

Fracking Matters Newsletter 14-13 (104) – April 2013



BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!

"In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies."

(Winston Churchill)

contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org

visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org

facebook: [NO FRACKING IRELAND](https://www.facebook.com/groups/146055765467930/)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/146055765467930/>

[No Fracking Northern Ireland](#)

Twitter: @BANfrackingNI

[fracking ireland google groups](#), apply for membership: charlie2williams@gmail.com

[fracking ireland website](#): <https://sites.google.com/site/frackingireland/>

[GEAI](http://goodenergiesalliance.com/): <http://goodenergiesalliance.com/>

For an overview of all groups, websites and contact details visit:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-local-groups/>





Pics of anti-frackers at completion of 10K today for St. Clares Comprehensive Sch in Manorhamilton.

EVENTS and other CAMPAIGN news

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/upcoming-events/>

Development Day – Sat. 27 April, Beepark Manorhamilton,
Time: 10.30am -3.30 pm
Facilitators: Peter Kearns and Teresa Butler

Lock the Gates, Annie Kia from Australia – Thursday 2 May, Leitrim Community Centrum
8.30 pm, presenting,
"Impacts of Gasfields on Communities: The Australian experience"

NORTHERN IRELAND - Mariann Lloyd-Smith, She will be speaking in the Long Gallery,
Stormont on **Saturday 25th May 2013.**

International anti fracking camp

Confirmed on Friday, Camp Frack 2 will take place on the weekend of the **10th/11th & 12th**
May at a site adjacent to the Leisure Lakes Complex at Mere Brow near Tarleton, Lancashire

Press release by GEAI

Please note:

1. the hydrogeologist is Davide Galazzi

2. recent study: from Durham University, please see [link](#) on GEAI and pdf

<http://goodenergiesalliancedotcom.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/hydraulic-fractures-how-far-can-they-go-1.pdf> (UNCORRECTED PROOF)

3. read more about the water and licenses: WHAT CAN/MUST YOU DO

PRESS RELEASE

Fermanagh, Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan water supplies threatened by fracking

On this week, when the EU Energy Ministers are discussing unconventional gas in Europe, and Tamboran are planning to drill a 1,000m deep exploratory well in Fermanagh, **a new danger from fracking in Ireland has come to light**. The water supplies of Counties Fermanagh, North Leitrim, South Donegal, North Cavan, North Sligo and Sligo Town, and the World Heritage Site at Marble Arch Caves would be under threat if hydraulic fracturing is used to extract gas from shales. This is a conclusion reached by Good Energies Alliance Ireland hydrogeologist.

"We are playing with fire. The shale layer where Tamboran is planning to use hydraulic fracturing is packed like a sandwich between two major aquifers, Ballyshannon Limestones and Dartry Limestones, providing water to the above areas. The Dartry Limestones are also the rock embedding the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Marble Arch, the world-wide importance of which cannot be over-emphasised."

He warned that these aquifers could become contaminated in the process. "During hydraulic fracturing, which uses millions of gallons of frack fluid containing toxic chemicals at high pressure, fractures (or cracks) are created in the shale to release the gas. These fractures can go in any direction, downwards as well as upwards, and nobody can forecast how far they will travel.

In a situation where there is a very short distance between the shale and the limestone layers, a distance which is far less than the minimum threshold (700m) recommended by recent studies from the UK, there is a high risk of this fluid being forced into those aquifers during hydraulic fracturing.

In addition, the fracking area is extremely close to the locations of water supplies and actually on the shores of Lough Erne and Lough Gill, which provide water to the whole of County Fermanagh, North Leitrim, Sligo Town and surrounding villages. There is no guarantee that water contaminated with fracking chemicals, heavy metals and volatile petroleum products could not make its way to the areas from which drinking water is sourced."

"We are very alarmed at this finding, which concludes that there is a high risk of contamination of the sources of our drinking water from fracking", said Aedín McLoughlin, GEAI Director. "The Ballyshannon and Dartry limestones extend throughout most of the licensed area. Without any barriers between the shale layer and the limestones, these Regionally Important Aquifers are endangered by hydraulic fracturing. The EU Water Framework Directive says that *'Water is not a commercial product like any other, but rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such'*. Where there is intense fracking, as is planned for Ireland, water contamination inevitably results. We have a duty to our children and our children's children to leave our surface and ground waters in as pure a state, or even better, than we find them. Fracking must not be allowed to endanger that heritage." It is an offence to pollute groundwater under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts of 1977 and 1990.

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

Global Frack Down Day 19 October 2013

Friends, We know it's a long way off, but we are pleased to announce the re-launch of the Global Frackdown website and the date of the Global Frackdown 2 on October 19.

Last year's Global Frackdown was a huge success, in large part because of all of your efforts. Partner organizations across the world came together for over 200 actions in over 20 countries. We generated a lot of media attention and helped shift the debate over fracking from whether it should be regulated to whether it should take place at all. In fact, it was such a success, it was repeatedly mentioned in an industry analysis of the anti-fracking movement.

Since the Global Frackdown, we have continued to make progress--internationally, France and Bulgaria banned fracking. Last week, the Spanish region of Cantabria also banned the practice, and moratoria are in place in Ireland, the Czech Republic and Lithuania. Recently, Cinco Saltos, Argentina became the first community in South America to ban fracking. Great efforts to mobilize citizens to oppose fracking are also taking place in North Africa and South Africa. In the United States, we have kept fracking out of New York; launched Americans Against Fracking, a national coalition composed of over 200 organizations; won a key ballot victory in Longmont, Colorado... and the movement continues to grow.

While last year's Global Frackdown was amazing, this year we have much more lead time and have the opportunity to make this an even more powerful day of action. So, while its still a long way off, let's start now! While we have launched the website, there are still a few details to be filled in. So let's put the date on the calendar and start planning powerful actions for the fall, while we continue to fight against fracking and for a renewable energy future.

What you can do now:

1. Sign up as a partner organization to 2013 Global Frackdown here: <http://www.globalfrackdown.org/org-endorsement-form/> Even if you were a partner last year, please sign up for the 2013 Global Frackdown--we are creating a list specifically for this year's day of action.

2. Encourage other organizations to sign up as partner organizations

3. Start planning for the Global Frackdown 2013 near you!

Finally, we realize that October 19 may not work for everyone. We tried to pick a date that would accommodate the most people in most regions of the world. If October 19 does not work for you, consider planing an event around the 19th, perhaps on the 18th or the 20th.

Thanks again for all the work you do and we look forward to working with you to make Global Frackdown 2 a powerful day of action across the world.

Best,Mark, Gabi, Darcey, Geert

Ps. Congratulations to Jonathan Deal on his being awarded the Goldman Prize for his tireless anti-fracking advocacy in South Africa!

Please find below the **final declaration of the Climate Space held in Tunis** during the last World Social Forum.

This final declaration is endorsed by the facilitator organisations of the Climate Space.

You can find the different versions on <http://climatespace2013.org> :
in english : <http://climatespace2013.wordpress.com/2013/04/22/to-reclaim-our-future-we-must-change-the-present-our-proposal-for-changing-the-system-and-not-the-climate/>

Full text at the end of the newsletter

CAMPAIGNER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JESSICA ERNST

Jessica Ernst versus Encana, her story, how it works



Jessica pictured during her visit to Ireland, 2012 and 2013.

Jessica's tour through Ireland and the UK in 2013

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vthfnf7t0i1cwxc/2013%2003%20Ireland%20UK%20Tour%20Full%20Presentation%20FINAL.pdf>

<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/category/news-multimedia/speaking-events>

Friday, April 12, 2013

**Alberta Fracking. Jessica Ernst Versus The
Corporate/Government Enemy.(A Case For History.)**

Written by rmathews@telus.net

Full article:

<http://powellriverpersuader.blogspot.ca/2013/04/alberta-fracking-jessica-ernst-versus.html> i



Take off the gloves. Take off the rose-tinted glasses. This is (as they say) for real. Alberta is after Jessica Ernst. And Alberta knows how to do it, has known for a long time. Alberta (you might say) means business (pun intended).

Almost no one in the ordinary population of Alberta (and fewer in the rest of Canada) understands the importance of the Jessica Ernst “fracking case” against Encana Corporation and the Alberta regulators (and against the Stephen Harper government as an active silent partner of the two others).

To win against someone fighting for the community, fighting for their own good and the good of others, Alberta knows there are steps to take. Alberta knows them all. There are six steps. The last one is the most important, the least visible ... the most painful.

Step One: manoeuvre judges until the right one is in place. Alberta and Stephen Harper just did that. They manoeuvred Justice Barbara Veldhuis off the Jessica Ernst case against Encana Corporation and Alberta regulators. They manoeuvred Neil Wittmann, Chief Justice of the Alberta Court of Queen’s bench, onto the case. Step One achieved.

They’ve known how to do that part of it for a long time. In the 1960s case for false arrest and malicious prosecution against then mayor of Edmonton William Hawrelak, the City Solicitor, and the Edmonton Chief of Police they did it. We had a sure case. We (the inexperienced plaintiffs) were moved from judge to judge to judge (being, as they say, ‘remanded’, for as many reasons as there were judges) until the last one.

Nice lawyers told us “he’s been waiting to get you”, waiting till enough remands put him on our case. Then? Well ... then ... I was convinced the case was carefully, embarrassingly rehearsed. Almost every witness for the Defence, I was certain, carefully perjured himself with the able assistance of the presiding judge ... and our careless and inattentive lawyer. Rehearsed perjury. Almost everyone helping. Smooth as silk. We lost the case.

In the Kelly Marie Richard recent dental malpractice case in Calgary I believe judges were set up and changed whenever it was necessary to defeat Ms. Richard. She tells the story. Go to

<http://www.therichardtriggcase.com/summary.htm>

The BC Rail Scandal trial is the poster case for judge-changing. After almost three years on the case, immersed in its complexities, Justice Elizabeth Bennett was lifted out by Stephen Harper in 2010 and replaced with Justice Anne MacKenzie – and the whole trial lurched out of shape, as - I am sure - it was intended to do. Gordon Campbell, long-time premier of B.C. and alleged king-pin in the corrupt transfer of BC Rail to the CNR, was moved seamlessly by a Stephen Harper appointment to the position of Canadian High Commissioner in London, where he remains.

Step One: manoeuvre the judges to get the right one(s) in place.

Step Two: manufacture, obstruct, or erase evidence as required.

Step Three: Delay.

Even four hundred years ago, Shakespeare wrote (in Hamlet) about “the law’s delay, the insolence of office”. Alberta learned fast ... about delay. Delay – as Jessica Ernst will no doubt tell you – is about bankrupting the claimant, dragging her, him, or them through expensive, unnecessary, time-consuming, stressful, unpredicted and unpredictable, destabilizing ... delay. [Like the removal of Barbara Veldhuis and the waiting...and waiting...and waiting for prima donna Neil Wittmann] Delay is about getting the person or persons fighting for self and community so worn down and bankrupted they quit. Simple.

When the stakes are high, when the claimant won’t quit - that’s not all. Few in Alberta, fewer in the rest of Canada, know just how high the stakes are in the case Jessica Ernst is taking against Encana Corporation and the Alberta Regulators. (And against the Stephen Harper government as an active silent partner of the two others.)

When the stakes are high enough, then the corrupt alliance – the Corporation/Government/Court enemy will do ... anything. Watch them.

Step Four: change the regulator, re-name government bodies, appoint brazenly odious agents to head up regulation, write new legislation to stop the next Jessica Ernst. In short, do real and public relations things to block, confuse, and mask the issue. In response to the appointment of Gerald Protti to head Alberta’s new Energy Regulator, Mike Hudema of Greenpeace Canada was dumbfounded. Amazed. Wrongly. The appointment of Protti is – I believe - intended: both a threat and a promise of jackboot response to resistance.

Five: Threaten. The RCMP has already carefully questioned Jessica Ernst but has

questioned none of the defendants.

Sometimes the threats get worse. In the 1960s Edmonton case against the mayor and others, 'they' threatened my life and the lives of our children. On the phone. Real people. Several times. A pleasant experience everyone should have. In Kelly Marie Richard's recent Calgary malpractice case, Defence (with RCMP help) tried to get Ms. Richard (sharp, intelligent, capable) named mentally incompetent to act in court, threatened to force her into (quack?) psychological examination. That was only one of the threats used against her.

Step Six is the least visible, and the most important. It's very simple. **Destroy the person** or persons taking the case.

Wouldn't it be easier, you say, to take Jessica Ernst into a corner and say: "Get off our backs. Leave us alone. We'll give you a lot of money – not \$33 million, but a lot of money. Sign a note of confidentiality, keeping the agreement secret. End the bad publicity for us – and live happily ever after." **Jessica Ernst has already said she won't go that secret route. Ever.**

Encana Corporation and the Alberta regulators won't go that route either. You may be sure. That would be to lose. They have to win, they think ... no matter how they use lawyers and judges and RCMP to violate and trample the Canadian judicial system. I believe, they think they have to do everything they can to destroy Jessica Ernst. They believe they dare not lose.

After years of Kelly Marie Richard's tenacious struggle wouldn't it have been easier for the insurance company to take her aside and say "we'll give you a lot of money, out of court, with a secrecy agreement? Just go away." They wouldn't do it. In their heads, I believe, they couldn't do it. In their heads they didn't dare lose – no matter how they had to use lawyers and judges and RCMP to violate and trample the Canadian judicial system.

Her case was based upon scientifically evidenced orthodontic malpractice. She couldn't lose her case. And so it never really started. But it's over. Completed, you might say, though it never was permitted to begin as a normal trial in court.

All the five steps were taken against Kelly Marie Richard and her sons in a long Case Management court battle in which (then) Associate Chief Justice of the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench Neil Wittmann was in charge of assigning judges, of manipulating (Kelly Marie Richard alleges) Case Management, and being deaf to pleas of improper behaviour. Richard's absolutely clear, scientifically foolproof evidence of dental malpractice was never permitted to be presented in a fair trial!

Think about that. Kelly Marie Richard's foolproof, scientific evidence was not permitted to be presented in fair trial in a case that ran six or seven years! That must be a record. Even for Neil Wittmann. Her "summary" [referenced here] only covers four years of Case Management, but her court torture went on ... and on.

ING was the insurer for dental malpractice. CGI was the contracted corporation to supply court/legal services. McLeod Dixon was the law firm engaged against her.

In any honest court I am certain Kelly Marie Richard's case could not receive a judgement in the insurance company's favour. Period. And so she had to be destroyed. Kelly Marie Richard and her two sons ended up penniless, ruined, and in need of important, expensive care for the damage done by their orthodontic "treatment". Their incontrovertible evidence was never seen by a trial judge or a jury.

Step Six: destroy the claimant. A fair, real trial taking place, won openly and publicly for the claimant is the same as an out-of-court settlement with a confidential, secret agreement. BOTH are a signal to other injured parties to act. Both show that genuinely wronged ordinary people facing huge corporations can get justice from Canadian courts. That idea had to be killed. I believe the present odious alliance of Alberta government, corporations, and the higher court (with Stephen Harper's assistance) intend to kill - if they can - the possibility of justice in the Jessica Ernst case.

During the Kelly Marie Richard case she received a message from an expert telling her that if she won, her victory would be impetus for other, genuinely injured parties to undertake cases. And so she had to be destroyed. If she was carefully and completely destroyed financially, socially, and in every other way possible, the message to others would be "DON'T TRY. No matter how badly you have been injured and no matter how badly the public has been injured, DON'T TRY. Look what we did to Kelly Marie Richard and her sons. We'll do it to you, too. SO DON'T TRY."

Think of Jessica Ernst. Think of the increasing number of recorded injuries done to water quality, to water table levels, to agricultural operations, to property and to persons by hydraulic fracking in Alberta alone, as well as elsewhere in Canada, in Australia and other countries around the world. **Think how Jessica Ernst's victory will echo and echo around Alberta, around the rest of Canada, and around the world.**

Think how quickly it will turn the corporation/government alliance to reform, to repair, to pass proper legislation, to set up genuine and meaningful oversight of operations ... and more. Think of the number of payouts Encana Corporation, the Alberta regulators - and their counterparts around the world - will have to pay out to genuinely injured people. Just think....

You may be sure that is what Alison Redford, Stephen Harper, Encana Corporation*, the

Alberta regulators, Neil Wittmann, and Gerald Protti, for instance, are thinking about every day. That is why I believe **their intention is to destroy Jessica Ernst**. Five of the six steps to stop people like her have already been set in motion. The sixth step is: Destroy Her.

Canadians must say – with growing and aggressive determination - “Jessica Ernst must win”. Canadians must be absolutely determined that Jessica Ernst will win – that the Corporate/Alberta government/higher court/Stephen Harper corrupt alliance will not be able to destroy her but will be forced to serve justice and Canadian democracy.

Jessica Ernst HAS to win her case – for herself, for Canadians, for Canada, for the Rule of Law, for democracy in Canada, for the world. Canadians can make sure Jessica Ernst has a full and fair trial. They must insert themselves into the conflict in whatever ways are necessary to assure she gets justice ... to assure we all get justice in the matter. Something that will stop Step Six is an angry and informed public ... and the public exposure of every dirty trick undertaken by the corrupt alliance.

*Encana Corporation Annual Shareholders Meeting, Tuesday, April 23, 2:00 p.m., Hotel Arts, Spectrum Ballroom, 119 – 12 Avenue Southwest, Calgary, Alberta.

Be there.

Written by Robin Mathews

[comment by Jessica: **ABOUT ROBIN** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robin_Mathews]
many thanks, mr mathews. many thanks. what a powerful piece.

WHAT YOU CAN/MUST DO

You don't have to be a Jessica Ernst, but all small actions will help to fight the frack. If you do nothing, you are sure fracking will go ahead!

1. **Write to the EU parliament** (see heading below, EU), sample letter provided.
2. **Write to the DETI your last chance!** (see also newsletters 101 make you cry news and following newsletters and below...)
Call from a campaigner

Hello all, we are down to the last day now, if you haven't already please send a letter to DETI in NI. They are about to hand out a new license, now all of Lough neagh has Fracking licenses around it. This is 1/3 or 1/2 of NI drinking water.....

I have attached a sample letter, just copy paste and send.....please.

private.office@detini.gov.uk

Maps of licensed areas in the ROI and NI: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/info-to-download/maps/>

Sample letter to be sent before Friday 5 pm!!!!

Room 53. Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2JP.
18th April, 2013

Call for meaningful public consultation before considering granting Petroleum License PL1/13

I am writing to object to your proposal to grant Petroleum Licence PL1/13. This licence which includes the following counties Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Londonderry and Armagh covers a large and densely populated area of Northern Ireland. It almost encompasses Lough Neagh running right through Belfast city centre down to Holywood. Public notification of your intent appeared as a tiny inconspicuous ad in some local newspapers. According to a DETI press statement you have already decided to award the licence. Your call for representations is nothing more than a 'cosmetic' exercise.

You have said that the company, CHx, have declared an interest in exploring for conventional oil/gas. The licence, however, can be easily be extended to include unconventional oil and gas. When PL1/13 is granted, CHx simply need to ask DETI to increase the scope. According to DETI, all that would be required would be a reassessment of CHx's financial capacity and technical expertise. Should all be in order, the company would be permitted to explore for unconventional resources. DETI would not inform the public of the change to the licence.

DETI say that both coal and/or shales(both unconventional), are possibly targets. Should CHx wish to proceed further following exploration, they could go on to ask the Department of the Environment for planning permission to drill and frack these resources.

Although you will insist this is not a licence to frack, once this license is granted there is no get-out unless the company breaks the terms of the license. It is the start of a virtually unstoppable chain of events with fracking/Coal Bed Methane extraction being the final outcome.

Unconventional gas and oil drilling is one of the most controversial and polluting environmental issues around the world today. Given that this new licence area is adjacent to Lough Neagh which supplies nearly 50% of Northern Ireland's drinking water, nearly 43% of Northern Ireland drains into the Lough and sewage pollution of the lough is already a very serious concern, why are you rushing headlong into granting this new license? What we become of us if our water is polluted and we can no longer drink it?

My other major concerns centre around potential longer term negative health impacts and loss of prime agricultural land to this dirty industrial process. We love to welcome people here with promises of beautiful, unspoilt countryside. I would like it to stay this way.

As you well know, the granting of onshore petroleum licences has been put on hold on both mainland UK and the Republic of Ireland; on mainland UK they await the updating of the Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and the Republic of Ireland are prepared to wait for the results of new EPA research which is actually a joint initiative with the NIEA. The rest of the UK recognize that a SEA is a useful tool for safeguarding the environment but I note with alarm that you are refusing to carry one out. Do you not value our environment?

Considering the negative reaction over similar licences in Fermanagh, Antrim and Derry/Londonderry, it is my belief that if the people of Northern Ireland knew that all six counties are now included in a new licence which may well result in unconventional gas/oil exploitation, there would be a public outcry.

You have shown no respect for the general public or for the democratic process by railroading this licence through. As someone who lives in this area and as member of the voting public, I expect meaningful public engagement before a decision of this magnitude is reached. I am calling for a thorough public and meaningful consultation before this licence is considered for approval.

Yours sincerely

and another letter sent already by a campaigner: (from ROI)

Dear Mrs. Foster and DETI committee members,

Many people probably missed this tiny newspaper advertisement. (See below) From this I understand that you propose to grant a prospecting license (PL 1/13) in the counties listed, I have viewed a map of the area and am shocked to see this refers to a large and heavily populated area of Northern Ireland, adjacent to Lough Neagh. The lough is a world renowned wetland ecosystem and the source of drinking water for possibly 1 in 3 of the inhabitants of Northern Ireland.

I would really have expected a much wider level of public engagement for a decision of this magnitude.

I am well aware that this is only the exploration stage however if significant reserves are discovered do DETI then have a duty to continue down this path and issue a license? As part of the conditions of this license it is my understanding that if oil and gas are found the company may proceed to ask for planning permission to drill. It is highly likely to utilize unconventional techniques this may include Coal Seam Gas Mining and/ or Fracking. The issue of gas well leakage is a well documented and recurring problem for these industries. Will this exploration license cover exploration for resources requiring the use of these industries?

Considering the reaction over the similar license in Fermanagh it is my belief that if the people of NI knew that all six counties now had options for unconventional fuel development there would be a public outcry.

In this respect DETI may have acted legally, but morally the people of NI deserve better. I am asking you for a thorough public engagement on such a far reaching decision for our country.

Yours sincerely,

Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
www.detini.gov.uk

**Petroleum (Production) Act
(Northern Ireland) 1964 [1964
c.28 (NI)]**

In exercise of its powers under Section 2 (1) of the above Act the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment proposes to grant a prospecting licence in Counties Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Londonderry and Armagh.

A map showing the areas affected may be inspected at the addresses below from between Monday and Friday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm.

Any person may make representations to the Department about the proposed licence within one month from 25th March 2013

Map inspections are available in the following:

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
Minerals Branch, Colby House, Stranmillis Court, Belfast, BT9 5BF

Antrim Borough Council
Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim, BT41 2UB

Armagh Borough Council
Council Offices, The Palace Damesne, Armagh, BT60 4EL

Ballymena Borough Council
Ardeevin, 80 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, BT42 1AB

Belfast City Council
Cecil Ward Building, 4-10 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BP

Cookstown District Council
Burn Road, Cookstown, Co.Tyrone, BT80 8DT

Craigavon Borough Council
Civic Centre, PO Box 66, Lakeview Road, Craigavon, Co.Armagh, BT64 1AL

Dungannon and South Tyrone District Council
Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT

Lisburn City Council
Lagan Valley Island, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, Co.Antrim, BT27 4RL

Magherafelt District Council
50 Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EN

Newtownabbey Borough Council
Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA

North Down Borough Council
Town Hall, The Castle, Bangor, BT20 4BT

**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE** www.detini.gov.uk

Press release.

Belfast Not for \$hale.

Just over a week ago a tiny, nondescript ad (see attachment) appeared in some local newspapers. As you can read DETI proposes to grant a petroleum prospecting license in a large and heavily populated area of NI, from Belfast city center to the shores of Lough Neagh.

As part of the conditions of this license it is my understanding that if oil and gas is found the company may proceed to ask for planning permission to drill. It is highly likely to utilize unconventional techniques commonly known as Fracking. I am not a lawyer but it is my understanding that if reserves are found DETI are bound to enter the next stage of the agreement.

Considering the furore over the similar licenses in Fermanagh and County Antrim it is my belief that if the people of NI knew that all six counties now opened the door to Fracking there would be a public outcry.

At my local council office the staff at the front desk had no idea what I was asking for and it took quite a few calls to finally get to see the map. It didn't feel like a public engagement process.

I think quite a few people are very keen to see this map 22,480 people have now viewed a post of this map on At this point 19,500 people have seen the map detailing the area to be licensed on the No Fracking Northern Ireland Facebook page. Most have responded with shock and dismay.

This seems a surreptitious move over the Easter break effectively giving an impossibly short time for the public too respond. The area of NI now covered by these types of license is extreme and I contend that it is undemocratic to even think of issuing this without proper and through public consultation.

People are concerned have serious and legitimate concerns about unconventional fossil fuel extraction. On a recent BBC Spotlight programme I heard Mike Young, head of Geological Survey of Northern Ireland said "I don't think we know enough now to know that it is safe"

With respect to the public engagement DETI may have acted legally, but morally the people of NI deserve better.

The maps say it all, please print and watch the reaction as people all over NI realize Fracking is not just a Fermanagh issue any more.

CORRESPONDENCE – LETTERS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR by one of our campaigners

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is in relation to the article published April 18th in the Leitrim Observer, entitled '**Fracking Promoted to reduce energy costs**'.

I appreciate that the newspaper has sought a counter-view to that of Forfás by including a quote from Phil Flanagan. Mr Flanagan highlights a number of concerns around unconventional gas extraction, such as its documented impacts on human health.

However, it would be very interesting to read in your paper some of the government's economic policies on natural resources, which I don't believe Forfás fully grasp. For example, they mention fracking in the context of 'cost-effective, secure and diverse electricity fuel mix,'

to keep Ireland's businesses competitive.

Unfortunately, foreign fossil fuel companies in Ireland are under no legal obligation to sell any fuel they extract in Irish territory to Irish buyers. In fact, in this case they are more likely to sell on the international market where they can get a higher price. Additionally, Ireland's tax take on natural resource extraction is notoriously low, therefore the state coffers are not likely to benefit much either.

I think Leitrim readers would be very interested to know more on this topic. After all, it is these arguments of economics and energy security that are pressuring the county into accepting fracking. Don't the public deserve to know the facts?

If you would like to learn more, here is an excellent submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture, reviewing Ireland's licensing terms for oil and gas exploration.

<http://irishoilandgas.wordpress.com/2012/01/26/submission/>

Kind regards,

Response to the independent by a campaigner <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/green-light-for-fracking-from-ec-29217523.html>

Please read article and reply as well!!

This March I attended an event in Brussels where a DG Clima staff member claimed that there was still doubt over whether shale gas is dirtier than coal; the line from them is that there is a need to carry out further studies, ones based on the EU experience in particular. So this means they will need guinea pigs. Laid out in DG Environment's Roadmap for shale gas dated November 2012, pilot projects have already been identified to explore the health and environmental impacts.

There are doubts about shale gas, but there are an awful lot of realities too. With regard to the greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas, I'm afraid the only doubt being propagated is that by the industry because the independent peer-reviewed science is unanimous: when you take into account the entire lifecycle of shale gas development it actually emits more methane than conventional gas development. We also have hard data proving the high rate of fugitive emissions and methane leakage from shale gas developments in the US and in Australia.

Even if shale gas were clean, any further exploitation of fossil fuels is off the table. Climate change experts from the Tyndall centre and from Cornell University remain adamant that the EU will not be able to meet its climate change reduction targets unless we leave the gas where it belongs: in the ground.

The need to tackle climate change has become all the more urgent with last week's rejection of reforms aimed at repairing the ailing Emissions Trading Scheme, the cornerstone of the European Union's policy to combat climate change, yet the Commission flies in the face of reason by issuing statements that grossly contradict EU policies on climate change. This begs the question: who does the Commission serve? Citizens or vested interests?

Let this be very clear to all decision-makers: **European citizens do not want shale gas and do not need shale gas.** In fact, public opposition to proposed developments is overwhelming. A Eurobarometer survey published in **January 2013 showed that 74% of Europeans are opposed, and in Ireland that level of opposition is higher again at 81%.** We do not need the gas either. Aside from the fact that consumption has been falling in Ireland in recent years due to the recession, the vast majority of Irish citizens are not prepared to sacrifice their health for a few years of gas. And with the Internal Energy Market aimed for completion by 2014, which effectively means a fully integrated single energy market, there is no guarantee gas extracted here will stay here either, or that it will be cheap.

If the industry and its paid puppets are foolish enough to think we will fall for their lies and propaganda - which they repeat ad nauseum in the face of overwhelming evidence proving the realities and dangers associated with unconventional gas development with the intent of brainwashing us - then they need to have a serious rethink. We know your game and will not fall for it.

As Mr Rabitte said last week we should let the science decide. Indeed we should. All the independent, peer-reviewed science proves the manifold realities and dangers of this industry and supports our stance that the precautionary principle be applied.

To quote Winston Churchill, **"In wartime, truth is so precious that she should always be attended by a bodyguard of lies." Well, we have the truth and we will fight to the bitter end to get it out. No retreat. No surrender.**

LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (RABITE AND FERGUS O'DOWD)

A Chara

Due to the positive deluge of "pro fracking" statements and articles this week, where Minister Pat Rabitte and Foras to mention just a few, pushed yet again the "cheap energy" source that shale gas will supposedly be, how heartening to find this article in the Guardian today.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/19/carbon-bubble-financial-crash-crisis>

The Guardian warned shortly before the crash of the banks and the so called building boom in Ireland, that such growth was unsustainable and could not last. As a resident of Leitrim for the past twenty years, I appreciate that a short "boom" in the gas mining industry would mean that a few, a very few, individuals and business persons would make a great deal of money, very quickly. The rest of us would have to live with the folly of our decision makers for the rest of our lives.

We will continue to lobby against this destructive and ultimately hazardous industry for as many years as it takes for the short sightedness of its proponents to be proven, not as uninformed nimbys educated by the internet, but by watching the US's, Canada's and Australia;s sad and ecocidal reality.

Best regards

North West Network against fracking



THOUGHTS – OPINION



Nick Butler at the Financial Times :

[The response to climate change – time to learn from America](#)

April 17, 2013 4:43 pm [by Nick Butler](#)

Those who think that the best responses to the risks of [climate change](#) are ever stronger regulation, complex international agreements and higher energy prices should take a

look at what is happening in America.

In the US, carbon emissions have fallen by 13 per cent in the last five years and are at their lowest level since 1994. Energy demand is flat even though the economy is growing. The key statistics to watch are oil demand, which is at a 15 year low, and coal demand in the power sector, which is down by more than 20 per cent since 2008.

Furthermore, energy prices are also falling thanks to [shale gas](#). They have yet to stabilise and there will have to be a shakeout within the gas sector. But prices will settle in the range of \$4.50 to \$5 – sustaining development but also providing a sharp reduction in input costs for consumers including manufacturing industry. Shale gas, however, is not the whole story. Next will come tight oil, which is oil from shale rocks. Then and potentially most important of all will come advances in energy storage. Bill Gates has just made his third major investment in an energy storage technology business.

Mr Gates is not a casual investor. Storage – whether in the form of batteries, pumped storage, compressed air, or the use of advanced materials – hold the potential to transform the energy business worldwide. Imagine if, at a reasonable cost, you could capture and store the power generated by the sun in the Sahara or by wind in the North Sea. And then remember that the basic input costs are zero. These are genuinely renewable sources of power. No capital investment is needed to make the wind blow and the sun shine.

Some will say this is just science fiction. Maybe. Of course, one is always free to bet against Mr Gates. What would be remarkable though is if having transformed one sector of the global economy he now helped to reshape the world energy business as well.

The actual and potential breakthroughs in the US are due to the combination of money and scientific ability. The US consistently funds frontier research – with energy at the top of the agenda. The consequences of 9/11 have been profound and are unfinished – but strong among them is the deep desire which cuts across party and ideology for energy independence. The approach has sometimes incoherent. But the effect is real.

The money put in by the federal Government has supported some tremendous academic work, the fruits of which are just starting to be transformed into business propositions. While academics in the UK are forced to waste their time filling in forms as part of the tragi-comic process of the Research Excellence Framework, the US uses academic ability more productively. There the links between investors and universities are strong – to the benefit of both, and of course to the benefit of society as a whole.

Real innovation is funded, incentivised and rewarded. The application of new science through technology generates revenue and jobs. San Jose State University, for instance, last week announced the creation of a new “battery university” designed to train the staff energy storage companies will need. Its curriculum is developed by 100 specialists from the sector and academics from institutions such as the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Who knows which of the many strands of scientific work will produce the major breakthrough which is necessary to combat the risks of climate change at the global level. What seems clear is that science and technology are having a bigger impact on the problem than regulations and restrictions. For the climate lobby in Europe, this should be a very sobering thought.

Another Reason to Ban Fracking: Administration Approves Lax Guidelines for Radioactive Exposure

Food & Water Watch

When it comes to exposure to radioactive materials, how much is too much? If you're like most people, or...

Find More reasons on: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/reports/press-articles/>

MOVIES- SONGS- PRESENTATIONS

PROMISED LAND - a review

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/film/promised-land-1.1364656>

(...) Working from an outline by (of all people) postmodern hipster Dave Eggers, [Matt Damon](#) and [John Krasinski](#) have written a script concerning two representatives of a rapacious energy company who travel to a small Pennsylvania town with instructions to suck up every piece of land. Natural gas has been discovered beneath the hamlet and (the too sinisterly named) Global Crosspower offers the citizens an escape from financial depression and ongoing rural decline.

(...)

(...)At first, everything goes swimmingly for the corporate hucksters. Most of the citizens seem happy to part with their land and embrace a prosperous future. But an elderly science teacher (the always welcome Hal Holbrook) has been doing some research and has discovered that the fracking process – essentially, forcing the gas out with pressurised fluid – has caused pollution and contamination in other areas. An annoying environmentalist (Krasinski) later turns up to further queer the pitch.

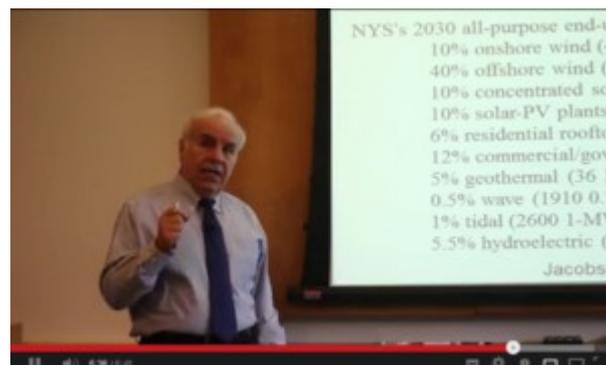
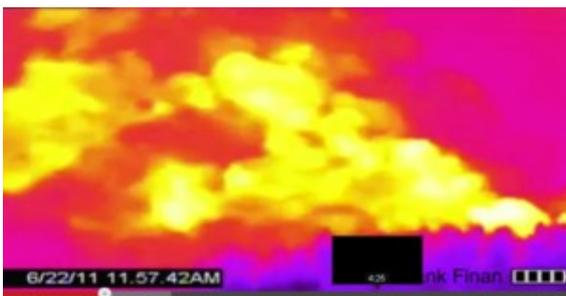
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2091473/releaseinfo>

[http://www.google.ie/movies?](http://www.google.ie/movies?hl=en&near=Dublin&sort=1&mid=e800ed2827edc8e6&ei=tQp5Ua3WIenn7Aa8_YGYCQ&date=1)

[hl=en&near=Dublin&sort=1&mid=e800ed2827edc8e6&ei=tQp5Ua3WIenn7Aa8_YGYCQ&date=1](http://www.google.ie/movies?hl=en&near=Dublin&sort=1&mid=e800ed2827edc8e6&ei=tQp5Ua3WIenn7Aa8_YGYCQ&date=1)

In case you haven't seen it yet, this is a useful short video by Prof. Tony Ingraffea of Cornell U. on how **methane leaking from fracking wells** is speeding climate change.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o78j7717XUw&feature=youtu.be>



Video Gallery

232 VIDEOS

 <p>24.04.2013, 13:07 GMT Tom Hanney, Deputy Irish Ambassador to the EU, on Youth Guarantee Scheme Tags: EPSCO,</p>	 <p>24.04.2013, 13:50 GMT 20130424 Energy Informal Family Photo Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>24.04.2013, 11:52 GMT 20130424 Energy Informal Press Conference - Pat Rabbitte Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>24.04.2013, 11:56 GMT 20130424 Energy Informal Press Conference - Günther H. Oettinger Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>24.04.2013, 11:56 GMT 20130424 Energy Informal Press Conference - Günther H. Oettinger Tags: TTE,</p>
 <p>24.04.2013, 09:18 GMT 20130424 Energy Informal Doorstep - Pat Rabbitte Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>23.04.2013, 16:30 GMT Tom Hanney, Deputy Irish Ambassador to the EU Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>23.04.2013, 16:13 GMT Tom Hanney, Deputy Irish Ambassador to the EU Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>23.04.2013, 13:33 GMT ENVI Informal Press Conference 1 - Minister Tags: TTE,</p>	 <p>23.04.2013, 13:33 GMT ENVI Informal Press Conference 2 - Minister Tags: TTE,</p>

EU video gallery - <http://eu2013.ie/press-centre/video-gallery/>

A time for giant steps: a science perspective - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-58N7kLeVEM>

"A Time for Giant Steps: a science perspective" was given by Professor **Rik Leemans**, **University of Wageningen** and Chair of Earth System Science Partnership Scientific Committee. This lecture took place on February 27th 2013 as part of EPA's ongoing Climate Change Lecture Series.

Firms enjoy tax haven in bankrupt Ireland - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUXGwc-jUC4>

Ireland is one of the country's that's been hardest hit by Europe's debt crisis. But amid the austerity, billions of dollars are still flowing in and out of the economy. The problem for Ireland is that it is not collecting much of a share of the money. Laurence Lee reports from Dublin.

(Al Jazeera English)

The date of the **documentary 'The Fracturing of Public Opinion: Bulgaria's Fracking Controversy'** from Catherina Boyle is not set yet (as mentioned in newsletter 103)

IRISH NEWS

Coal seam gas - licenses Ireland (visit <http://frackingfreeireland.org/info-to-download/maps/> for all maps of licenses, radon, water, sac etc)

Maps of May and November 2012

http://www.mineralsireland.ie/NR/rdonlyres/A9A49F38-77A5-45C8-9DEB-1A5C7AD7EDCE/0/ProspectingLicenceMapMay2012_web.pdf

http://www.mineralsireland.ie/NR/rdonlyres/A9ECD1C6-543E-4B39-8BF8-E76AFD75026C/0/ProspectingLicenceMapNovember2012_web.pdf

coal bed methane (coals seam gas) as you all know is just as bad as shale gas

(Thanks to Anne)

Green light for fracking from EC

Head of the European Commission's climate change unit, Jos Delbeke, said there was sufficient legislation to protect the environment and **that the EU had to look for alternative sources of energy, including by means of fracking.**"

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/green-light-for-fracking-from-ec-29217523.html>

Fracking promoted to reduce energy costs -

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/local/fracking-promoted-to-reduce-energy-costs-1-5004954>

Decisions on fracking will be based on scientific evidence -

<http://www.merrionstreet.ie/index.php/2013/04/decisions-on-fracking-will-be-based-on-scientific-evidence-rabbitte/>

Fracking licences on hold until after study - <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/fracking-licences-on-hold-until-after-study-29204685.html>

(...) He said no new licences would be granted until the completion of an All-Ireland scientific study of the process by the Environmental Protection Agency. But Mr Rabbitte also said the economic issues had to be taken into account.

"When Europe is in a slump and leaders of Europe are talking about growth and jobs, the energy component is a huge one and therefore we have to examine this issue with an urgency that probably has not obtained before the crash," he said.

Mr Rabbitte said the EPA research would start in the second half of the year.

(...)

Pat Rabbitte - <http://www.rte.ie/news/morningireland/player.html?20130424,20192970,20192970.flash,232>

Rabbitte rules out compulsory redundancies, discusses energy policy

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte discusses the new attempt to find agreement on cutting public service payroll costs, Bank of Ireland CEO Richard Boucher's pay, abortion, and **fracking** and other issues discussed at an EU energy ministers meeting at Dublin Castle

Fracking starts at 8.25

- **low gas prices in the US**
- **self sufficient**
- **coal is shipped across the Atlantic and used in Europe**
- **file is not yet settled**
- **EPA report will take a year**
- **we have capacity to create an export sector (wind energy)**

Firms enjoy tax haven in bankrupt Ireland - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUxGwc-jUC4>

Ireland is one of the country's that's been hardest hit by Europe's debt crisis. But amid the austerity, billions of dollars are still flowing in and out of the economy. The problem for Ireland is that it is not collecting much of a share of the money. Laurence Lee reports from Dublin.

(Al Jazeera English)

[Ireland weighs low-carbon, shale future](#)

UPI.com

DUBLIN, **Ireland**, April 24 (UPI) -- The Irish government is comparing notes with European counterparts on the potential of **shale natural gas** reserves, ...

[Green light for fracking from EC](#)

Irish Independent

THERE is no reason why **Ireland** cannot allow companies to investigate drilling for **shale gas**, despite environmental and health concerns.

[Shale gas could be 'game changer'](#)

European Voice

Pat Rabbitte, **Ireland's** energy minister, said: "Europe cannot afford to put its head in ... have enacted moratoriums on **shale-gas** exploration, while others, ...

[EU faces energy policy vacuum after 2020 over US shale gas revolution](#)

Saudi Gazette

Debate has become much harder following economic crisis and the **shale gas** revolution, which has handed the United States the advantage of cheap energy.

[Ireland Weighs Low-Carbon, Shale Future](#)

Energy Tribune

The Irish government is comparing notes with European counterparts on the potential of **shale natural gas** reserves, Irish Energy Minister

All latest info: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/politics-related-info/>

EU -NEWS

EU COMMISSION

News from the PETI committee

PETI JOURNAL #15 is OUT!

PETI JOURNAL tells it like it is and tries to "**bring alive**" the way in which the petitions process works while **providing** pieces of more general **information** about its activities.

The Committee, it shall be noted, maintains very proficuous outreach outposts on Facebook (www.facebook.com/PETITIONS.EU); Twitter

(http://twitter.com/#!/PETI_EU) and Google+ (<http://bit.ly/MAXNXX>)!

You are, of course, invited and welcome to join the conversation and forward this to anyone you consider may be interested.

We await you all on our social media pages to kindle meaningful exchanges!

The Secretariat

PETI - Committee on Petitions
European Parliament

Join the "PETI Journal" network

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/PETI/home.html>

PETITION – EP Petition 0134/2012 ClientEarth + FOE Europe - Access to s to EU

documents and environmental information

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/914335en.pdf>

Papers Today

European court decision 'a huge leap forward for nature conservation'

An Taisce hails EU ruling on Galway bypass

A European Court of Justice ruling against a **proposed Galway bypass** has been described by An Taisce as "a huge leap forward for nature conservation, not only in Ireland but across the EU".

In its judgment yesterday, the court ruled that permission may not be given for developments on priority conservation sites where there is a risk that it will bring about "the disappearance or the partial and irreparable destruction of the protected site".

The 14-page judgment by the court ruled on three questions referred to it by the Supreme Court on the relationship between infrastructure applications and areas designated as **environmentally-sensitive under the EU habitats directive**. Planning application Galway West Fine Gael TD Sean Kyne has signalled that the planning authorities may make a new application for the outer bypass, citing overriding public interest.

Under article 6 (4) of the EU habitats directive projects which may have an adverse impact on the integrity of a designated site may go ahead on grounds of "imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)".

Fianna Fáil TD Éamon Ó Cuív has urged the Government to take "immediate" action to secure the project through the IROPI clause.

Welcoming the ruling as a "landmark judgment", **An Taisce's** natural environment officer Andrew Jackson said its "beneficial conservation impacts" would apply to a total of 72 EU priority habitats, of which 16 are located in Ireland.

Friends of the Irish Environment said: "This ensures that problems we have had with cases like raised bogs – the 'death by a thousand cuts' – must no longer be permitted. Even the partial destruction of protected areas may not be permitted."

The Galway bypass would have resulted in the loss of 1.47 hectares of limestone pavement in the Lough Corrib Natura 2000 site, which covers 270 hectares. The court's judgment, in a case brought by environmental activist Peter Sweetman, also confirmed that it is not necessary to prove that a project would lead to "irreparable destruction" as the precautionary principle should be applied.

The British and Greek governments had intervened in the case, fearing that such a strict interpretation of EU conservation law would inhibit their own development projects, but ended up "on the losing side", as Mr Jackson noted.

The case now reverts to the Supreme Court in Dublin, which must apply the European court's ruling in determining whether An Bord Pleanála's decision in November 2008 to approve the bypass should now be quashed.

12 Apr 2013

The Irish Times

FRANK MCDONALD

Environment Editor and LORNA SIGGINS

EU and the position on SHALE GAS

EU gas transparency rules 13.04.2013-Business this week | The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/news/world-week/21576137-business-week>

<http://www.euractiv.com/sustainability/new-eu-rules-target-transparency-news-518997>

<http://www.cidse.org/content/articles/business-a-human-rights/country-by-country-reporting/cidse-demands-on-corporate-transparency-met-by-european-legislators.html>

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-323_en.htm

We did it. After months of our hard campaigning, last night European leaders reached a deal that requires oil, gas, mining, and logging companies to **publish the payments they make to governments.**

Previously, these payments were made in secret, fuelling corruption; but this victory will help promote accountability. Now citizens will be better able to ensure that the money generated in resource-rich countries is used for vital services like schools, roads and hospitals.

This deal is a historic milestone in the fight against corruption and your actions made all the difference.

More than 162,000 petition signatures; more than 8,000 postcards and countless handwritten letters and tweets all made sure our voices couldn't be ignored.

Help us spread the word that change is possible by sharing the incredible news on Facebook and Twitter.

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

As Bono said, "Europe's leaders have stepped up and delivered a gamechanging breakthrough tonight. Transparency is one of the best vaccines against corruption, and now citizens the world over will know what their country's resources are really worth. I'm delighted for the activists that have campaigned so hard for this to happen and applaud the bravery of politicians who stood up to fierce lobbying and got the deal done."

And it wouldn't have happened without you.

Thank you again.

Eloise Todd, ONE.org

P.S. Find out more and share your thoughts on this campaign with other ONE members here:

<http://act.one.org/go/1213?t=4&akid=3849.2254861.1UOZ9r>

European support for fracking increases -

<http://www.utilityproducts.com/news/2013/04/21/european-support-for-fracking-increases.html>

EU's chief science advisor gives shale gas go-ahead

Published: 11 April 2013

The EU's chief scientific advisor has said that evidence allows the go-ahead for extracting shale gas, the energy source at the centre of a European policy tug-of-war.

Background

Shale gas is an 'unconventional' fossil fuel that is found within natural fissures and fractures underground. Until recently, no method of safely transporting it to the surface existed.

It is mined via hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking', the process of breaking apart layers of shale by pumping liquids and a number of chemical additives under high pressure thereby releasing trapped gas reserves.

While energy companies believe they have found a part of the answer to Europe's energy security problems, the method remains intensely controversial because of its possible environmental risks, including poisoning groundwater and higher greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gas.

To proponents, shale gas represents a hitherto untapped and welcome alternative energy source to traditional fossil fuels. At the moment the continent depends on gas imported from Russia, and disputes between that country and Ukraine have disrupted winter supplies in recent years.

In the US, shale gas already accounts for 16% of the world's largest economy natural gas production and some analysts predict that could rise to 50% within 20 years.

The EU executive launched a green paper on 27 March, setting out Europe's energy and climate [aims for 2030](#), with Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger taking a favourable position on shale gas.

"I am in favour of producing shale gas, particularly for safety reasons, and to reduce gas prices," he said. "In the United States, which is a big producer of shale gas, the price of gas is four times less than in Europe."

Shale gas has triggered an industrial revival in the United States, which the International Energy Agency expects to become almost self-sufficient in oil and gas by 2035.

But crippling production costs, exploration closures, and government-level environmental concerns have seen the industry's expansion in Europe waver.

>> [Read: US 'shale boost' provokes EU fears and indecision](#)

EU climate chief circumspect on shale

Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard has adopted a less favourable tone on shale gas, believing its extraction in Europe bears little comparison with the United States.

"We do not expect that it will be so easy in Europe: geological conditions are different, and so are environmental rules and the activity of soils," she told reporters at the launch of the Commission green paper last month.

But Anne Glover, the chief scientific adviser to Commission President José Manuel Barroso, contradicted this view and gave a scientific green light to shale.

Speaking at a debate on science and policy-making in Brussels on 9 April, she said: "As with all energy production, there will be risks involved whether that is wind or coal power," Glover told the audience at the debate, organised by the European Policy Centre, a think tank.

"We should not go into a denial phase. From my point of view the evidence will allow us to go ahead [with shale production]. But in terms of extraction and production there are non-scientific issues to be debated," Glover said.

Europe 'in the denial phase'

António Fernando Correia de Campos, the Spanish MEP who chairs the Parliament's science and technology options assessment panel, also endorsed shale during the debate. Although he

said he was not speaking on behalf of any parliamentary group or committee, Correia de Campos said Europe was "in the denial phase" on shale gas.

He said it was clear that within five years Europe would be importing shale gas from the US because it cost a quarter to a fifth of current European gas imports. "We are basing our opinion on the denial paradigm, which is one step behind the precautionary principle," Correia de Campos said.

Member states remain divided on their approach to shale. Last October, British Chancellor George Osborne announced potential tax breaks for domestic shale. The same month Poland declared its push for the gas, saying it would invest some €12.5 million to develop exploration by 2020.

But large-scale production has proved difficult, with European governments and major energy companies recently suspending or halting exploration, and France has imposed a moratorium on shale gas drilling.

Meanwhile doubts remain amongst campaigners about the safety of shale extraction.

"Several peer-reviewed studies have shown that [extracion] operations and production activities significantly increase the cancer risks for communities living less than half a mile from drilling sites," Antoine Simon, extractive industries campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, told EurActiv.

Positions

Connie Hedegaard, the **commissioner for climate change**, told the daily Guardian that shale gas would not be the game-changer that it has been in the US. "We should not fool ourselves," she said. "This is not going to be as cheap as in the US. We have different geology that makes it more tricky [to extract shale gas]. We don't have the same wide open spaces. We pay more attention to what local people think."

"Speaking about safely extracting shale gas is still a wishful thinking. In the US thousands of citizens have been left with serious health problems, including respiratory problems, hormone disruption and cancer, and with their air poisoned and drinking water contaminated," said **Antoine Simon**, extractive industries campaigner at **Friends of the Earth Europe**.

Next Steps

- **2013**: European Commission to unveil results of public consultation on unconventional fossil fuels, including shale gas.

Anne Stauffer

Deputy Director

Website: www.env-health.org

[New HEAL report out now!](#) 'The Unpaid Health Bill: How coal power plants make us sick'

Oettinger talks up Europe's shale gas potential

The EU should develop at least some of its shale gas resources to deal with the impact on competitiveness of the US fracking boom, energy commissioner Günther Oettinger said at a ministerial meeting in Dublin on Wednesday.

"More member states are interested, open, not inactive or defensive," Mr Oettinger said, signalling his strong support for developing Europe's resources using the controversial hydraulic fracturing technique.

The EU executive will provide expertise and legal frameworks to support exploration and production while balancing environmental concerns, he added, pointing out that greater use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) will also be needed.

The difference between US and EU gas prices is now at a factor of 1:4.

Irish energy minister Pat Rabbitte agreed that the EU will have to deal with the "transformative impact" of the US shale boom. "Europe cannot afford to put its head in the sand and ignore the impact of what has happened," he said.

A [consultation](#) on how the EU should deal with the environmental impacts of shale gas closed at the end of March. It received more than 23,000 responses and the results are unlikely to be made public until the end of June, an official said.

By the end of the year the European Commission will bring forward proposals but it has not yet decided whether these would be in the form of an overarching framework for shale gas development, or a set of amendments to existing legislation.

The commission does not have the power to propose a ban on fracking, but could put forward measures such as those already in place for oil drilling, the official said. A stakeholder meeting will be held in June in Brussels.

In France, business association MEDEF called for an end to the country's ban on fracking, saying shale gas production could help protect competitiveness. But environment minister Delphine Batho said there would be [no U-turn](#). "There are other alternatives to improve competitiveness such as green growth", the minister noted.

Ministers in Dublin also discussed the recently tabled green paper on 2030 climate and energy targets. Mr Oettinger said a policy package was likely to be adopted in 2015. According to Pat Rabbitte, the new regime may have to "acknowledge geographic disparities" and allow EU countries to "play to their strengths".

While the UK government wants a single decarbonisation target for 2030 and no more binding obligations for renewables, France would prefer multiple targets to continue. The UK could more easily meet a decarbonisation target than a renewables one and is [already](#) not on track to meet its 2020 renewables obligations.

Follow-up:

Irish presidency [statement](#)(<http://eu2013.ie/news/news-items/20130424postenergypr/>) and video [gallery](#)

<http://eu2013.ie/press-centre/video-gallery/>

Competitiveness and Security of Supply central as EU Energy Ministers build towards 2030

<http://eu2013.ie/news/news-items/20130424postenergypr/>

Green light for fracking from EC - <http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/green-light-for-fracking-from-ec-29217523.html>

EU Shale Gas Legislation: An Interview with Joe Hennon, Spokesperson for Environment

From our campaigner in Brussels
Important parts in red!

Isn't it just amazing how he doesn't mention how one of the September 2012 reports the Commission published identifies glaring gaps in eight - yes, eight - key EU environmental acquis!

Yet the Commission is quite happy to let Member States proceed with exploration while ordering more reports until finally they hear what they want to hear.

Get ready for action, folks. **Enough is enough!** We have to begin lobbying the Commission en masse to stop this 'safe fracking' nonsense!

+++++

Natural Gas Europe was pleased to have the opportunity to speak with Joe Hennon, European Commission Spokesperson for Environment. We spoke about the role of Europe and the expected environmental laws relating the development of shale gas.

European Committees, consulting companies and stakeholders are asking for a clear regulatory framework on shale gas. What is the status of legislative proposals relating to shale gas?

It looks like we will propose something towards the end of this year. As far as we are concerned the sooner the better. It will be sometime between September and December, it is difficult to know exactly when. I think it is more likely to be towards the end of the year because we had public consultation recently, where we had over 23,000 contributions in many languages. It will take quite a while to go through all of that.

Is it somehow related to the elections to be held in Germany in September?

No, it is completely unrelated to that.

So what's the planning? Proposals between September and December, and then?

Then it would go to the Parliament and the Council. So it depends on how long they take and how controversial it proves to be. It is difficult to predict these things. But you would expect it to take at least a year to go through these two institutions. But as I said, it really depends on how controversial people find it and how much debate and discussion there is.

Do you expect a disclosure of chemicals?

We would expect so, (with) the REACH legislation normally companies have to say what they are going to use chemicals for. If they are going to use chemicals in fracking then they will have to declare what those chemicals are and what are they going to be used for.

Will it be a public disclosure?

Yes.

Do you foresee any revision of the Article 4 of Directive 2011/92/EU (Environmental Impact Assessment Directive)?

That is quite likely. But it depends what approach the Commission decides to take. We may take the approach of amending individual pieces of legislation. Or we may think it is better to propose legislation purely on shale gas... We have not decided yet what the best way to do that is.

What is the position of European Commissioner for the Environment, Janez Potočnik on the matter of shale and unconventional gas development?

From the point of view of whether member states should use shale gas or not we don't have a view. That's because the treaties allow the member states to explore their energy resources whatever way they see fit.

Our point of view would be that if we were to do shale gas exploration and exploitation, then we need to have environmental rules, which serve the purpose. We have environmental rules for things like oil drilling, and mining, and chemical use and so on. So what we would like to see is environmental protection.

The Commissioner personal point of view is that unless the European public accepts shale gas exploitation then it doesn't have much of a future in Europe. But as I said it is for member states to decide whether or not they want to look for shale gas.

The Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger has taken a favourable position on shale gas while Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard is more guarded. How does the EU reconcile divergent positions?

All three Commissioners are looking at shale gas together within the European Commission, and whatever we do propose will be a Commission proposal. So it would be the College of Commissioners. It is normal that you will get Commissioners who have different points of view and different topics but the important thing is that it will be discussed inside the Commission. We would eventually propose something, which is a Commission proposal, so which takes into account all the discussions that have been taken place internally.

Do you foresee any additional emissions reduction targets after 2020?

Well that's possible. I mean that has been discussed already by Commissioner Hedegaard for the post 2020 period. There is already a policy paper, which has been released about two weeks ago... But all that needs to go through the Parliament and the Council. We would expect additional targets for 2030, but what they would be is too early to say.

A study of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggested that shale gas would most likely limit the development of renewable energy in the US. Is it reasonable to think that the investments in shale gas are distracting funds and investments from renewable energies also in Europe?

Well, it is a danger. But member states have already signed up to achieving 20% of their energy coming from renewable by 2020. So that has not changed. From our point of view if shale gas replaces things like coal, well then ok. But we have to remember that shale gas is still a fossil fuel. So, yes, there is a danger that if cheap gas becomes available then maybe people will invest less in renewables. But they have a commitment already to 20% of renewables. So we would expect member states to keep that.

Is the funding for pilot projects in shale gas adequate with the potential importance of this energy? Page 12 of the Working Document on pilot projects and Preparatory actions in budget 2014 (1.3.2013) reports that the funds for the pilot project for energy security on shale gas is a tenth of the funds for the project "Exchange programme for young farmers".

In general the EU budget wouldn't be the only source of funding anyway. It would be up to member states to decide whether they fund from public funds or not. And presumably there would be plenty of private sector investors also that would look at shale gas.

What is the riskiest approach for the environment: the lack of a certain legal framework in Europe or the favourable legal context in the US?

It is a difficult one to answer. We would say that there needs to be environmental legislation in place. It is a question of managing the risk. What we would normally do in Europe is we identify what the risks are and we try to deal with them... So from our point of view we would say that what you probably need is environmental legislation, which does manage the risk, the same way we do for oil drilling and extractive industries.

How do you answer to experts and operators who say that the EU is not a very agile and responsive organization?

We are not a government. We don't have power just to pass legislation or to take quick decisions the way you would if you were a national government. So we have to take the interests of 27 member states into account. We have this unique structure whereby the Commission proposes things and then the Parliament and the member states discuss it. So all EU legislation takes a couple of years. Nothing is proposed without a cost-benefit analysis, and where there is an impact assessment. So I would think that by its nature it takes the EU a while to enact new legislation.

But the EU legislation has then to be passed by national Parliaments or Governments. Changes may occur. Are the EU activities reassuring the investors?

The EU works on many things including the oil industry, including other types of mining. When you have something new like shale gas, which comes on the market where the only experience is in the US. I think it is normal when you see the level of public debate and the level of public concern about shale gas, it is normal that the EU will take its time to properly analyse it. But that doesn't stop member states starting to explore for shale gas, which countries like Poland and the UK are already doing. Because as I said basically every country is free to explore its natural resource in whatever way it wants to.

The only thing that investors might be concerned about is what kind of environmental legislation the EU might introduce. Because the EU is not in the position to ban for example exploration of shale gas, but at the same time individual countries can do that. So I don't think that is the EU necessarily that would be contributing to investors' uncertainty because there is already uncertainty when you look at countries that want to not allow it and countries that are

keen to go ahead. The EU can actually bring a certain amount of confidence to the market by passing legislation, which covers all 27 countries.

What initiatives or investigations have been undertaken so far?

We have commissioned a lot of studies. We had three studies for the European Commission... There have also been two studies with the European Parliament... We also had a public consultation, which ran for pretty much three months, which is recently finished. **We will be having also a series of stakeholders meetings.** We are consulting very widely on this, and looking at it from as a scientific point of view as possible.

In conclusion, is the EU a hurdle for investors?

What's the alternative? The alternative is no EU and then investors have to deal with 27 individual countries. At the moment, if you were investing in shale gas in Poland you would have one perspective but if you were thinking about investing in France you would have a completely different one. I think the fact that you would have a bloc of 27 countries with a population of 500 million people where rules are harmonised, that can be interesting for investors. But it is true that it takes a while for the EU to get a position and to enact the legislation.

By: Sergio Matalucci

<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/eu-shale-gas-legislation-joe-hennon>

UK

First UK fracking leak as Dart Energy wells fail

14 April 2013

The Scottish Herald today reported the UK's first fracking leak – at Coal Bed Methane (CBM) wells near Canonbie in Scotland. The wells – owned by Dart Energy – confirm anecdotal evidence from locals who have – over the last two years – periodically noticed gas in their water supply...

The leak is of no surprise to the oil and gas industry – drillers know well that many of their gas wells leak. Research by oil services company Schlumberger suggests up to 60 percent of gas wells will be leaking within 30 years. The UK's Society of Petroleum Engineers found 34% of gas wells leaking in the UK's North Sea (see p7 of linked pdf)

In the Norwegian North Sea 18% of gas wells are leaking. In 1992 the US EPA found 200,000 wells leaking, a 16.7% failure rate. There are many more studies and examples – see our piece on gas wells leaking.

SPAIN

As it seems the national government is now trying to reverse the decision of the Cantabria government on the ban of shale gas

With google translate, you can easily understand this article:

<http://www.abc.es/economia/20130410/abci-gobierno-unificara-legislacion-fracking-201304092054.html>

GERMANY

11 April- **NO Fracking Way in North-Hessia**

Though the bureaucratic procedures are not closed, we have reason to party this weekend in North-Hessia.

The Hessian Environmental Minister, Lucia Puttrich (CDU), has presented today the two Hessian-specific surveys (geological and legal) in the Hessian ecology committee.

She has instructed the permit/mining authority not to approve the application for the exploration-license of BNK Petroleum Deutschland GmbH. The given reason / summary of the surveys is that the Predominant Public Interest is given. Thus, the permission has to be denied on the basis of the current German mountain law.

BELGIUM

Hello Folks,

Just to let you know that the **Flemish Environment Minister today gave her approval for Belgium's first unconventional gas exploration license.**

It was hard for us to influence the decision, as the process was entirely closed, with no right to object or public enquiry, but we did show our opposition this morning as ministers entered the government building for the meeting in which the decision was announced, by being very visible in front of the door with a drilling rig and a banner.

The next stages will be some more desktop research (DART/LRM say for 2 years, but we imagine it might be less) followed by exploration drilling.

For the drilling stages, (both sampling and later test drilling and pilot project), there will be an environmental impact assessment and public enquiry.

We expect a second round of licensing in September.

Best wishes from Brussels,

Nicola

Nicola Freeman

Stop Steenkoolgas Campaign Coordinator

Friends of the Earth Flanders & Brussels

www.friendsoftheearth.be

www.facebook.com/StopSteenkoolgas



THE NETHERLANDS

Labour pro shale gas -

<http://www.nu.nl/politiek/3405085/landelijke-pvda-winning-schaliegas.html>

SWEDEN



Hundreds protest Sweden's mining boom - The Local – m.thelocal.se

<http://m.thelocal.se/47464/20130421/>

(...) "The mining boom is a threat to our and coming generations' futures", Nature and Youth said in a statement.

It continued: "We demand a radical change to the minerals law and a re-written minerals strategy."

Sweden's minerals strategy is aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of Swedish mining and mineral industries.

"It is pretty clear that this process is not just happening on a local level but across the world," one demonstrator, called Mirja Palo, said of the growing mining industry.
(...)

GLOBAL NEWS

CANADA

Development in rosebud water will be upgraded to make sure it safe and clean...

<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/development-in-rosebud-water-will-be-upgraded-to-make-sure-it-safe-and-clean-how>

Ottawa calls for details on fracking fluids

'Voluntary disclosure' of unidentified substances could help ease environmental concerns

[comment by jess: ive had a decade of voluntary, and spent thousands on Freedom of Information requests, i still dont know what i was bathing in, breathing venting from my water taps, or ingesting]

BY MIKE DE SOUZA, POSTMEDIA NEWS APRIL 12, 2013

The technique of hydraulic fracturing uses fluids to fracture underground shale rock formations to extract natural gas.

Photograph by: Brennan Linsley, The Associated Press Files , Postmedia News

Environment Canada wants oil and gas companies to come clean about the unidentified fluids they inject deep underground to extract natural gas.

In newly released correspondence obtained by Postmedia News, the department's top official told the main Canadian oil and gas lobby group that the government needed more information about the industrial process commonly known as fracking: fracturing shale rock formations underground with fluids to extract the gas.

Paul Boothe, the former deputy minister, wrote that a new industry voluntary disclosure program was a "positive step" toward improving environmental performance, increasing transparency and the "use of fluids with the least environmental risk."

But his letter to Dave Collyer, president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, also suggested the environment department, which has authority to regulate toxic substances under existing environmental laws, wasn't satisfied.

"Environment Canada would like to work with your organization and others to ensure that the voluntary disclosure is structured so that we can determine the environmental impact of these substances," wrote Boothe in the March 13, 2012 letter, released using access to information legislation.

"To further inform this work, information such as all chemical additives used, their volumes, and their storage and disposal methods would be required."

Environment Canada and the industry association were not immediately able to respond to questions about whether they had made progress in sharing information about the fluids since last year.

In an email, an association spokesman said it had asked members to respond to a voluntary government questionnaire, but did not track results.

Environment Canada also sent an email to say it was still working with other governments and companies to get information, but declined to provide details of any results.

Shale gas is considered to be a "game changer" that dramatically improves energy supplies and reduces consumer costs, while at the same time prompting environmental reviews and protests over concerns about potential water contamination.

NDP leader Tom Mulcair last June accused the same industry lobby group of "pulling a con job" when it suggested fracking processes were regulated, while refusing to disclose the content of their fluids that, he said, have "known carcinogens and other very dangerous substances."

Boothe, an economist who left Environment Canada to direct a policy centre at the University of Western Ontario's business school last summer, warned Environment Minister Peter Kent that water consumption and contamination topped the list of environmental concerns related to fracking.

"There is potential for water contamination from the use and disposal of drilling

muds and fracturing fluids," Boothe wrote in a memo to Kent dated March 8, 2011. "There is also a risk of natural gas or saltwater from the formation leaking into surface water, water wells or water aquifers."

That memo said a typical shale gas site with average wells would use about 110 million litres of water taken from ground or surface sources, affecting aquatic flora and fauna, and potentially affecting municipal water supplies. It also estimated the average well "may require between 55,000 and 220,000 litres of chemicals."

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Believing in clean oilsands like putting faith in 'magic fairies,' Alberta scientist says

By Tom Spears, OTTAWA CITIZEN April 12, 2013 in the calgary herald

OTTAWA — **Claims that Alberta's oilsands are environmentally harmless are "lies" and won't convince anyone in Washington,** one of this country's most famous ecologists said Friday.

Political leaders in Alberta and Ottawa "seem to think that Americans believe in magic fairies — just shut your eyes and say the oilsands are clean four times and it happens," said David Schindler of the University of Alberta.

He said this reflects the current federal ideology — not anti-science, but "anti-some kinds of science. Anything with 'environmental' in it seems to be anathema."

Schindler, a freshwater scientist, was speaking at Carleton University. He has been a leading research on pollutants ranging from phosphates to acid rain to toxic waste, and in 2001 won the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal, **a national award given to the country's top scientist.**

Showing his audience an aerial photo of a scarred landscape in oilsands country, he said environmental assessments show there is no environmental impact and companies claim the damage is later remediated.

"Why are people allowed to lie to the public like this? I just don't understand this. We have to challenge them," he said. "Obvious the people who used to challenge them, the civil servants, are no longer allowed to."

"If you got towns around the world to nominate the village idiot from every town and flew them over the oilsands, and asked them, 'Yes or no, is this a significant impact?' I think I know what the answer would be."

At Fisheries and Oceans Canada he said "there's nobody who knows any science in about the upper 10 levels of management ... They're accountants, they're business people." Schindler worked for Fisheries and Oceans in the 1970s and 1980s.

More to come.

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Original source article: Believing in clean oilsands like putting faith in 'magic fairies,' Alberta scientist says

Readmore: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Believing+clean+oilsands+like>

+believing+magic+fairies+scientist+says/8234297/story.html#ixzz2QIvSDQFJ

Environment Canada asks industry to come clean on hydraulic fracking

BY MIKE DE SOUZA, POSTMEDIA NEWS APRIL 11, 2013 3:20 PM

OTTAWA – Environment Canada wants oil and gas companies to come clean about the unidentified fluids they inject deep underground to extract natural gas.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/technology/environment/Environment+Canada+asks+industry+come+clean/8228375/story.html>

THE ENERGY MARKET

TODAY IN ENERGY: Thursday, April 11, 2013

Year-to-date natural gas use for electric power generation is down from 2012

Natural gas used to generate electricity so far this year is below the high level during the comparable 2012 period, when low natural gas prices led to significant displacement of coal by natural gas for power generation. In early 2013, coal recovered some market share as natural gas prices rose. By late March, wholesale natural gas prices at the Henry Hub trading center were back to \$4 per million British thermal units. In response, electricity generators used 16% less natural gas this March compared with March 2012.

[See graph and read more....](#)

Burn our planet or face financial meltdown. Not much of a choice -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/apr/21/carbon-problems-financial-crisis-hutton>

Last week's collapse of a European carbon emissions scheme makes an agreed approach to climate change all the more urgent

REPORTS – RESEARCH

<http://frackingfreireland.org/reports/press-articles/>

New study from Harvard - FracFocus fails as a disclosure tool

<http://www.eenews.net/public/energywire/2013/04/23/1>

I've attached the study (16 pages) and you can view it here also:

http://www.eenews.net/assets/2013/04/23/document_ew_01.pdf

New HEAL report out now! 'The Unpaid Health Bill: How coal power plants make us sick'

Burn our planet or face financial meltdown. Not much of a choice -

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/apr/21/carbon-problems-financial-crisis-hutton>

Last week's collapse of a European carbon emissions scheme makes an agreed approach to climate change all the more urgent

New report: Unburnable carbon 2013: Wasted capital and stranded assets

<http://www.carbontracker.org/wastedcapital>

Carbon bubble will plunge the world into another financial crisis – report

Trillions of dollars at risk as stock markets inflate value of fossil fuels that may have to remain buried forever, experts warn

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/apr/19/carbon-bubble-financial-crash-crisis>

Forfas report read page 68- 71 : http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/08042013-Costs_of_Doing_Business_2012-Publication.pdf

Another Reason to Ban Fracking: Administration Approves Lax Guidelines for Radioactive Exposure Food & Water Watch

When it comes to exposure to radioactive materials, how much is too much? If you're like most people, or...

Find More reasons on: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/reports/press-articles/>

Full Text Tunis:

To Reclaim Our Future, We Must Change the Present Our Proposal for Changing the System and not the Climate

The capitalist system has exploited and abused nature, pushing the planet to its limits, so much so that the system has accelerated dangerous and fundamental changes in the climate. Today, the severity and multiplicity of weather changes – characterized by droughts, desertification, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, forest fires and the melting of glaciers and sea ice – indicate that the planet is burning. These extreme changes have direct impacts on humans through the loss lives, livelihoods, crops and homes all of which have led to human displacement in the form of forced migration and climate refugees on a massive an unprecedented scale.

Humanity and nature are now standing at a precipice. We can stand idle and continue the march into an abysmal future too dire to imagine, or we can take action and reclaim a future that we have all hoped for.

We will not stand idle. We will not allow the capitalist system to burn us all. We will take action and address the root causes of climate change by changing the system. The time has come to stop talking and to take action.

We must nurture, support, strengthen and increase the scale of grassroots organizing in all places, but in particular in frontline battlegrounds where the stakes are the highest.

System Change means:

- **Leave more than two thirds of fossil fuel reserves under the soil, as well as beneath the ocean floor, in order to prevent catastrophic levels of climate change.**
- Ban all new exploration and exploitation of oil, tar sands, oil shale, coal, uranium, and natural gas.
- Support a just transition for workers and communities away from the extreme energy economy and into resilient local economies based on social, economic and environmental justice.
- Decentralize the generation and ownership of energy under local community control using renewable sources of energy. Invest in community based, small-scale, local energy infrastructure.
- Stop building mega and unnecessary infrastructure projects that do not benefit the population and are net contributors to greenhouse gasses like, mega dams, excessive huge highways, large-scale centralized energy projects, and superfluous massive airports.

- End the dominance of export-based industrial forms of food production, (including in the livestock sector), and promote small-scale integrated and ecologically sound farming and an agriculture system that ensures food sovereignty, and that locally grown crops meet the nutritional and cultural needs of the local community. These measures will help to cool the planet.
- Adopt Zero Waste approaches through promoting comprehensive recycling and composting programs that end the use of greenhouse gas emitting incinerators – including new generation hi-tech incinerators – and landfills.
- Stop land grabbing and respect the rights of small farmers, peasants and women. Recognize the collective rights of indigenous and tribal peoples consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their rights to their lands and territories.
- Develop economic strategies that create new kinds of 'climate jobs' - decent paying jobs that directly contribute to carbon reductions - in such sectors as renewable energy, agriculture, public transportation and building retrofits.
- Recover the control of the public sources to finance projects for people and nature like health, education, food, employment, housing, restoration of water sheds, conservation and restoration of forest and other ecosystems and others and stop the subsidies to dirty industries, agribusiness and military industry.
- Take cars off the roads by building clean public transport infrastructure that is adaptive to local, non-combustion energy sources, and make it accessible and affordable to everyone.
- Promote local production and consumption of durable goods to satisfy the fundamental needs of the people and avoid the transport of goods that can be produced locally.
- Stop and reverse corporate driven free trade and investments agreements that promote trade for profit and destroy the labor force, nature and the capacity of nations to define their own policies.
- Stop the corporate capture of the economy and natural resources for the profit of Transnational Corporations.
- Dismantle the war industry and military infrastructure in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of warfare, and divert war budgets to promote genuine peace.

With these measures we will be able to achieve comprehensive employment for all because built into this systemic change there will be more and better quality jobs than currently exist within the capitalist system. With these measures we will be able to build an economy that serves the people and not the capitalists. We will stop the endless degradation of the earth's land, air, and water and preserve the health of humans and the vital cycles of nature. We will avoid forced migration and millions of climate refugees.

System change requires an end to the global empire of transnational corporations and banks. Only a society that has the type of democratic control over resources which is based on workers (including migrant workers), indigenous and women's rights and respects the sovereignty of the people will be able to guarantee economic, social and environmental justice. System Change requires a break from the patriarchal society in order to guarantee women's rights in all aspects of life. Feminism and ecology are key components of the new society that we are fighting for.

We need a new system that seeks harmony between humans and nature and not an endless growth model that the capitalist system promotes in order to make more and more profit. Mother Earth and her natural resources cannot sustain the consumption and production needs of this modern industrialized society. We require a new system that addresses the needs of the majority and not of the few. We need a redistribution of the wealth that is now controlled by the 1%. And we also need a new definition of wellbeing and prosperity for all life on the planet under the limits of our Mother Earth.

While there will still be a battle inside the international UN climate negotiations, the main battlegrounds will be outside and will be rooted in the places where there are frontline struggles against the fossil fuel industry, industrial agriculture, deforestation, industrial pollution, carbon offsets schemes, and REDD-type carbon offsets projects, all resulting in land and water grabbing and displacements taking place all over the world.

The United States, Europe, Japan, Russia and other industrialized countries, as the main

historical carbon emitters, should implement the biggest emissions reductions. China, India, Brazil, South Africa and other emerging economies should also have targets for emission reductions based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility. We do not accept that on behalf of the right to development several projects for more unsustainable consumption and exploitation of nature are being promoted in developing countries only to benefit the profits of the 1%.

The fight for a new system is also the struggle against false solutions to climate change. If we don't stop them they will disrupt the Earth's System and deeply affect the health of nature and all life. We therefore reject techno-fix "solutions" like geo-engineering, genetically modified organisms, agrofuels, industrial bioenergy, synthetic biology, nanotechnology, hydraulic fracturation (fracking), nuclear projects, waste-to-energy generation based on incineration, and others.

We are also in opposition to those proposals that want to expand the commodification, financialization and privatization of the functions of nature through the so-called "green economy" which places a price on nature and creates new derivative markets that will only increase inequality and expedite the destruction of nature. We cannot put the future of nature and humanity in the hands of financial speculative mechanisms like carbon trading and REDD. We echo and amplify the many voices that are urging the European Union to scrap the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation), like Clean Development Mechanisms, is not a solution to climate change and is a new form of colonialism. In defense of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and the environment, we reject REDD+ and the grabbing of the forests, farmlands, soils, mangroves, marine algae and oceans of the world which act as sponges for greenhouse gas pollution. REDD and its potential expansion constitutes a worldwide counter-agrarian reform which perverts and twists the task of growing food into a process of "farming carbon" called Climate Smart Agriculture.

We must link social and environmental struggles, bring together rural and urban communities, and combine local and global initiatives so that we can unite together in a common struggle. We must use all diverse forms of resistance. We must build a movement that is based on the daily life of people that guarantees democracy at all stages of societies.

Many proposals already contain key elements needed to build new systemic alternatives. Some examples include, Buen Vivir, defending the commons, respecting Indigenous territories and community conserved areas, the rights of Mother Earth – rights of Nature, food sovereignty, prosperity without growth, de-globalization, the happiness index, the duties to and rights of future generations, the Peoples Agreement of Cochabamba and others.

We have all long hoped for the possibility of another world. Today, we take that hope and turn it into courage, strength and action - that together, we can change the system. If there is to be a future for humanity, we need to fight for it right now.

April 2013

Signed by the facilitators of the Climate Space

Alliance of Progressive Labor, Philippines
Alternatives International
ATTAC France
Ecologistas en Acción
Environmental Rights Action, Nigeria
ETC Group
Fairwatch, Italy
Focus on the Global South
Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and end TNCs' impunity
Global Forest Coalition
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Grupo de Reflexão e Apoio ao Processo do Fórum Social Mundial
Indigenous Environmental Network
La Via Campesina
No-REDD Africa Network
Migrants Rights International
OilWatch International
Polaris Institute
Transnational Institute

Disclaimer

This newsletter aims to be an open, international information platform about unconventional shale gas extraction. I see my role as a facilitator for all concerned people, to inform them and post their comments (like a letter to the editor in a newspaper). For that reason I aim to be as neutral as possible and I am not liaised to any anti-fracking group or political party.
Ineke Scholte

