling were considered by the legislature. The Assembly passed an extension of the current moratorium through June of 2012. The Senate did not act on a parallel bill and the issue is closed for the present.
- NYS Executive Order calling for a drilling moratorium by former Governor Paterson has been affirmed by Governor Cuomo.
- Yates County resolution unanimously passed calls for similar protection treatment of their watershed as that in NYC and Syracuse watersheds.
- The Town of Jerusalem (Yates) enacted a moratorium ordinance for their entire township. The one-year moratorium begins when the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) relating to the extraction of natural gas by the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing now under review by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is finalized.
- The Town of Milo is drawing up a moratorium statement for board action.
- Dewitt, Tully, Marcellus and Skaneateles have enacted moratoria laws.
- Highland, (Sullivan Co) is developing a moratorium statement.
- Buffalo has banned hydrofrack drilling and wastewater disposal in their city.
- Sullivan County is the first county in New York State to enact a moratorium.
- Lumberland (Sullivan Co) is considering a moratorium statement.
- Town of Ulysses is establishing "industrial zones" attempting to restrict the negative impact of drilling in their water supply.
- Tompkins County has enacted a ban on fracking on county land.
- Broome County: Ban on hydrofracking on county lands. Waste restrictions for fracking cuttings and flow back water established.
- Ontario, Sullivan and Onondaga Counties have enacted bans on fracking on county owned land.
- Ulster County has banned hydrofrack drilling on county owned lands.
- Gorham in Ontario County enacted a moratorium ordinance.
- The towns that ring Cooperstown's reservoir, Otsego Lake -- Middlefield, Otsego, Butternuts, and Cherry Valley -- are moving to ban or restrict natural gas drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing.
- Springfield has adopted local laws prohibiting heavy industry, including gas drilling.
- The Medical Society of the State of New York has gone on record supporting a moratorium on gas drilling using high volume hydraulic fracturing.
- Cooperstown's Chamber of Commerce has issued a position statement supporting a total ban on fracking due to the impact it will make on their watershed, farming and tourism.
- A group of residents have launched a petition drive designed to ban the use of high-volume, slick water hydraulic fracturing in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins County.
- The Village of Penn Yan will not accept any hydrofracking wastewater for processing at the village wastewater treatment plant.
- New York City has called on the US Congress to remove hydrofrack drilling's exemption from the Safe Water Drinking Act.
- The Skaneateles Town Board has initiated plans for a ban in their township.
- The Otsego County Planning Board approved changes to Middlefield's master plan and zoning law that would specifically prohibit heavy industry, including gas and oil drilling.
- The Board of Trustees of Bassett Medical Center, based in Cooperstown, New York, views the issue of hydrofracking as a public health issue of the highest priority and resolves that the hydrofracking method of gas drilling constitutes an unacceptable threat to the health of patients, and should be prohibited until such time as it is proven to be safe.

- A consortium of interested citizens is planning for a unified moratorium and eventual ban of hydrofrack drilling in the entire Keuka Lake watershed region. To date the towns of Barrington, Milo and Jerusalem have adopted ordinances on a moratorium. Wayne has prepared a resolution for consideration.
- Lebanon town board members adopted a memorializing resolution that calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo to repeal and reform compulsory integration laws in the State of New York that currently govern natural gas development.
- A petition drive has resulted in the Dryden Town Board unanimously passing a resolution to move forward with an ordinance to ban fracking.
- The Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Inc. has sued the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in New York State Supreme Court to declare High Volume Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State Forests contrary to the New York State Constitution and applicable environmental laws.
- The Otsego Town Board clarified a long-standing prohibition against heavy industry, including fracking for natural gas, in the town's land use law. By this vote the town, which includes most of the Village of Cooperstown, reaffirmed its home rule right to prohibit drilling through local ordinance. They also approved revisions to its land-use law that strengthen a ban on gas drilling and hydrofracking within the town. The law now specifies that while the removal of gravel, rock, stone, sand, fill, topsoil or "unconsolidated" minerals has been allowed, extraction of natural gas and petroleum is not permitted.
- The Common Council of Oneonta voted to ban all forms of natural gas drilling in city limits.
- The Town of Wales adopted a community rights ordinance that bans "fracking." The ordinance establishes a Bill of Rights for Wales residents and "recognizes and secures certain civil and political rights of the residents to govern themselves and protect themselves from harm to their persons, property and environment."
- The exploration of land for natural gas by horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing is prohibited in the Town of Camillus.
- Brighton became the first municipality in Monroe County to take a position on hydrofrack drilling calling for a state-wide moratorium.
- Kirkland has adopted a one-year moratorium on hydrofracking.
- New Hartford has adopted a six-month moratorium on hydrofrack drilling for natural gas
- October 24, 2011: SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Syracuse common councilors ban hydrofracking in the city.

#### ▪ **Buffalo, NY**

- Feb 8, 2011 6: The city of Buffalo, New York, banned the natural gas drilling technique of hydraulic fracturing on Tuesday, a largely symbolic vote that demonstrates concern about potential harm to groundwater from mining an abundant energy source. The city council voted 9-0 to prohibit natural gas extraction including the process known as "fracking" in which chemicals, sand and water are blasted deep into the earth.
- Albany, NY (Capitol of NYS) banned hydraulic fracturing within the city limits of the City of Albany in May, 2012. Mayor Jennings didn't veto it.

#### **Pennsylvania:**

**In February, the legislature passed Act 13, which eliminated local zoning for natural gas operations, which include drilling, compressor stations and pipelines. Passed with support of Republican lawmakers from the Southeast, Act 13 was hailed by the governor, lawmakers and the natural gas industry as crucial because it provided uniformity and consistency for developing shale gas drilling policy.**

**Effectively, this has deprived all the communities from having any power to protect themselves from the rape of their land, poisoning of their water, and harm to people, animals and crops.**

- Pittsburgh adopts the first-in-the-nation community rights ordinance which elevates the right of the community to decide, and the rights of nature over the "rights" associated with corporate personhood. The City Council unanimously adopted this ordinance banning corporations from conducting natural gas drilling in the city.
- Lehman Township in Luzerne County PA NEVER passed a moratorium or ban, the township supervisors voted down CELDF ordinance to protect and preserve township land and water.

- The Board of Supervisors for Licking Township, Clarion County, PA, voted unanimously on Wednesday to adopt an ordinance banning corporations from dumping “fracking” waste water in the township. The Licking Township Community Water Rights and Self-Government Ordinance is the first ordinance of its kind adopted in Pennsylvania to confront the threat of Marcellus Shale drilling.
- Cresson has enacted legislation banning fracking.
- Washington Township has banned fracking.
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania City Council unanimously passed the pro-moratorium Resolution on Marcellus Shale Drilling Environmental and Economic Impacts.
- The Borough Council of West Homestead, Pennsylvania, unanimously adopted an ordinance that enacts a Local Bill of Rights, along with a prohibition on natural gas extraction to protect those rights. The bill, titled “West Homestead Borough’s Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance; establishes specific rights of West Homestead residents, including the Right to Water, the Rights of Natural Communities, the Right to a Sustainable Energy Future, and the Right to Community Self-Government.
- Philadelphia refuses to purchase Marcellus Shale gas as the dumping of flow back waters is polluting their water supply.
- Collier Township upgraded its natural gas drilling ordinance to enhance their Marcellus Shale ordinance that would push drillers farther away from schools and provide baseline measurements for noise levels at drilling sites.
- United Methodists representing 950 churches across central and Northeast Pennsylvania passed a resolution calling for a temporary halt in gas well drilling in the Marcellus Shale as well as an impact tax on those places where drilling already has taken hold.
- Religious groups such as the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia have advocated against fracking and in April, 2011, America, the national magazine of the Jesuits editorialized very critically about the process.
- Baldwin Borough Council adopted a community rights ordinance that bans the corporate extraction of natural gas.



- **30th June 2012 Legislators Pass Moratorium on Gas Drilling in Bucks, MontCo** The provision was attached to a state budget measure which lawmakers approved late Saturday night. Companies that want to drill for natural gas in Bucks or Montgomery counties will have to wait. State lawmakers on Saturday night approved a moratorium on gas drilling in Bucks, MontCo and parts of Lehigh, Berks and Chester counties. The moratorium will affect any oil or gas operations in the South Newark Basin, which underlies a swath of territory extending from Bucks through MontCo and into Berks County.

**Arkansas**

- A class-action lawsuit has been filed against companies that drill for natural gas in central Arkansas. The suit is asking for millions of dollars in relation to the earthquakes associated with the fracking process the companies use. The damages enumerated in the suit are property damage, loss of fair market value in real estate, emotional distress, and damages related to the purchase of earthquake insurance.

- Arkansas has a ban on 4 out of more than 500 frack fluid waste-water injection wells because of their 4.7/9 earthquake.

**Maryland**

- The first community in Maryland, Mountain Lake Park, adopted an ordinance banning corporations from natural gas drilling.
- Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler has sent a letter to Chesapeake Energy Corporation and its affiliates, notifying the companies of the State of Maryland's intent to sue for violating the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- Governor Martin O'Malley has signed an executive order for a three year moratorium on drilling in MD while studies continue.

**New Jersey**

- The New Jersey Assembly voted to ban hydraulic fracturing in NJ in a bipartisan overwhelming vote (58 to 11, 8 abstained), following the landslide vote 32-1 earlier in the day by the NJ Senate. New Jersey is the first state legislature to ban fracking.

**Ohio**

- Wellsburg City Council approved an ordinance prohibiting natural gas drilling in or within one mile of the city as concerns mounted about the city's water being contaminated by procedures in hydrofrack drilling. A reservoir serving the city is beside property that Chesapeake Energy is leasing for drilling.

**Virginia**

- George Washington National Forest has disallowed horizontal drilling for natural gas within its 1.1 million acres of territory while opening up segments of the forest to the potential for wind energy construction.

**Texas**

- Texas Gov. Rick Perry has signed a bill requiring drillers to publicly disclose the chemicals they use when extracting oil and gas from dense rock formations, the first state to pass such a law.

- Moratorium in the city of Grand Prairie, TX (a suburb of Dallas) until January 2013 on drilling activities within 3,000 feet of water retention structures. It's been called potentially catastrophic by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Chesapeake and XTO placed the community in jeopardy by already drilling and fracking in very close proximity to the local Joe Pool Dam. Right hand did not know what the left was doing....it's a mess.

**West Virginia**

- Wellsville has banned fracking.
- Lewisburg has banned fracking within their city limits.
- Morgantown banned fracking in the city and within one mile of the city limits as well.

8 April 2012: Kaikoura District Council voted 6 to 2 to declare itself a frack-free zone (NZ). It will be revisited after the independent investigation by Dr Jan Wright of the Parliamentary Commission for the Environment (PCE) due out at the end of the year. This resolution followed a request in February for a moratorium from Central Government until the study but that was denied.