



Information letter for those to whom fracking matters and (some) updates on the website
FFI contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org

*Our friends teach us what we can do
Our enemies teach us what we must do*

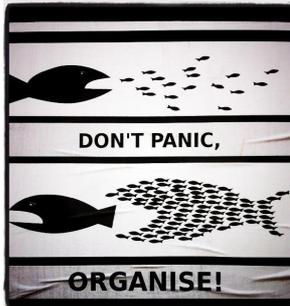
*This is not the fight of our lives
This is the fight for our lives*



Valentines day in Dublin – peaceful protest for Leinster House

Daisy, Tamborans 'worship of the golden calf '

'I really do not care about how 'safe' hydraulic fracturing could be - I do not want it full stop. I want a cleaner, fairer society living in an environment to be proud of.'
(David davidjtaylor@eircom.net)



EU Petition

This is the correct link -

http://www.petitions24.net/appeal_for_an_european_consensus_2_en

and the letter you will find here:

<http://www.schistehappens.com/documents>

full letter at the end of the newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRACKING' AND ITS ASSOCIATED RISKS

A series of presentations on the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing, or 'Fracking' will take place in **Dublin, Sligo, Fermanagh and Leitrim** next week.

Dr. John O'Connor and Jessica Ernst, M.Sc., will travel from Canada to address key issues in relation to the practice of Fracking, and to address public concerns in relation to the proposed extraction of shale gas in the North West using this controversial method.

Both speakers will reveal their first-hand experiences of hydraulic fracking in Canada, and will outline their concerns regarding the processes involved, as the debate continues here over the granting of licenses.

Ms. Ernst is a biologist and environmental consultant to the oil and gas industry, and long time critic of the method of Fracking in use in Alberta, Canada.

Dr. O'Connor is a Irish born physician-turned-whistleblower who came to prominence for linking increased cancer rates with environmental influences, a claim which was later backed up by the Alberta Cancer Board.

With first-hand experiences of living in communities where Fracking takes place, their insight into industry practices promises to be both informative and timely.

Sligo County Council recently joined their colleagues in counties Clare and Roscommon in banning Fracking, (Leitrim put in place a 5year moratorium), fearing that the processes involved may damage the region. But it is acknowledged that this ban can be overturned by Government at a future stage.

Members of the public are, therefore, encouraged to attend these presentations to inform themselves of the facts and to have any of their concerns addressed.

The presentation schedule is as follows:

Tuesday February **21st** at 8pm **Belcoo** Community Hall, Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh

Wednesday February **22nd** at 8pm Clarion Hotel, **Sligo**

Thursday February **23rd** at 8pm Bush Hotel, **Carrick on Shannon**, Co. Leitrim

Friday February **24th** at **Glenfarne**, Co. Leitrim, The Rainbow (Ballroom of Romance) at 8pm

Saturday February **25th** in **Dublin**. Venue & Time TBC

More Information:

Meg Rybicki 086 3840254

www.frackingfreeireland.org

<http://what-the-frack.org/events/>

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



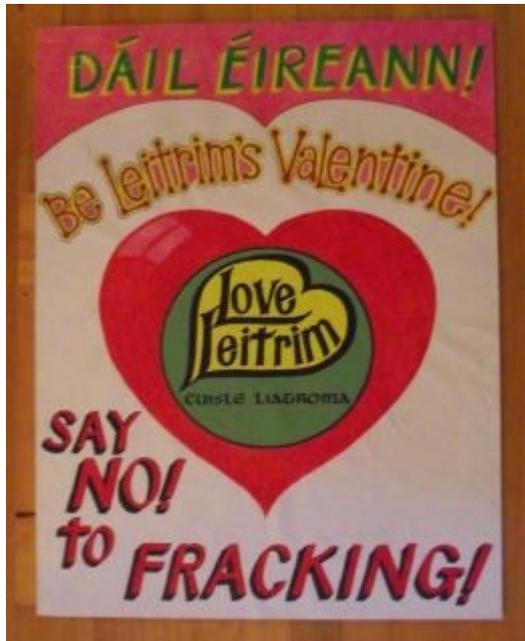
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1g0iJbIMc0&feature=youtu.be>

www.frackingfreeireland.org

<http://what-the-frack.org/events/>

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

VALENTINES DAY



Thanks to Charlie Easterfield

Love Leitrim? Ban Fracking.

Press release from Love Leitrim Manorhamilton Group: Press Officer: Dervilla Keegan



Love Leitrim? Ban Fracking.

A delegation of farmers and members of the Love Leitrim movement remind Dail TD's on Valentines Day that if they loved Leitrim, they would ban fracking.

Delegates are accompanied by "Daisy the Cow" designed by Leitrim sculptor Jackie Mc Kenna.

Daisy is there to remind TDs of the record 8.9 billion national exports that our food and drink industry gained last year which are at risk should the controversial procedure hydraulic fracturing be introduced to the country.

Preliminary results by the American Environmental Protection Agency in November 2011 have backed up initial anecdotal concerns by members of the public and linked ground water contamination in Wyoming with the procedure. One of the observed pollutants is Benzene, which could have disastrous implications for the Irish farming industry.

The procedure has been banned in France and Bulgaria with moratoriums in place in many countries.

Farmer Jim Dillon from Kiltyclogher, birthplace of Sean Mac Diarmada, and epicentre of the proposed initial fracturing zone says.

"This is an attack on the reputation of the farming industry. With actual cases of BSE and even the suggestion of contaminated Spanish cucumbers in the past having ruined national industries. External markets don't differentiate between counties, for example between Leitrim and Laois. Our green image for farming will be gone and that's a national issue."

The small delegation from Leitrim will gather at Kildare Street, outside Leinster House between 1pm and 4pm on Feb 14th, to coincide with a presentation by company officials from Tamboran to Dáil representatives.

A Valentines card will be given to TD's to ask them to pledge their love to Leitrim, and in so doing, committing themselves to protecting the future of Irelands green image internationally, which is of vital importance for farming and tourism.

For interview with Love Leitrim spokesperson Eddie Mitchell: please ring 087 2239972 Press Officer: Dervilla Keegan: 086 165 7424



Daisy arrived in Dublin

CORRESPONDENCE

By Charlie Williams

Open letter to the members of the 31st Dáil Éireann. Hydraulic Shale Gas Fracturing - Tamborans claims - Chemicals involved in the fracking procedure

Dear Taoiseach,

Dear Tanaiste,

Dear Ministers,

Dear members of the 31st Dáil Éireann,

In my last letter to you I discussed Tamboran's claim that almost as much gas could be recovered from the Laugh Allen Basin as from the 8 times larger Barnett Shale in Texas, US. Please take a look again at my updated article, Leitrim has \$55bn gas reserves, Tamboran claims. I like to point out that there is also a difference between proven resource and what is actually viably recoverable as explained in Aeberman's survey, A Perspective on Future U.S. Natural Gas Supply and Price.

Today I want to discuss the chemicals involved in the fracking process and what compounds are released into the environment

Read the full letter on this website Fracking Ireland:

<https://sites.google.com/site/frackingireland/open-letter-to-the-members-of-the-31st-dail-eireann-hydraulic-shale-gas-fracturing---tamborans-claims---chemicals-involved-in-the-fracking-procedure>

Letter and responds - Jane Jermyn

That should read before we know they weren't appearing before the Dail!!

On 13 Feb 2012, at 20:35, Jane Jermyn wrote:

As well as The Black Day For Ireland letter that I sent to my TD's (Waterford) I also wrote my own email to all Deputies and Senators and got a few replies, though some were just acknowledgments including from Pat Rabbitte telling to to contact Fergus O'Dowd in the future! I have had more replies than when I wrote to them all back in Sept, so it looks like there is much more awarness. I emailed the

letter below before we knew they were appearing before the Dail

Letter:

Dear Deputy

I have written to you before regarding on my concerns about the possibility of hydraulic fracturing taking place in Ireland and am writing again as, I'm sure you are aware, Tamboran Resources will be

speaking in the Dail on this coming Tuesday, February 14th. Tamboran are now employing very expensive PR companies to spin their lies and much of the media seems incapable of seeing through this. For example, Tamboran's claims, as stated on various RTE news casts, that they are 'an Australian mining giant' is laughable - they are aresearch and investment company that employ around 21 people at the moment - hardly a giant in anyone's terms. Tamboran also claim they will not use chemicals in the drilling process, but even if they don't, there are serious risks involved with underground minerals and salts being leached out of the rocks, as well as the danger posed by radon gas, and for very nasty cocktails to come back to the surface with the 40 percent or so of 'produced' water when it reaches the surface. The fact that both areas that they are hoping to frack are extremely sensitive environmentally, in particular the water system in Leitrim and the cave system in Fermanagh - which I realise is not part of your political domain, but is very much part of this beautifulcountry.

Minister Rabbitte's claim on Frontline that fracking took place 10years ago in Leitrim and no one noticed or complained is somewhat disingenuous, to say the least - the test bore holes that were drilled used the old method of fracking - which was to drill down, but not horizontally and they certainly did not use water and chemicals - the method used now - hydraulic fracturing is a new method, despite what the frackers keep telling us when they play with words - HYDRAULIC

FRACTURING only began in 2002.

I am extremely concerned too that Aberdeen University are involved in researching the risks for the EPA as requested by Minister Rabbitte. As stated in the Irish Times last week it is "no stranger to the oil and gas industry". That is putting it mildly - and I find it very hard to believe that this will be an impartial study - Aberdeen University receives funding from none other than Halliburton - the very

company that owns the patent on the process in question and gave rise to the 'Halliburton Loophole' which exempted oil and gas companies from disclosing the chemicals used in the 'proprietary' mixtures they use in the drilling process

Their claims of 600 permanent jobs, even if true, would negate many more that are there now in tourism, farming and various food businesses.

The use of millions of gallons of water required in each frack, the heavy trucks using the inadequate country roads, the noise and the constant threat of pollution to our air and waterways far out-way any advantages this 'gas bonanza' would bring.

This table show the amount of water that could be used to frack a well - it shows the newest hydraulic fracturing technology, a 12 stage fracture that will use 18,000 barrels of water per stage.

42 gallons per barrel

18,000 bbl X 42 gallons/bbl = 756,000 gallons

756,000 gallons per stage X 12 stages = 9,072,000 gallons

Remember, this water is not at all like the water used to water golf courses which is a claim industry loves to make, once used it can only be used again, if at all, in a further fracking process. There are numerous problem involved with the storage etc of this highly contaminated water. They water they use is a permanent withdrawal of our overall water budget.

The fact that a number of countries have banned or declared a moratorium on fracking shows just what madness it would be for our country to go ahead while there are so many questions about its safety.

Yours sincerely, Jane Jermyn

Replies:

David Norris wrote in reply -

Dear Jane,

Thank you very much for your email about the possibility of hydraulic fracturing and Tamboran Resources. I am always happy to be briefed by interested parties. Please rest assured that if an opportunity arises when I can highlight your concerns I will certainly do so.

You have made some very valid points which cannot be ignored.

With best wishes

David Norris

Also Trevor Ó Clochartaigh wrote -

Thanks Jane,

That is very useful. Please keep me posted as I am the Sinn Féin spokesperson on Natural Resources here in the Seanad.

Regards,

Trevor Ó Clochartaigh

And Maureen O'Sullivan wrote -

Jane; thank you for sending on the information to me. I know it is not directly relevant to me representing Dublin Central but it is relevant to me as an Irish citizen that we have a duty to protect our environment. As many civilisations believe we need to keep some 7 generations ahead of us in mind when decisions are being made.

I may make the briefing - just to hear what they have to say - but I have many concerns about the whole issue of fracking.

Regards,

Maureen O'Sullivan

I also heard from Michael Colreavy's political adviser -

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your email. The issue of 'fracking' is one that causes > great concern to Sinn Féin, especially to Deputy Michael Colreavy, TD for Sligo/North Leitrim. Deputy Colreavy has raised this issue on many occasions, most recently appearing on Morning Ireland on Wednesday morning. He also released a press statement on the issue <http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/22450>

He, and Sinn Fein, will continue to assist in the fight against 'fracking' being introduced to the Lough Allen Basin. If you have any more questions or need to contact us for any reason, please do not hesitate.

Is mise,

Seán Ó Sé,

Political Advisor,

IRISH - news

This is the transcript and link of the Richard Moorman and Niall Delaney interview. (18 Jan 2012)

<http://soundcloud.com/oceanfm/ocean-fm-richard-moorman-ceo>

transcript at the end of the newsletter

The screenshot shows the website for Environment & Energy Management. The main navigation bar includes links for HOME, ABOUT, COUNCILS, LINKS, PPL 2012, SUBSCRIBE, and ONLINE EXPO. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation is a banner for 'Tailored energy solutions for your business.' The main content area features a 'Tag Archive' for 'Tamboran Resources' and a featured article titled 'Substantial Natural Gas Field Confirmed in North West Ireland'. The article text states: 'Initial studies by Australian energy company Tamboran Resources have confirmed that a substantial natural gas field is present in north County Leitrim and south-west County Fermanagh. According to Tamboran, which proposes to invest up to Eur7 billion following completion of the first part of its analysis to determine the feasibility of shale gas exploration in Ireland, a gas exploration project could create 600 full time jobs, up to 2,400 indirect jobs and deliver substantial natural gas energy volumes for the next 40 years. Formed in 2009, Tamboran is currently a privately held company focused on global unconventional oil and gas exploration and development. Tamboran's technical team of over 20 professionals have been involved in substantial natural gas projects worldwide and have very high confidence that they can commercially develop this project in Ireland. The full analysis will be published by the end of this year.'

Substantial natural gas field confirmed in North West Ireland -

<http://eandemanagement.com/2012/02/substantial-natural-gas-field-confirmed-in-north-west-ireland/> (7 Febr. 2012)

NI

Take Action to ensure Fracking is banned in Northern Ireland - by Caroline cmakuyper@hotmail.com

Transition Derry ackling Peak Oil and Climate Change Together

A message to all members of Transition Derry
http://transitionderry.ning.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network

Dear friends

I am passing on very comprehensive information plus ideas for action. Please pass on to colleagues, friends and family who live in Northern Ireland. There's no place for fracking in the future of any country - if we are to have a future.

Marian

The following is an exert from the press release:

"Tamboran is proceeding with its agreed work programme of analysis, required under its existing licences, and will publish an update later this year. Additionally, the company will undertake a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment which will include a 12 month baseline study of all aspects of the environment, including soil, groundwater, air quality, noise levels, and seismic activity. The company will publish these findings upon completion in early 2013 and will then outline its intentions as to how it will request permission to proceed to the next stage of the licensing and planning processes."

'Tamboran will not utilise any chemicals in its hydraulic fracturing process in Northern Ireland, and we will be bringing together the best technologies developed worldwide into this one project to ensure the safe and responsible development of a tremendous resource for Northern Ireland.'

'We are undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment, which will set out the specific criteria under which the company must safely and responsibly conduct its operations to the very highest standards.' 'Additionally, we will establish a substantial community investment fund to ensure all benefits are shared at local as well as national levels. We consider it essential to deliver a direct benefit for local residents. Tamboran undertakes to operate safely and our commitment to openness and transparency will remain every step of the way.'

So, that would sound pretty reasonable if you haven't heard it all before and seen the aftermath.

Mr. R. Moorman CEO, of Tamboran, spoke to Niall Delaney, on Ocean FM recently and said, "Alberta A major agribusiness province. Major, co-exists peacefully with over half a million oil and gas wells."

"In the case of Ireland the rules are even tougher than what's in place in Alberta which are pretty tough compared to whats in the US. "

Jessica Ernst, also from Alberta, has worked in the oil industry for thirty years she says, "I believed the government when they promised us that what happened in America would not happen in Alberta....." Her

testimony is well worth the time. Please watch and share with your friends, family and community leaders.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xRQt3Q0xPc&feature=share>

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/02/07-1> (Article showing the Canadian position. They want a moratorium too.)

Northern Ireland Petition Action plan.

We all have different amounts of free time so please do what you can and thanks in advance for your actions.

1. Print off the paper petition document and send completed forms to. Ban Fracking NI, C/O Friends of the Earth, 7 Donegall Street Place Belfast, County Antrim BT1 2FN, United Kingdom.
2. Here is a suggestion I received today which I think is an excellent idea. "Would any of you consider putting up Anti-Fracking signs outside your houses and/or driveways. Show unity, don't be shy." Send photos for the next update or post on Facebook.
3. Don't forget your doctor needs to see a copy of the open letter to Arelene Foster MLA. There are many doctors opposing this already, but just like the petition signatures, we need many more.
4. I am collecting examples of renewable

energy and the current situation with respect to its development in NI. If you have any suggestions for that update please reply with details to this email.

5.. Write to your MLA or local newspaper, Fermanagh is just the beginning, if you look carefully at the licensing map you will notice how large an area of Northern Ireland is included.

UK – news

'Sunday times'

Gas find is enough to last 70 years

The reservoir of shale gas found in the northwest is so rich it could meet Britain's needs for decades

Jonathan Leake Published: 12 February 2012

Britain could face a boom in fracking, the controversial system for extracting shale gas by smashing underground rock strata, after the confirmation of a massive reservoir holding enough fuel to supply the country for 70 years.

The shale found in ancient marine sediments lying 7,000- 10,000ft beneath Blackpool, Preston, Southport and the surrounding countryside is richer in gas than originally thought.

Scientific tests suggest the rock has a concentration of gas similar to that of the richest American deposits, which are already being exploited. The shale layer is far thicker than expected, averaging about 3,000ft, according to the company carrying out the drilling.

"We have calculated that there are 200 trillion cubic feet of gas trapped in the rock beneath this area of Britain," said Mark Miller, chief executive of Cuadrilla, the company investigating the deposits. That is equivalent to 66 years of British gas consumption.

Such figures have to be treated cautiously because the amount of gas that can be extracted from shale is only a fraction of the total resource. It is also often in companies' interests to talk up their potential finds. However, the idea that similarly huge reservoirs may lie under other parts of Britain is shared by many experts, some of whom suggest there could be enough to supply the

country's needs for a century.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has suggested that Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, the Wessex Basin, Isle of Wight and Dorset are prime areas, along with parts of Scotland and the Midlands.

Last autumn its work, based on geological studies done for other reasons, was enough to prompt a surge of interest for government drilling licences.

Miller's optimism comes from much harder data - the results from three boreholes drilled around Blackpool, which are now being analysed by an independent US energy consultancy. He is already planning to seek licences for "field development", which would mean constructing dozens of "well pads". Each pad would have about 10 boreholes with shafts drilled vertically and then extending horizontally into the shale in different directions.

In fracking, high-pressure water, mixed with sand and chemicals, is pumped down the boreholes into the shale to break it up. The aim is to release methane from the tiny pores where it has lain trapped for millions of years.

"This shale compares with the best in North America," said Miller. "We hope to submit a field development application soon depending on exploration results."

Such a move could prove controversial. In America there have been complaints of leaking wells allowing gas to escape into ground water used for drinking - to the point where water coming out of taps has become flammable. There are also allegations of fracking chemicals appearing in drinking supplies.

There is also a risk of triggering small earthquakes. Last May Cuadrilla was forced to halt drilling after the water it had injected into its Preese Hall well near Blackpool triggered tremors. However, the firm is expected to be allowed to resume work shortly after a report from a team of geologists, including seismic experts from the BGS. It will say that although fracking does cause quakes these are similar to the hundreds of naturally occurring tremors that hit Britain every year.

Brian Baptie, head of seismology at the BGS, said: "Weak rocks like shale break easily so they do not allow enough tension to build to generate big tremors."

For Britain the long-term value of shale gas could be huge. Cuadrilla is just one of a number of energy firms exploring for shale

gas. Another is Coastal Oil and Gas, based in south Wales, which has bought the right to prospect over 6,600 square miles in south Wales, Somerset and Kent, although its initial planning applications have generated widespread public opposition.

The shales targeted by such firms formed about 330m years ago during the carboniferous era, when what is now England and Wales lay near the equator and was largely covered in warm shallow seas.

When plankton and algae living in those seas died and sank, their remains became mixed with the thick sediments being laid down at the same time. Over millennia, the sediments became covered by successive layers that compressed and heated them. This "cooked" the organic matter, which decomposed to produce gas.

The BGS, whose key task is to produce inventories of Britain's mineral resources, has been much more cautious about potential reserves, suggesting previously that there were no more than a few years' worth. Following Cuadrilla's results, it is now re-evaluating its data.

Mike Stephenson, the BGS's head of energy, said: "There could be a lot more there but we

need to be cautious. Our new method will build 3-D models of underground rock strata, so we know the breadth and the depth of the gas-bearing strata and that should be much more accurate." Hot or not?

Supporters of fracking argue that it can access vast supplies of natural gas lying locked in underground rock strata.

They say world gas supplies have risen as a result, which has helped to keep energy prices down. That price reduction, they say, has produced a knock-on effect on oil, keeping its cost down too.

Its proponents add that cheaper gas can be used as a substitute for coal, which produces far more carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other pollutants. Also, if Britain can develop enough new gas fields through fracking, dependence on overseas gas supplies will be reduced.

However, critics say the high-pressure water injected into rock during fracking can "lubricate" existing faults and trigger small earthquakes, as happened in Blackpool last year.

They say methane gas and the chemicals used in the process can contaminate drinking water, while the burning of gas obtained through fracking produces CO2, which causes global warming.

12/02/2012 * Sun Times *

EU

Think tank -Thomas More

Benchmarking Study Shale Gas France - Poland

1. What are the economic interests of Shale Gas exploitation in Europe?

2. How does Poland lobby for its national interests ?

<http://www.institut-thomas-more.org/actualite/163-milliards-de-plus-analyse-comparative-de-la-depense-publique-en-france-et-en-allemande-3.html>

According to the researcher Laurent Vinatier l.vinatier@institut-thomas-more.org in writing to NGO after critical questions who they are:

'...The Thomas More Institute is financed both by public and private subventions BUT without specific mandates. We are free to promote our goals as we want (see our goals here <http://www.institut-thomas-more.org/en/about.html>

. But still, we have to justify our grants... that's why we are undertaking such studies (we have done another benchmarking study in June last year). Like any other think tanks, our aim is to be as close to the current world stakes as possible. For Shale Gas, it is a bit still too early but in France there are already mobilisation. Scientists debate. That study is to provide a state of art on that issue, with objective and academic methodology. The Thomas More Institute is not lobbying for Shale Gas development. It is dedicated to produce a balanced research, describing on one hand the French and Polish national strategies and emphasizing on the other hand arguments of their opponents. The Thomas More Institute is absolutely not aiming at siding with one or the other side.

Of course, I can not hide that we hope to attract press interests, maybe not now but on time. We want to be considered as a think tank of reference, that's why it is impossible that we compromise financially with Total, Halliburton or any other big actors....'

Transcript of radio interview

between Richard Moorman, CEO, Tamboran Resources and

Niall Delaney, Northwest Today, Ocean FM

on 18 January, 2012

<http://soundcloud.com/oceanfm/ocean-fm-richard-moorman-ceo>

Richard Moorman: Thanks Niall I'm out in Hong Kong meeting investors.

Niall Delaney: What do you make of the latest developments, fairly significant developments. Sligo County Council deciding to ban fracking and Donegal County Council following suit. Are you concerned or worried by that.

RM: No, you know there are a couple of things to consider. First of all the project is a very small area focussed in North Leitrim so none of the johnnies that are reacting are in any way impacted by anything we do and the largest footprint we are going to have will be 60 well pads in 7 acres so we are talking 420 acres in north Leitrim so basically we are not going to have any impact on them but Niall the most disappointing part we don't know specifically what was said in the case of these 2 councils so, we have reviewed the information that the opposition groups have presented to the other councils and what we have seen is its filled with outright

misinformation. The anti groups are saying things that are completely contradictory to what we've said in public. Their research is primarily from the Gasland entertainment film out of America. There is no independent research here at all. But again this why local councils don't decide the fate of the country's biggest decisions.

ND: OK so are you really saying it doesn't really matter what local councils decideit'll be higher powers ultimately who will make the decisionsIs that the basis on which you...

RM: Yeah its not my final decision its my expectation that the State wouldn't let anybody who doesn't have an expertise in geology and engineering make such complicated decisions as would be required in this kind of project. That's what the EPA is undertaking right now at Minister Rabbitte's request. So we have to let them do their job and they will make the decision as to what's safe and best for the nation. Certainly I would want to add though we do respect the decisions of the councils. They have to make the decisions for their communities. Obviously if there were projects in their area it would matter. However, to this end Niall we have made it clear and you can pass this along that since Sligo particularly has made this distinction, we are going to withdraw the entire training programme for out 600 – 1200 person workforce from IT Sligo so that we can avoid in any way upsetting the local residents with our presence in Sligo.

ND: So what's that going to mean. Does that mean a possible lack of investment in Sligo ultimately.

RM: Well there wouldn't be any point in trying to upset the council by employing local people or businesses when they've decided that they don't want anything to do with the project.

ND: Right ok the problem here as I see for Tamboran, for yourself and for other groups who have been granted licences is that on the face of it nobody seems to want this to happen in this region. Nobody has spoken up in favour of it, is that a concern to you.

RM: No because you are only seeing what the opposition forces wish to put forward. We have a lot of people on the ground talking to business operators. I have 150 resumes from the area on my desk, so I have no doubt that there are people who want this project to succeed. Every time we make a media appearance Niall I get a bunch more resumes and job enquiries and business enquiries so, we know that people who want the best for their communities are actually trying to get people employed. We know that the antis won't listen to anything we say that is why they continue to say things that aren't even accurate about the project just to try to scare people from listening to the facts.

ND: So would you be very dismissive of what you call the antis those opposed to fracking

RM: The anti development folks are committed to stopping all development. Their information is based on a flawed movie called Gasland. That movie has been roundly discredited by the EPA. For example the tap lighting scene where fire is seen to come from the tap comes from an area where this is naturally seen to occur. There was no oil and gas development in this area when that started happening. So this is the kind of misinformation they are relying on. Unfortunately some of them themselves don't know this because they are relying on the internet for their information. They have never actually been to one of these projects, they don't even know someone who has worked on them.

ND: So what you are saying is quite clear is that Tamboran and you personally you have no intention of walking away from this project despite what local authorities have decided.

RM: Niall we are not because next week there's going to be some information released. We have already met the Government regulators in Belfast and Dublin to show them the extent of what this project will do and I can assure you that those 600 acres in north Leitrim are going to put a lot of dollars in Ireland's pocket and 600 more jobs directly into that community so I think it would be highly irresponsible with 150 resumes on my desk from people as far away as Australia wanting to come home for me to simply walk away because some people who don't understand the project want to try and scare people.

ND: And you are quite clear on that because there were some doubts raised at the council meetings in relation to that. You are saying that 600 jobs will be created in north Leitrim in the short-term you are saying Richard

RM: Yes every time you drill wells you are making things that people want to look after - it

would be irresponsible not to. So if you envisage the project growing in well count year after year peaking some time around 2025 we'll go from approximately a workforce of perhaps 30 people in 2013 growing to by 2025 over 600 people in that area and then those jobs will run for 35+ years not to say too much about what's in our news next week but that's 14,000 person years of employment.

ND: OK and just on a final matter when you were in studio with us a few months ago you insisted that you can carry out hydraulic fracturing in the north west without the use of chemicals and it won't be environmentally damaging or damaging to agriculture. You are still insisting even though that has been untested you are still insisting that that can happen.

RM: Well there is nothing untested about it. It's kind of funny to hear people saying that chemicals are bad but if you take them out suddenly there is something greater at risk. It's simply not the case. None of the chemicals in these processes actually do anything to crack the rock. It is only the pressure of the fluids, in this case purely water with sand to support the cracks open once it's done but I want to be very clear because I don't think people understand this. This is now the standard practice in North America. Over 20,000 wells were drilled in this way last year and they were hydraulically fractured in over 90% of the cases. Alberta, a major tourism and agri business province, major, co-exist peacefully with over half a million oil and gas wells so we have no doubt the process is safe. What someone sees in an image on the internet can hardly be considered accurate and in the case of Ireland the rules are even tougher than what is in place in Alberta which are pretty tough compared to what's in place in the US.

ND: And can you satisfy the concerns expressed by the Minister for Energy Pat Rabbitte himself before Christmas. You feel you can satisfy what he is asking of you.

RM: We will do whatever the Minister sets. If he wants regulation we will abide by every single rule in the book. We are here to make a difference, a positive impact on the economy. If he wants 100 rules we are happy to accommodate that. We are not about trying to get around some corner here. When you are going to make a project last for 50 years in a community you better do the right thing from day 1.

ND: OK Well all the way from HongKong this morning, Richard Moorman Chief Executive of Tamboran Resources. A very good morning to you.

RM: Thanks Niall I appreciate the time. Take care.

Sound recording of this transcript can be heard at:



EU PETITION – letter (and email addresses)

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2012-01-30

Dear Commissioners,

During the presentation of the findings of the inquiry **“IMPACTS OFF SHALE GAS & SHALE OIL EXTRACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN HEALTH”** (IP/A/ENVI/ST/2011-07) by Stefan Lechtenböhmer, overseen by Lorenzo Vicario) giving clear indication of the very real concern of European citizens concerning climate change, you declared that current levels did not justify official EU opposition to the new shale gas technology.

At the closure of debate, the Commission refused entirely **to** reject the exploitation of shale gas in Europe stating that it remained 'torn between “energy security” and “environment”'. We now understand that you, **Commissioner Oettinger, are personally responsible for overseeing the adoption of common measures for EU and to submit a proposal by 2012”**.

Furthermore, according to a recent article in “The Wall Street Journal”, you have declared, **Mr Oettinger, that the European commission is now opposed to any new legislative framework for shale gas and oil in the European Union deeming existing regulation to be adequate. We wonder how you can be so sure in light of the limited activity that has taken place to date.**

MEP Jo.Leinen had previously suggested in the UK newspaper “The Guardian” that he wished for an entirely new Directive which would cover the extraction of fuels having negative effects on the environment - such as shale gas and oil and also bituminous sand – be strictly regulated within the E.U. **Jo LEINEN had** affirmed that this legislation would without doubt be sustained since many euro-deputies more and more anxious about the role of shale gas in the world energetic mix.

The Council has - moreover - asked for a schedule concerning water tables and a revision of the directive 80/68/CEE of the Council on December 17th, 1979 concerning the protection of water tables/aquifers against the pollution caused by dangerous substances, within the framework of a policy of the protection of fresh water.

In nature, one million years are necessary with temperatures between 100 and 150°C to generate hydrocarbons in the rock. However, these natural resources - and especially fossils - are not an infinite source. To destroy such geological riches for short term gain is nothing short of criminal.

Furthermore, there is now a consensus on the reality of climatic disorder and the major challenge of the 21st century is the programmed exhaustion of *our* natural resources. Thinking populations across the globe now agree that the exploitation for greed of finite resources is the height of irresponsibility. **Indeed, “an energy transition isn’t only possible, but it is economically viable, it’s not only possible, but “It’s the ONLY OPTION” because we are confronted with the most frightening urgency of our century.**

It's important to re-iterate here the risks incurred by "fracking" : the use of up to 700 chemicals for instance, for the most part generators of cancers and Adam Law, a endocrinologist of the medical school Weill Cornell of New York estimates that it is necessary to impose a moratorium on fracking, as long as the question of the effects about health remain unclear. The proven pollution of the water table, and the the risks of earthquakes not to mention the disruption to flora and fauna and rural and semi-rural communities by massive logistics remain a constant.

You may consider all of this to be just too idealistic, but all is possible; each action is realistic and realizable. The need now is for political vision and responsibility. Caving in to the massive oil and gas lobby is nothing short of an irresponsible abdication of your duty to those who elected you in good faith. Time is short and the need to move to a scenario based primarily on renewable sources is paramount. Examples exist already within the EU. You will know that Germany has cancelled it's nuclear programme in the light of the Fukushima catastrophe and now procures as much as 30% of it's total requirement from solar technology.

The desire for change is widespread and one that you would be wise not to underestimate. We all wish for a Europe that that takes into account the wishes of the wider community/population and not one which panders to the requirements of industry and more especially an industry with a proven track record of environmental irresponsibility and greed.

We desire change, and not only in the decisions of energy-mix: we wish for a Europe which considers human needs, and honours it's responsibility to those who elected it's members and not those who lobby for profit.

Yours sincerely,

(Name and contact details for reply/acknowledgement)



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