



Information letter for whom fracking does matter and (some) updates on the website www.frackingfreeireland.org, with links to other (Irish) fracking websites

Upcoming events:

PLEASE CORRECT IN YOUR DIARY (wrong info in newsletter 11)

- **Sligo IT meeting/night**, 21st Nov is cancelled, new date is not confirmed yet

- **Ballinamore/West Cavan**- date is: 18 Nov (not 12 Nov)

- **Cliffoney** date (18 Nov) is not yet confirmed

- **Ireland Fracking Awareness Week**: 14- 20 November

Organisers: Tracy Murray:

freefringefest@gmail.com;

Brian Rooney: brianroon@eircom.net

Taken of the master list (please do correct your list)

Monica.mongrossman@eircom.net

Added to the Web FFI

Movie:

- How it works – promo video from a fracking company (Web FFI- what is fracking, Global fracking/global shale gas lobby; movies)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DniNIvE69SE&NR=1>

Movie for the 'deaf' ☺

An earthquake in the Netherlands (8 Sept) due to drilling in Xanten, Germany. Magnitude:4.5. It was 7 km deep into the earth and people could feel it up to about 150 km from Xanten (Nijmegen, Utrecht, Leiden, Groningen so from East to West and the North of the Netherlands)

- Some nice earth quakes in Germany and the Netherlands (drilling in Germany close to the Dutch border: result: earthquake. (Web FFI – global fracking)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29PhINNiR5U>

<http://www.gelderlander.nl/voorpagina/nijmegen/9443742/Aardbeving-van-45-op-schaal-van-Richterschokt-Nederland.ece>



Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America:

- The 2004 Mw 4.4. Northern Germany earthquake (Web FFI official reports/research)

<http://www.bssaonline.org/content/97/3/691.abstract>

- Das Gas und das Beben (Web FFI official reports/research)

http://www.rotenburger-rundschau.de/redaktion/redaktion/full/data_anzeige.php?dataid=55858&page=1&searchValue=erdbeben+exxon + translation from German into English (scroll down)

- Blackpool earthquake- (Web FFI official reports/research)

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/earthquakes/blackpoolMay2011.html>

- Ends Europe: (Web FFI: Political issues/European Parliament/Comment on EU policy)

<http://www.endseurope.com>;

Europe's environmental news and information service, with a strong policy and regulatory emphasis. (you have to subscribe or take a free trial)

CHEMICALS

91 substances face scrutiny under REACH

Friday 21 October 2011 The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published the names of the first substances to be evaluated under the REACH regime. The three-year plan, which includes confidential listings, is expected to be adopted in February.

It is the draft version of the first Community Rolling Action Plan ([CoRAP](#)), which covers the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 and includes 91 substances suspected of posing health and environmental risks. The assessments will be conducted by member states.

The substances could be persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic, endocrine disruptors, or carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic, and are widely dispersed or used by consumers. Several of the substances on the list are available in nano-scale forms.

The list for 2012 includes the solvent [toluene](#), biocide [triclosan](#) and silicon dioxide. ECHA has not yet said which country will evaluate each substance or why the substances have been included in the list. Member states are given €50,000 for each evaluation but ECHA has raised [concerns over staffing levels](#) in the wake of the recession. In May, the agency said it expected about 50 substances a year to be evaluated once the system is fully up and running – less than two per member state – but the final list would only see about 30 substances evaluated in each of the first three years. Member states have a year to evaluate each substance and prepare a draft decision requesting any further data needed to clarify suspected risks. The decisions will be agreed with other member states before the registrants are asked to supply the data.

Companies urged to phase out toxic chemicals

(Web FFI: Political issues/European Parliament/Comment on EU policy)

Monday 17 October 2011

Swedish NGO ChemSec has called on 389 companies to phase out the production of dangerous chemicals, which it says are being produced in large amounts. These chemicals are likely to face restrictions under the REACH regime.

The NGO wants chemicals on its 'substitute it now' (SIN) list, which contains [378 substances](#), to be included on the EU's official list of substances of very high concern (SVHC). So far, only 46 substances have been labelled SVHC. Six of those have been moved to REACH's authorisation list, which allows certain uses. The companies named by ChemSec include BASF which, according to ChemSec, produces the most chemicals on its SIN list with 65, followed by Bayer (45) and Clariant (25). These chemicals are produced in annual volumes of 10 tonnes or more. The NGO says this production level is significant given the toxicity of the substances.

The producers list is based on the European Chemical Substances Information System, a database maintained by the European Commission. But this data has not been updated since 2008. ChemSec has filed a [lawsuit](#) asking ECHA to provide an updated list of producers based on REACH registrations, but this has not yet been received.

EMISSIONS

Ireland releases draft allocation for 3rd ETS phase

Wednesday 19 October 2011

A draft allocation plan for the third phase of the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS), published by Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Wednesday, shows cement makers set to receive the most free allowances. The EPA has drawn up the plan according to the benchmarking rules for free allocation [agreed in April](#). It is consulting on the draft until 4 November. Member states were meant to submit their allocation plans for phase three – known as national implementation measures – to the European Commission for checking by the end of September. Only Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland have so far done this.

The EPA said it had not met the deadline "because the complexity of the rules and guidance finalised by the commission [in] April meant that some of the data reports submitted by operators had to be reworked and re-verified". Around 65 installations in Ireland are due to receive free allowances in 2013, with the largest allocation of 1.28 million allowances going to Irish Cement's Platin works followed by Quinn Cement's Scotchtown works

RENEWABLE ENERGY

EC may propose green energy target for 2030

18 October 2011

The European Commission is considering setting an EU renewable energy target for 2030, according to a leaked copy of its energy roadmap. All scenarios envisaged predict a share of about 30% that year.

This is far less than the target of [at least 45%](#) of

final energy consumption proposed by trade association EREC earlier this year. This would bring fossil fuel demand down by 556 million tonnes of oil equivalent each year from 2030, says EREC.

Energy and environment commissioners Günther Oettinger and Connie Hedegaard have already confirmed support for an interim target, while commission president José Manuel Barroso announced plans for a [post-2020 strategy](#) on renewable energy in September.

The draft energy roadmap also foresees the possibility of setting interim targets in other areas, such as energy efficiency and carbon capture and storage (CCS), to give more investment certainty and to help achieve 2050 decarbonisation goals. The roadmap is an offshoot of the low-carbon plan published in March, which foresees over 90% CO2 reduction in the power sector by 2050. It considers [several scenarios](#) based on varying public acceptance of technologies such as CCS. Energy use drops by 2050 in all scenarios, ranging from a 32.2% cut compared with 2005 levels in the 'delayed CCS' scenario to 40.6% in the 'high energy efficiency' scenario. The renewables share in electricity for that year ranges 59.1% to 86.4%. This is also [far less](#) than NGOs and the renewables sector say is feasible. All scenarios predict an increase in electricity prices, although these are expected to drop from 2030. Average prices are by far the highest in the 'high renewables' scenario. The 'high energy efficiency' scenario has the lowest prices. The costs associated with the decarbonisation of Europe's energy supplies are estimated to be about €2.5trn a year between now and 2050. There are no major differences between the energy scenarios, with annual costs ranging from 14.06% to 14.56% of GDP. This is slightly less than under a 'current policy' scenario.

The roadmap lists a number of necessary actions, most of which have already been announced. This includes achieving full market integration by 2014, as agreed by the [European Council](#) in February, as well as using [demand response](#) measures.

UK ponders cuts to green energy subsidies- 20 October 2011

The UK government has announced plans to cut subsidies for onshore wind farms, and landfill gas, incinerator and biomass schemes from April 2013. It hopes to increase support for offshore wind, wave and tidal projects.

The plans, put to consultation on Thursday, cover support levels under the [renewables obligation](#) (RO) in England and Wales for 2013-17. The

changes follow a review of the economics of different technologies and are intended to cut costs for consumers.

A further review of the feed-in tariff for solar energy is expected shortly and the Scottish government will reveal on Friday future plans for subsidies in Scotland.

Commission launches sustainable investment drive- 19 October 2011

The European Commission's enterprise and industry department has launched a programme aimed at encouraging investors to take social, environmental and governance (ESG) information into account in their decision-making. Run by the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) and the secretariat of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the programme will develop guidance on the use of non-financial information in investment decisions. "It will enable investors to calculate the long-term value of companies more accurately, and generate greater recognition... for sustainable... business practices," said EU industry commissioner Antonio Tajani.

The European Federation of Financial Analyst Societies (EFFAS) will also be involved. It represents about 16,000 investment professionals in the EU. The European Commission will finance half of the programme's estimated €450,000 cost.

***Meanwhile, a group of sustainable investment bodies, including the UN's PRI secretariat and UNEP's finance initiative, has reiterated a call for a clear, credible and long-term policy framework which encourages investment in low-carbon technologies.**

A report published by the group highlights the importance of "investment-grade policy" that gives investors the confidence to finance low-carbon technologies. It also makes a number of recommendations for policy at national and international levels.

****The group's Global Investor Statement will be followed on Thursday by a business call for a "robust, equitable and effective" climate change agreement ahead of December's Durban meeting in South Africa. The call for action will be made by more than 175 global companies including Shell, Unilever, Cemex, Philips and Nestlé.**

Das Gas und das Beben

The Title of the article: **The gas and the earthquake**

The Subtitle: **Exxon and Co want to measure - and many retain data for itself** - by Roland Meyer, Rotenburg.

The Article in the Rotenburger Rundschau:

Is the 2004 Rotenburg earthquake but a consequence of intensive natural gas production in the region? To this conclusion in any case is a recently published study, written by the Hamburg Torsten Dahm geophysicist with seismologists

from four other research institutes. Although the energy companies go further from a natural cause, but the discussion take an opportunity to install a network of seismometers. The aim is more accurate insights. Less good: Most of the data you want the corporations to keep for yourself.

Between Bremen and Celle each year, five billion cubic meters of natural gas encouraged. It is deposited in tiny interconnected pores in a layer of red sandstone. Depth: five kilometers. There exists a pressure bar 500. If the gas can escape through ducts to the top, he declines. This creates tensions. If they move too big to rock against each other. Should be about in France, Italy, California, and Uzbekistan already violent earthquakes caused by gas production have given. In Holland it was after all to earth movements, which caused cracks in houses. However, there is much more gas production than here.

Who wants to determine the cause of an earthquake, you have to know its depth. Problem was the data available for 2004 Rotenburg thin - because it was not expected to quake in northern Germany, there were no measurement points. The Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), which reports to the closely cooperating with industry, Ministry of Economic Affairs, moved in 2004 from interviews with witnesses of the earthquake in addition to rate, and then determined an approximate depth of seven miles. Thus, the gas production was initially excluded.

Dahm and his colleagues then evaluated however Rotenburger pressure waves, which were then recorded in Canada - one ran right through the earth, the other reflected from the surface and then put back another way. From the time difference, the researchers calculated a depth of five to seven kilometers. Accordingly, the quake had occurred directly under the gas bearing. "The fact that there have been few aftershocks, points out that non-natural tectonic stresses have been the cause," says the scientist.

Represented by the PATH, the trade association of oil and gas production, install the four operating in the region, gas companies, Exxon-Mobil, Gaz de France, RWE / Dea and Wintershall now on his own initiative a "seismic monitoring system for mining damage union as evidence in the field of natural gas deposits." The name suggests the suspicion that one wants to determine the cause of possible new earthquake to have to pay for any harm about to houses no damages - if the gas production has nothing to do with it otherwise you would certainly turn Burkhard basic Meier of the WEG.. "We take our responsibility."

At five locations in handling systems between the West and Böttersen Unterlüss (at Uelzen) in the east seismometers are installed at two of these so-called arrays. These are quasi seismic directional antennas, Hear the accuracy of the

network and minimize interference. The operation is planned to commence in October. Executing and evaluating the company's enterprise-K Utec from Thuringia.

Earthquake resolve on the merits of two different waves. And at the same time. Terrestrial particles oscillate in the direction of the propagation direction, comparable to the sound - at the one - fast. In the slow move the particles perpendicular to the propagation of the wave, similar to the water.

Because we know the velocities of the two waves, the computer can connect from their temporal distance to the distance of the center of the quake. And are these records and calculations made for at least three locations, the center can be located.

The quake in Rotenburg was specified with the strength of 4.5 on the Richter scale. This scale is not linear, but ten-logarithmic: If a quake of the earth is moving four times as strong as in starch and three hundred times as strong as with strength two. According to project leader Dr Michael Jordan by K-Utec characterized the new network, magnitude zero to, or more than a thousand times weaker than that of 2004.

Earth movements are perceived by people from around the magnitude three. And only those earthquakes to the gas companies also report to the Board of Mines as the supervisory authority. And will not be about the raw data, calculate on the basis of other scientists and even could be examined, but only evaluations. "The mining office is only interested in it. If doubts arise, we will make the data available, however," says Meier WAY-man reason.

How useful is the new system for earthquake research? Professor Dahm from Hamburg would of course be located on raw data. And secondly, he considers a problem that only larger earthquakes are announced. "To be able to predict how likely new quakes are, would be just the smaller earthmoving interesting," he says. For through their evaluation could be determined to change the areas in which the stresses in the earth, strong and frequent. Befänden there still weaknesses in the old geological structure would more likely earthquakes.

In Bochum - where the quake threatened by coal mining - the economy has already installed many years ago for his own purposes a seismic network. Not least for cost reasons, however, only two shocks were evaluated on strength and reported. Because that was not enough and many researchers because independent institutions enjoy more confidence, the university built its own system eventually - with the support of the economy. © Rotenburger Rundschau GmbH & Co. KG

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