



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

Thanks to all for the contribution

***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***

IRISH NEWS – SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

Deadline: 29 February 2012

On 23 December 2011, Minister Phil Hogan TD published a new Draft Framework for Sustainable Development, **and now he would like our input!**

Here is an excerpt from the Minister's statement: "It is widely recognised, at both UN and EU levels, that it is not possible to achieve sustainable development goals without advancing the green economy, a fact which has also been highlighted consistently by the OECD. "The 'business-as-usual' model is no longer fit for purpose if we are to put Ireland on a low carbon, climate resilient and economically competitive path. We need to craft a new vision for Ireland for the future, thinking beyond our current economic challenges and coming up with measures that will be both effective and implemented in a joined-up way. A central plank of Ireland's economic recovery will centre on the development of a green economy that is alive to the opportunities for investment and employment creation in emerging sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and waste and water management, and recognises how this sustainable approach to economic development complements the core strengths of the economy in the use of natural resources."

In case anyone out there had any thoughts to share with the minister on how to sustainably develop Ireland, here is the link to the press release:

<http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/News/MainBody,29088,en.htm>

and the Draft Framework itself can be downloaded from the same page.

Here are the details for submissions. Please note that the deadline is coming right up (29 February 2012)!

"You are invited to submit any comments or observations to Kevin Greene,
(Tel.: 003531 888 2278; email: fsdi@environ.ie),
Environment International and Sustainable Development Unit, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government by close of business on Wednesday 29 February 2012."

UPCOMING EVENTS

By: Michael Mc Evoy mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com

Richard Moorman the PR kingpin and CEO of Tamboran, the company who have stated they will frack in Fermanagh and in the Lough Allen Basin in the Republic will be speaking at an Energy Institute event on Jan 11th at Action Renewables Belfast. Please try and contact the number below and book a space. We need to represent our opposition to the plans to Frack in Ireland. If you manage to book a seat please let us know.

What role will fossil fuels have to contribute in the post 2020 energy mix?

11 January 2012

18.00 - 20.00

Venue

Action Renewables

Address

Block C
Unit 1
Boucher Business Studios
Glenmachan Place
Belfast, BT12 6QH

Summary

EI members are invited to this seminar to hear a talk and presentation on the above topic, followed by an extensive Q&A session with discussion from the floor encouraged. Lead speakers are Richard Moorman and Karl Prenderville. Light refreshments will be available, however, places are strictly limited so pre-registration is essential.

For more information, contact

- Robin Davey CSci MEI
- t : +44 (0)28 3833 6458
- e : r.davey@btinternet.com

<http://www.energyinst.org/events/view/667>

A meeting will take place in Burkes Bar **Carrick on Shannon** on **Thurs 12th. Jan @ 7.30pm.**

This will be an SOS "SAVE OUR SHANNON" meeting and will be hosted by Carrick Against Fracking group.

It is envisaged that the first Thurs of each month will be set aside for SOS meetings in Carrick (or other venue)

This group will facilitate those who want to SAVE something rather than against. People from other groups are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. More details to follow.

Further **info 087 909 3 909**

Next meeting for the Belfast group

will be on **Tue' Jan' 10th at 6.30pm** at the Friends of the Earth Offices in Belfast. See link below for directions. I hope you can make it. See you soon,

http://www.foe.co.uk/northern_ireland/northern_ireland_feedback.html

Free showings of GASLAND

DERRY: 12th Jan 19:00 - The Nerve Centre
LETTERKENNY: 19th Jan 19:00 - The Regional Culture Centre
MOVILLE : 31st Jan 19:00 - Moville Library
BUNCRANA: 1st Feb 18:30 - Buncrana Library

Free Screening

of

GASLAND

Is fracking safe?

When filmmaker Josh Fox is asked to lease his land for drilling, he embarks on a cross-country odyssey uncovering a trail of secrets, lies and contamination. A recently drilled nearby Pennsylvania town reports that residents are able to light their drinking water on fire. This is just one of the many absurd and astonishing revelations of a new country called GASLAND. Part verite travelogue, part expose, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown."

Venues:

DERRY:	Thurs 12th January 7pm The Nerve Centre
LETTERKENNY:	Thurs 19th Jan 7pm The Regional Cultural Centre
MOVILLE :	Tues 31st Jan 7pm Moville Library
BUNCRANA:	Wed 1st Feb 6.30pm Buncrana Library

Hydraulic Fracturing or 'fracking' involves the pumping of millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into shale rock to release natural gas for energy use. The process has been implicated in causing earthquakes in the US and UK. Licences have been granted in Ireland for exploration in the Lough Allen and

Enniskillen - 22 February 2012

By Mike D nautical_9@hotmail.com:

'I think this event organised by the DARD would be a good event to go along to and hand out DVD's, flyers and talk to people on the threat of Fracking to farmers.

I hope to get down and do what i can.'

All upcoming events on web FFI

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

LOCAL GROUPS

MARDI (making a real Difference, Ireland) and the **North West Network against Fracking**

Contact: Meg rybicki

youthmardingo@gmail.com

Donegal and Bundoran Councils voted against fracking, Bundoran on the 27th of October or November. Michael McMahon Mayor of Bundoran totally against.

We sent over **200 signed letters** to a Sligo County Councillor "of your choice" (we had the letters, stamps and envelopes ready at our anti fracking stall for the 3 days we ran it in O'Connell street, Sligo, the week before xmas. It will give them food for thought,

If anyone else wants it to write a letter: have a look, and maybe adapt or improve, just email me!

meg rybicki youthmardingo@gmail.com

The public were concerned, and we will

have the stand up again in Sligo town **towards the end of January**, its a busy shopping street, and good catchment area. lots of people **walking round with black shamrock ban fracking badges** now, its great, they are very prominent.



CLARE GROUP

The concerned people in Clare are organized in the group:

CLARE FRACKING CONCERNED -
clarefrack@gmail.com

They issue an update email. For info, please contact the above email address.

CAMPAIGN SUGGESTIONS

By Natalie Descheres
n.descheres@socratconsulting.com

Make fracking viral

Dear All,

Happy New Year to you all and best wishes for 2012.

Over Christmas I pondered what would be the best way to bring more collaboration and coordination to the various groups (local, national and international, NGOs and non NGOs) without necessarily bringing in too much control and disempowering all ground force in the process. Looking ahead, it looks like public mobilisation will be necessary and people may have to go down the street, campaigning physically in order to be heard. It has been happening already in some places.

Fragmented movements here or there attract little media attention, or the power of such demonstration is diminished by coming across as "local". Yet the movement is global.

I wondered whether such demonstration such be accompanied by standardised "visuals" and "audios" in order to gain impact.

- By visuals, I am suggesting maybe for people to go down the street with their face marred in white with heavily blackened eyes to symbolise the fact that fracking is a killer.
- By "audio", I wondered (this is ambitious) whether a song could be written in order to highlight what we oppose but also what we stand for. The tune I was thinking for was A. Winehouse "Rehab" because it would be easy for crowds to shout "No, no, no" in a catchy way. It also has two tampo, which could be used for highlighting why we do not want fracking and another where a positive vision could be articulated. If such song could be organised, we could involve all communities wishing to be represented into a video that could made viral on the net. It is a lot of work but it could be an exciting way to unify our efforts, gather momentum and expand fracking from a local to global issue. By staying local we are playing the game of the industry, so let's get big and have fun in the process.

By combining visuals and audios, a date could be set trans-nationwise and have crowds chanting at once and in unity against fracking. This would however require strong coordination across groups and a willingness to go beyond local issues.

Any thoughts?

Natalie

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

COULD ANYONE SCAN THE ARTICLE AS REFERRED BELOW? Please . This newspaper is not available in my area.
(Ineke ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

By M C nautical_9@hotmail.com

Good to see the Irish News did a FRONTPAGE plus 4 page follow up report inside the 5-1-2012 edition on Fracking here.

It was a good full on no-holds barred report. If anyone missed it i can send them the report by way of scan, not sure it is online to view or download.

In todays publication they printed an email i sent.

See attached, its good to see they aired my views although they did edit the email.

www.examiner.ie/features/what-the-frack-178164.html (Web FFI: Irish press)

Farm incomes up 27% last year



IFA report says average farm incomes rose 27 per cent last year

SUZANNE LYNCH

Farm incomes increased by 27 per cent last year, with average farm incomes reaching €21,500, according to the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA).

Related

- Exports of food and drink may break records | 03/01/2012
- Indigenous Irish exports at EU flag | 23/12/2011
- The EU Cap still fits for Ireland's farmers | 08/12/2011
- Exiting euro could be 'best option' for farmers | 25/11/2011

External

- Irish Farmers' Association

The Irish Times takes no responsibility for the content or availability of other websites

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/0109/breaking11.html> (Web FFI: Irish press)

This article shows how important agriculture is becoming to the Irish economy once again.

REPORTS

The SEAB Shale Gas Production Subcommittee
Ninety-Day Report – August 11, 2011

Executive Summary

The Shale Gas Subcommittee of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board is charged with identifying measures that can be taken to reduce the environmental impact and improve the safety of shale gas production.

Natural gas is a cornerstone of the U.S. economy, providing a quarter of the country's total energy. Owing to breakthroughs in technology, production from shale formations has gone from a negligible amount just a few years ago to being almost 30 percent of total U.S. natural gas production. This has brought lower prices, domestic jobs, and the prospect of enhanced national security due to the potential of substantial production growth. But the growth has also brought questions about whether both current and future production can be done in an environmentally sound fashion that meets the needs of public trust.

This 90-day report presents recommendations that if implemented will reduce the

Shale gas energy

First report: August 2011
http://www.shalegas.energy.gov/resources/081111_90_day_report.pdf

or on Web FFI:
<http://ubuntuone.com/09JFIASzLoY0CNnA5yVz31>

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board



Shale Gas Production Subcommittee Second Ninety Day Report

And second report: October 2011
http://www.shalegas.energy.gov/resources/111011_90_day_report.pdf

Or on Web FFI
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/second-and-final-ninety-day-report-reviewing-the-progress-that-has-press-release.pdf>
(Web FFI: official reports)

HF and HEALTH

Dear friends,

A veterinarian colleague of mine here in upstate New York has just published in *New Solutions* a case-study investigation of the link between natural gas drilling and health effects in humans, livestock, and companion animals (pets). A pdf file of the paper is attached below. It will be up on the web tomorrow.

This paper is an excellent compilation of current public health knowledge and the various vexing obstacles to further inquiry. Feel free to correspond directly to the lead author, Michelle Bamberger.

Gladly,

Sandra

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.
Distinguished Scholar in Residence
Department of Environmental Studies
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY 14850

Sandra Steingraber ssteingraber@ithaca.edu

ABSTRACT

Environmental concerns surrounding drilling for gas are intense due to expansion of shale gas drilling operations. Controversy surrounding the impact of drilling on air and water quality has pitted industry and leaseholders against individuals and groups concerned with environmental protection and public health. Because animals often are exposed continually to air, soil, and groundwater and have more frequent reproductive cycles, animals can be used as sentinels to monitor impacts to human health. This study involved interviews with animal owners who live near gas drilling operations. The findings illustrate which aspects of the drilling process may lead to health problems and suggest modifications that would lessen but not eliminate impacts. Complete evidence regarding health impacts of gas drilling cannot be obtained due to incomplete testing and disclosure of chemicals, and nondisclosure agreements. Without rigorous scientific studies, the gas drilling boom sweeping the world will remain an uncontrolled health experiment on an enormous scale.

Keywords: hydraulic fracturing, shale gas drilling, veterinary medicine, environmental toxicology

At what point does preliminary evidence of harm become definitive evidence of harm? When someone says, "We were not aware of the dangers of these chemicals back then," whom do they mean by we?

—Sandra Steingraber, *Living Downstream* (Da Capo Press, 2010)

51

© 2012, Baywood Publishing Co., Inc.
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2190/NS.22.1.e>

www.iehn.org

blog:

<http://www.greenbiz.com/blogs/user/Richard-Liroff>

linkedin: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/richardliroff>



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
MINORITY STAFF
APRIL 2011

CHEMICALS USED IN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

(Web FFI: Official reports/research)

FRACKING-FLUID-RECIPE (chemicals)

Fazekas László fazekas.laszlo@mtvsz.hu;
(Hungary) www.mtvsz.hu
asked for the chemicals used by fracking.

All about chemicals, REACH etc: Visit:
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/politics-related-info/comments-on-eu-policy/>
(Web FFI: political issues/comments on EU policy)

A global response:

For some fairly easy-to-find disclosures for frack fluids used in the State of Pennsylvania in the US, look on the following three company pages:
<http://www.rangeresources.com/Operations/Marcellus-Division/Well-Completion-Reports.aspx>
and
<http://www.eqt.com/production/compositions.aspx>
and
http://www.chiefog.com/fracturing_fluids.html
and
American companies are posting their fracking fluid formulations at the website
www.fracfocus.org
but it is not a user-friendly website.

Richard A. Liroff, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Investor Environmental Health Network
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046
703 532-2929
rliroff@iehn.org

Here the **recent report** by the US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce on "Chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing".
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Hydraulic-Fracturing-Report-4-18-11-chemicals.pdf> (April 2011)
(Web FFI: official reports)

The findings are pretty scary - here some excerpts:
"Between 2005 and 2009, the 14 oil and gas service companies used more than 2,500 hydraulic fracturing products containing 750 chemicals and other components.16 Overall, these companies used 780 million gallons of hydraulic fracturing products in their fluids between 2005 and 2009. This volume does not include water that the companies added to the fluids at the well site before injection. The products are comprised of a wide range of chemicals. Some are seemingly harmless like sodium chloride (salt), gelatin, and citric acid. Others could pose a severe risk to human health or the environment."

"Between 2005 and 2009, the hydraulic fracturing companies used 95 products containing 13 different carcinogens. These included naphthalene (a possible human carcinogen), benzene (a known human carcinogen), and acrylamide (a probable human carcinogen). Overall, these companies injected 10.2 million gallons of fracturing products containing at least one carcinogen."

"Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA regulates 53 chemicals that may have an

adverse effect on human health and are known to or likely to occur in public drinking water systems at levels of public health concern. Between 2005 and 2009, the hydraulic fracturing companies used 67 products containing at least one of eight SDWA-regulated chemicals. Overall, they injected 11.7 million gallons of fracturing products containing at least one chemical regulated under SDWA."

"In addition, the hydraulic fracturing companies injected more than 30 million gallons of diesel fuel or hydraulic fracturing fluids containing diesel fuel in wells in 19 states."

"More than 650 of these [2,500 hydraulic fracturing] products contained chemicals that are known or possible human carcinogens, regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, or listed as hazardous air pollutants."

"In many instances, the oil and gas service companies were unable to provide the Committee with a complete chemical makeup of the hydraulic fracturing fluids they used. Between 2005 and 2009, the companies used 94 million gallons of 279 products that contained at least one chemical or component that the manufacturers deemed proprietary or a trade secret."

Cheers,
Axel

AXEL SINGHOFEN
Adviser on Health and Environment Policy
[Greens/EFA](#) in the European Parliament

Office PHS 4C35, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels
Phone: + 32 2 284 28 36 (Bruxelles)
Phone: + 33 3 88 17 35 50 (Strasbourg)
E-mail: axel.singhofen@europarl.europa.eu

United Kingdom comments on "fracking" activities

The Environment Agency (EA) has responsibility for regulatory oversight on unconventional gas and hydraulic fracking activity within England and Wales. Only one company – Cuadrilla Resources Ltd - has undertaken fracking at unconventional gas wells thus far in the UK. Fracking has occurred at one site in Lancashire and following recent localised seismic activity, this activity has been temporarily suspended following investigation by the British Geological Survey. Cuadrilla have been completely transparent about the chemicals used for their exploratory fracking:

- **Ucarcide** (The Dow Chemical Company) – this is a broad-spectrum biocide that will restrict the growth of microbes and algae

in the hydraulic fracturing system. The active substance is **Glutaraldehyde**, which is a disinfectant that has been used for cleaning medical and dental equipment. Glutaraldehyde biodegrades rapidly in a fresh water aquatic environment. Because mains water is being used it may not be necessary for Cuadrilla to add this biocide. If it were necessary, we understand it would be used as a very dilute solution (0.005%).

- **FR-40** (CESI Chemical) – this is a blend of chemicals including **Polyacrylamide** and is used to reduce friction between the water and the pipe when pumping into the well. Polyacrylamide is non-hazardous and has a number of uses including: water treatment, soil conditioning and the manufacture of contact lenses and children's toys that expand in water. It is typically used at a rate of 0.075%.
- **Stimlube-W** (CESI Chemical) – this is a polymer which may be used as an alternative to FR-40. Stimlube-W is non-hazardous and we would expect it to be used in similar concentrations to FR-40. It is typically used at a rate of 0.075%.
- **Hydrochloric acid** – dilute hydrochloric acid may need to be added to develop the well (i.e. to clear the channels from the borehole into the shale). It has a wide variety of industrial uses and has been used for many years to help to enhance both oil and water wells. Once the acid is in the shale, clay minerals in the shale will start to neutralise it.
- **The Environment Agency is currently in discussions with Cuadrilla about their proposal to use Fluorobenzoic Acid Chemical tracers.** They will be used in very small quantities and are unlikely to pose a risk to the environment. Further details available on request.

All operators undertaking hydraulic fracturing activities in the UK are obliged to disclose to the EA the type, concentration and volume of chemicals discharged to ground under section 199 of the Water Resources Act 1991. The EA's legal view is that for any fracturing activities requiring a permit under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010, this information would also be put on the public register. There may, however, be a limitation to public disclosure in the event that a fracking operation did not require a permit and the operator wished to withhold this data from the public on grounds of commercial sensitivity. They would of course still have to provide this information to us.

There is more useful/important information on

chemicals available, please do contact:
ineke@frackingfreeireland.org