

Fracking Matters Newsletter 25-12 (60) – 14 March 2012



Information letter for those to whom fracking matters and updates on the website FFI

**Thanks to all for your contribution**

contact: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

visit: [www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org)

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Thanks to Benjamin.

Download <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/frackingpuppet0001.jpg>

## **NEWSLETTER – FRACKING FREE IRELAND WEBSITE**

By Ineke Scholte [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

The campaign is now full up and running and everyone can take part/be informed by facebook, websites, google groups etc.

I wish to spend more time to update the Fracking Free Ireland Website and compile a simple database on fracking. This means that less newsletters will be posted.

I did set up the [www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org) website by means it should be easy for people to avail of lots of fracking info, local, national and international. It is reflected in the set up.

What is fracking?

Fracking, so what?

Irish Press – News

Local Press ROI

Local Press NI

Fermanagh/NI news

Clare Basin news

UK

Global press articles

Movies/songs

Printables – Petition

Maps (ROI/NI)

Petition

Power Point Presentations

Posters/Flyers

Stickers/T- shirts

Support

Successful Campaign Tips

IT

Media

Meetings

Fracking Webs-Useful links

Ireland (ROI/NI)

Europe/World

Useful links

Political issues

Northern Ireland/UK

European Parliament

Letters-reply MEP/Agenda-minutes/

Comments on EU policy

France

Poland

Official reports

Research/press articles

Upcoming events

Global conferences/meetings

Global Fracking

Global resistance (network)

Global Shale Gas lobby

Food for Thought

Poems-songs (Ireland)

Lessons from the past

Newsletters

Contact

Contact Irish Politicians

Letters-answers Politicians

Submissions  
Sitemap

If you wish that fracking will be banned, than take part, get involved or take time and visit websites, facebook, inform yourself! AND INFORM OTHERS

Lots of debates on [fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com](mailto:fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com), apply for membership by Charlie Williams [-charlie2williams@gmail.com](mailto:-charlie2williams@gmail.com) Highly recommended!

An overview of groups/websites/facebooks is added at the end of the newsletter.

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## LOGO CAMPAIGN UPDATE



### Guaranteed Fracking Free Logo Campaign Update

By Sarah - [nofrackingthanks@gmail.com](mailto:nofrackingthanks@gmail.com)

Many thanks to everyone who contacted us to comment on the new logo campaign. We appreciate your encouragement and support. Please stay in touch at [gff.logo@gmail.com](mailto:gff.logo@gmail.com)!

#### **PRESS**

We sent out the press release to a couple hundred media contacts by email, but have not had much response so far, except where we have been able to work with personal contacts in local media. If you have any such contacts, we would appreciate any little push you can give to increase the visibility of the logo, especially if you can provide a local angle.

#### **POLITICIANS**

We sent the press release to all the county councillors and all the TDs, including the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste. We received some positive responses, which we have followed up. Some news we received is that a motion against fracking is working its way up in the Westmeath Co. Co., and Monaghan Co. Co. recently passed a motion calling for a moratorium.

#### **WHERE WE GO FROM HERE**

We will be approaching **tourism and agri-food businesses** to explain what fracking will mean for their sectors and asking them to endorse the logo. We consider that this will be a valuable way to engage with businesses and inform them about fracking.

It would be great if some **county councils** (especially those who have declared themselves to be opposed to fracking) would adopt and use the logo to promote what is good about their counties.

We will also be looking for **celebrity endorsements**. If you happen to have any contacts...

#### **FINALLY,**

The **ReadMe** file included in the download package contains **sample letters** to send to ministers. It is all explained in the ReadMe file. I neglected to mention this before...

Sarah Akamine

"Guaranteed Fracking Free" Logo Campaign ([gff.logo@gmail.com](mailto:gff.logo@gmail.com))

And more updates

## MEDIA

North Clare Local will carry a story in their April edition, out at the end of this month.

Right away, I got a reply from Denis Leonard, of Westmeath Co. Co., who also has a weekly environmental program on Midlands 103. He asked if we could participate in his next program, 7-7:30 Tuesday, and Charlie in Donegal and Cillian Murphy from Clare will be on hand to talk to him.

### TD's

From the TDs, I got an immediate response from **Micheal Colreavy's** office, saying he was against fracking. I wrote back asking him to consider endorsing our logo...

**Eamon O Cuiv** also wrote right back saying he would be happy to meet with members of our group. I wrote back to say I would put it to everyone else and get back to him about possibly meeting him one day in Galway.

Co. Clare:

I will be supporting your campaign to keep Ireland "Guaranteed Fracking Free".

I will keep you posted on any major developments on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael McNamara**, T.D

Positive response received from general manager of the Doonbeg Golf Club,

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## EVENTS and other small CAMPAIGN news

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**The Joint Committee on Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture will be meeting to discuss fracking with the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), on Thursday 15th of March (tomorrow) in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, at 11.00 a.m. FULL INFO AT THE END OF NEWSLETTER**

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**Belfast not for shale** – Next meeting is planned for Wed' 28th March at 6.30pm -7.30pm at Friends of the Earth Offices, Belfast , contact: Michael Mc Evoy [mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com](mailto:mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com)

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**Exclusive invitation to a FREE screening of 'Gasland' and discussion on 'fracking' in Northern Ireland**

You are invited to a screening of the Academy

Award nominated film Gasland, followed by a discussion about what shale gas and 'fracking' means for Northern Ireland.

Food and drink will be provided on arrival.

Gasland reveals the shocking story of the environmental and health impacts of shale gas extraction in the US. 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.

In December last year, the Northern Ireland Assembly voted for a moratorium on 'fracking' but applications to test drill for gas in Northern Ireland using hydraulic fracturing are imminent. Find out more at this event.

**Where:** Black Box, 18-22 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA - [www.blackboxbelfast.com](http://www.blackboxbelfast.com)

**When:** Thursday 29 March, 6.30pm start.  
Ends 10pm.

**Please RSVP to Kim Morrow at The Co-operative on**  
[kim.morrow@co-operative.coop](mailto:kim.morrow@co-operative.coop)  
or **02893 357 509**

Kind regards

Kim Morrow  
Northern Ireland Co-operative

Invitation Poster  
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Belfast-Gasland-Invite-March-29th-2012.pdf>

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**NO FRACKING IRELAND SHAMROCK STICKERS**  
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/shamrock-fracking-stickers.pdf>

you'd need exactly Round Labels, 45mm Diameter, No. LP24/45R .



**Floats St. Patrick's day organised by (a.o.)**

**North West Network** - Contact Meg  
[youthmardingo@gmail.com](mailto:youthmardingo@gmail.com)  
we have our horse drawn carriage all ready lined up, and lots of black shamrock banners and "shields", a fiddler and a stilt walker

and

**Carrick Against Fracking** -contact John  
[jcronogue@gmail.com](mailto:jcronogue@gmail.com)  
Carrick no Frackings float is truly impressive, it has a twenty foot fracking tower, a lough, and pyrotechnics

Please contact them for more information or to take part.

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**Susan Griffin** (Co. Clare) will be a spokes person in Marseille (water and food conference and one day allocated for international fracking)

**Roisín Ní Ghairbhith** (Co. Clare) [roisincorran@gmail.com](mailto:roisincorran@gmail.com) and Ineke Scholte (Co. Sligo) [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org) will attend the EU conference on Fracking in Brussels.

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**QUERY** by Majella - [majella.mccarron@gmail.com](mailto:majella.mccarron@gmail.com)  
Has anyone met with Sinn Fein on a national level to discuss fracking/shale gas exploration? Has anyone asked Sinn Fein what it's national policy is on fracking or indeed shale gas exploration?

Thanks  
Majella

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## CONFERENCES for your diary

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**New energy era forum**, Energy, Food, Water, West Cork **8th,9th,10th May 2012**

The line-up of speakers for the 'New Energy Era' forum is nearly complete. This is going to be an incredible event. If you want to take three days out and indulge in a retreat of wonderful global discussions with amazing minds, this is your chance. The discussion will

put topics like the Fiscal Compact, worldwide unrest, nuclear developments, fracking, renewable energy developments, and others into perspective, and help you make important decisions for the future. Some if not all of these speakers will be written about in a hundred years time as the clear thinkers that foresaw world events and new developments for the new era. Please book fast as numbers

are limited.

[http://www.localcampus.com/Regions/Europe/Countries/Ireland/westcork/New\\_Energy\\_Era\\_Forum.html](http://www.localcampus.com/Regions/Europe/Countries/Ireland/westcork/New_Energy_Era_Forum.html)

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**International Conference Brussels, 9th May. in the European Parliament** in order to call the highest European institutions for action against the shale gas development. Organised by the Friends of the Earth Europe

and the Greens

**Roisín Ní Ghairbhith** [roisincorran@gmail.com](mailto:roisincorran@gmail.com) will attend and be a spokesperson. **Ineke** will also participate

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**Energy Conference Dublin – 30 – 31 May 2012**

Lots of interesting speakers, Pat Rabbitte, Richard Moorman etc.

<http://www.energyireland.ie/events/energyireland2012/speakerPanel.php#rabbitte>

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## MAKE-YOU-A little bit HAPPY-NEWS

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### MONAGHAM MORATORIUM

Monaghan County Council last Monday supported the following motion on my proposal:

That Monaghan County Council believes that a moratorium should be placed on onshore and offshore exploration development and production of shale gas by withdrawing licenses for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) at least until the publication of a detailed environmental impact assessment into the practice; a consultation process carried out with affected communities and consideration given to how it will benefit the local economy. We note that proposals for 'fracking' are well advanced in neighbouring counties and will include policies in line with the wording and spirit of this motion in our County Development Plan.

I hope this will help the campaign progress.

Adh mor,  
Matt Carthy,  
SF member, Monaghan County Council.

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Comment by Joachim Schaefer

"...withdrawing licenses for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) at least until the publication of a detailed environmental impact assessment into the practice; a consultation process carried out with affected communities and consideration given to how it will benefit the local economy....."

The motion is pointless because it is a requirement of the EIA Directive that this has to take place before licenses for projects with a likely significant impact on the environment like hydraulic fracturing can get permission and go ahead. Furthermore no withdrawal is possible because no licences for hydraulic fracturing are granted in the Republic of Ireland up to this point of time.

At least the motion (more a political statement rather than a motion) of Monaghan County Council indicates that the council is not in favour of fracking.

Regards, Joachim Schaefer

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## SUBMISSIONS – SIGN! and a 'secret' item

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**The Joint Committee on Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture will be meeting to discuss fracking with the Commission for Energy**

**Regulation(CER), on Thursday 15th of March (tomorrow) in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, at 11.00 a.m.**

**Reminder: CER**

Reporter:

Charlie Williams:

The link at the [CER web page](#) got repaired.

Please get at your keyboards and send your submissions, folk.

=> <http://www.cer.ie/en/petroleum-safety-current-consultations.aspx?article=57170b43-6dee-433a-b7b3-63dc68cb680f>I've just been through the CER website, [High Level Design of Petroleum Safety Framework](#).

Apart from several private submissions, which seemingly are all concerned about fracking, there are some remarkable consultation responses.

My favourite one is [People's Association Watchdog response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#)Worth to read: [Shannon and Erne Loughs Protection Alliance cer11203](#)The [EPA response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#) links to the EPA web page, [Frequently Asked Questions on the Environment](#) (=> "Water"). Very vague.

But also:

[ABP response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#)  
[IAA response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#)  
[Leitrim County Council response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#)  
[NSAI response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#)  
[PSE Kinsale Energy response to CER-11-137 CER11203](#)  
[Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland response to CER-11-137 cer11203](#)  
[Shell E and P Ireland response to CER-11-137 CER11203](#)

Closing Date: 29/03/2012 !!!

Responses to: [Eamonn Murtagh](#)

Consultation is: OPEN

(emurtagh@cer.ie)

**SIGN PETITIONS!**

More people have signed the petition against GM potato trials in Ireland (and in a shorter time) than the one against fracking.

Both are need to be kept out of Ireland (out of the planet really) but it does make you think, doesn't it?

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/stop-gm-potato-trials-in-ireland/>[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Ban\\_Frac\\_king\\_Ireland/](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Ban_Frac_king_Ireland/)

Please sign both, lasses and lads. And, just as importantly, get everyone you know to sign 'em.

David davidjtaylor@eircom.net

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Reporter: Joachim Schaefer -  
jojosch4@gmail.comAny Licensing Option granted on the basis of an application pursuant to this Notice will be subject to the [Licensing Terms for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production 2007](#) ("the Licensing Terms") issued by the Minister together with the provisions detailed in this Notice.Why are the [Licensing Terms for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production 2007](#) **secret** and can't be checked for information by clicking on the underlined link in the pdf document: **Onshore Petroleum Licensing over the Northwest Carboniferous Basin and the Clare Basin?**

to be found under Notice of Competition on:

<http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Natural/Petroleum+Affairs+Division/NW+Carboniferous+and+Clare+Basins/#> Offer of Licensing Options

Regards,

Joachim Schaefer

## IRISH NEWS

### **The Epa can not assess fracking in Leitrim – Jessica Ernst**

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/the-epa-can-t-assess-fracking-in-leitrim-jessica-ernst-1-3573171>

### **Government Tree sell off plans stumped**

Tom Prendeville

The Government's plans to sell off the state's forests could hit a brick wall due to the fact that over one million native woodland trees are owned by every family in Ireland.

As part of the Year 2000 People's Millennium Forests Project, Household Tree Scheme, over 1.2 million native Oak, Ash, Birch, Alder and Scot's Pine trees -many of which are now semi-mature-were gifted to every family and planted in 16 forests throughout the country. The government later issued ownership certificates with individual plot numbers to every household.

The Certificates and covering letter which were signed by the late Seamus Brennan, who was the then Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Millennium Committee stated:

"It gives us great pleasure to enclose the certificate of authentication of your household's special tree for the millennium. This certificate gives the location of your native tree and assigned forest. Your tree is one of 1.2 million being planted for households in Ireland..."

Coillte's The People's Millennium Forests website is even clearer as to who owns the trees. It states that 16 native Irish woodlands have been designated as: "millennium forests, and are dedicated in perpetuity to the people of Ireland...."

"The project team was asked to do this so that the people of Ireland would know that each household has part-share in the restored woodlands. The message was plain – these native woodlands are for the people of Ireland."

The Woodland League has now raised the

prospect of a tidal wave of lawsuits if the government tries to interfere with or sell off the native trees. According to founder Andrew St Ledger:

"Any sell-off could be open to a million lawsuits because every household in Ireland got a tree for the Millennium woodlands planting. People were even issued with certificate of ownership of a tree accompanied by a map with a grid which shows you the plot."

Prominent Dublin based lawyer and solicitor Damian Cassidy concurs and believes that the ultimate ownership of the millennium native woodland trees could be the government's undoing if they attempt any sell-off:

"The documents which were issued to householders during the Millennium are certificates of ownership and the people who own them must be consulted as to any interference with the trees. Some people might not want their trees cut down," he added.

The Woodlands League which is dedicated to preserving Ireland's native woodlands and fauna has been robustly campaigning to keep Coillte in public ownership and from falling into the hands of foreign investment fund managers. They are presently running a petition which has over 32,000 signatures:

"These forests are the inheritance of Irish children and managed wisely can help secure Ireland's social, environmental and economic future. The forests include some of our most valuable native woodlands and wild places and are some of the last refuges of our native flora and fauna. We are urging everyone to go out and visit their family tree, added Andrew St Ledger.

According to Coillte spokesperson, Tom Byrne, the millennium woodlands project has been deemed a huge success:

"A native tree was planted on behalf of every household in Ireland and a certificate was posted to all homes giving details as to where

trees were planted under the Family Tree Scheme. The Millennium trees which are native varieties were planted in old native woodland sites, and the idea was to bring the woodlands back to life. Thirteen sites are on Coillte land, two in Northern Ireland and one in Muckross."

"The trees were planted for the people of Ireland as part of the Millennium celebrations. These forests are managed by Coillte in partnership with Woodlands of Ireland, OPW and Northern Ireland Forest Service."

"Not every tree that was planted would have survived, but this project has been a success and has re-established these old woodlands."

However when asked as to who has legal title to the millennium trees and what would happen in the event of a sale Coillte refused to comment:

"We would not like to comment on a hypothetical question," added Tom Byrne.

Tarbert based environmental campaigner, Tom Donovan, is part of a growing number of people who has vowed to fight tooth and nail to protect the woodlands and evergreen forests:

"We won't be taking this lying down we will fight the Government to the bitter end. I and a lot of people are very angry about the sell-off of our native woods. They are an asset of the country, but they are also part of our heritage and history."

"Every household in Ireland was given a tree and what we are encouraging people to do is to get up and get out and walk in the woods."

Coillte owns 1.1 million acres which is the equivalent of 7% percent of the country: 95% percent of the trees on Coillte Estates are non native evergreen conifers and the remainder are broadleaf. Ireland has the lowest forest cover in Europe. However the long-term goal of Coillte is to have 30% percent of the country under forest by 2050.

<http://www.sovereignindependent.com/?p=36656> 14 March 2012

(Web FFI: Irish Press)

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**Council Canadians meets with Irish minister of energy to talk fracking**

Council of Canadians Trade Campaigner Stuart Trew and I met with Irish Energy Minister Fergus O'Dowd in Toronto to raise our concerns about hydraulic fracturing. The Embassy of Ireland contacted us to set up a meeting so Minister O'Dowd could hear our perspectives about hydraulic fracturing in Canada.

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/making-waves/2012/03/council-canadians-meets-irish-minister-energy-talk-fracking>

(8 March 2012)

(Web FFI: Irish press)

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**Co Mayo -  
Concern over issuing of fracking licence options for East mayo.**

Sinn Fein County councillor Gerry Murray has expressed serious concern over the issuing of licence options across large areas of East Mayo for fracking. Fracking is a method used to extract natural gas from the ground.

<http://mayotoday.ie/index.php/browse-mayo-news-by-category/mayo-politics/item/4374-concern-over-issuing-of-fracking-licence-options-for-east-mayo.html>

(7 March 2012) (Web FFI: Irish press)

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**NI  
some new articles** (Web FFI: Irish press/Local Press NI)

**Gas valuation on March 31-**  
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/FirmusGas.jpg>

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**Fracking extraction is not ruled out**  
<http://www.londonderrysentinel.co.uk/news/business/fracking-extraction-is-not-ruled-out-1-3598262>

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**Environment critical to healthy economy**

Published on Monday 12 March 2012 08:41

MEDIA reports concern us with news of droughts, famine, war, species extinctions, the economic crisis, energy shortages and climate change with open sea at the North Pole. All of these problems feed off each other making it a critical process.

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/community/letter>

[s/environment-critical-to-healthy-economy-1-3614532](http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/3614532)

**UFU reiterates opposition to National Parks**

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Irishnews12.jpg>

**All Island problem** – letter from M. Cairns

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNews7-1-20121.jpg>

**The clue is in the name** – letter from M. Cairns

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticle6-2-2012.jpg>

**Fracking issue needs debate**

We should set up a forum where scientists and engeniens from both sides of argument can present their analysis

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNews25-2-2012.jpg>

**Frack is back** - WWF

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticle3-3-2012.jpg>

**Call from Jessica** – ban

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticle6-2-2012.jpg>

**IRELAND DESERVES RECESSION**

**Journalist mocks Ireland for rejecting fracking-** two articles

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleJournalist6-2-2012.jpg>

**comment**

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleJournalistPart26-2-2012.jpg>

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleJournalistPart26-2-2012.jpg>

**TOURISM**

**Fermanagh can't Erne spot in tourist board brochure**

part 1

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleFerm1.jpg>

part 2

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleFerm4.jpg>

part 3

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleFerm2.jpg>

part 4

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleFerm3.jpg>

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Executive's renewable goal's get a strong head of wind -**

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/ExecGreenGoals.jpg>  
12 March 2012

If the future is so bright and green for NI industry with great potential from off shore wind farms and tidal.

Why the need for Fracking?

**Preliminary work to start on energy storage project -**

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IrishNewsArticleCAES6-3-2012.jpg> March 2012

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## BOOK REVIEW

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### WHAY NOT FRACK

Here the link for the book review as in last newsletter:

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/mar/08/why-not-frack/>



## THOUGHTS – OPINION



Sharing thoughts on [fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com](mailto:fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com),

On 07/03/2012 11:11, DavidT wrote:  
I'm being sarcastic, by the way.

[http://www.science20.com/science\\_20/shale\\_gas\\_faux\\_danger-87684](http://www.science20.com/science_20/shale_gas_faux_danger-87684)

This is the level of intelligence we're up against.

David

I wonder whether they will publish my comment:

The whole article has more to do with polemics than with real science.

The carbon footprint, [worse than coal](#), inter alia has been confirmed by [scientists from NOAA and the University of Colorado](#). Compare to other claims of the industry, about 4% of the gas, mostly methane, is lost to the atmosphere.

The petroleum industry is [admitting](#) that fracking is causing earthquakes.

Ground water and surface [contaminations](#) with fracking fluids, and toxic, carcinogenic and radioactive compounds bound in the shale, are inevitable.

Shale gas is not a "clean bridge fuel", it is a **dirty delaying fuel**.

The only way into a sustainable future are renewable energy sources which are carbon neutral.

Also => [Shale Gas Bubble: Insiders Suggest Fracking Boom Is a Bust](#)

Charlie

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### POWER INDUSTRY NEWS

#### Breaking up is hard to do

<http://www.utilityproducts.com/news/2012/03/11/breaking-up-is-hard-to-do.html>

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Article in this month's **Irish National**

**Playing with fire** by Dr. Colin J. Campbell  
<http://www.localcampus.com/irishnational/irishnational.pdf>

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## MOVIES- SONGS

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Economy, the problems explained by drawings for the lay people, to make up your mind before the referendum!



**David McWilliams, Irish economist, gives us our first lesson in punk economics.**

*Welcome to Punk Economics and new way looking at the economy based on the central idea that what is important is not complicated and what is complicated is never important.*

Punk Economics Lesson 1

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=oAR0VRLRGHE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=oAR0VRLRGHE)

Punk Economics Lesson 2

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=V5z0rQRdsiE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=V5z0rQRdsiE)

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## EU -NEWS

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**Shale gas: opportunity or threat to the environment?**

**Environment – 06-03-2012 - 15:56**

### **What the European Parliament is doing**

As more drilling for shale gas takes place in Europe, people have become more concerned about its possible effects. After the European Commission ruled out creating EU legislation on it last year, the Parliament decided to launch its own investigation. The EP's industry committee and environmental committee are both producing their own report on the situation. This week the environment committee invited experts to evaluate the risks shale gas extraction poses to the environment.

[www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20120302STO39863/html/Shale-gas-opportunity-or-threat-to-the-environment](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20120302STO39863/html/Shale-gas-opportunity-or-threat-to-the-environment)

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**PROPANE FRACKING IS COMING TO EUROPE**  
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**Press release 21 Febr. 2012**

**GASFRAC and eCORP enter into MOU**

**Reservoir Stimulation Using Liquefied Petroleum Gas for Europe**

eCORP International, LLC ("eCORP") and GASFRAC Energy Services Inc. ("GASFRAC") are pleased to announce that they have executed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to introduce in Europe the reservoir stimulation technology using liquefied petroleum gas (propane or propane-butane mix). GASFRAC has successfully employed this technology in North America, pumping over 1,200 stimulations in reservoirs from Alberta, Canada to south Texas, USA. eCORP is engaged in exploring for and developing hydrocarbons in Europe, currently holding a number of well-situated licenses in the premier basins of western Europe, with discussions under way to materially expand its holdings.

<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/content/5046/Press%20Release%20-%20GasFrac%20and%20eCORP%20MOU.pdf>  
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## UK

7 March 2012

### **UPDATE: IEA: Public Opposition Is Problem For Shale Gas In Europe**

LONDON (Dow Jones)--A groundswell of public opposition to shale gas drilling in Europe, driven by legitimate environmental concerns, is a major problem for what could prove to be a very important industry, said the Chief Economist of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, Wednesday.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120307-707573.html?mod=WSJ\\_Utilities\\_middleHeadlines#articleTabs=article](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120307-707573.html?mod=WSJ_Utilities_middleHeadlines#articleTabs=article)

Financial Times, March 13, 2012 11:46 pm

### **High gas prices hasten UK energy crunch**

Full article below

### **AUSTRIA and their strategy**

Reporter: Andreas Czeatke  
the first ban on fracking

**Dear friends in Europe,**  
we have reached an important target in our anti-shale gas campaign in Austria on 02.03.2012. Two governing mayors of the towns Herrnbaumgarten and Poysdorf announced that they will not give their permission for the two planned test-drillings at the beginning of 2013. This means that we reached our first target, the immediate project stop.

[http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS\\_20120302\\_OTS0184/frank-und-riegelhofer-zuschiefegasabbau-im-weinviertel-fordern-richtigstellung-des-sachverhalts](http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20120302_OTS0184/frank-und-riegelhofer-zuschiefegasabbau-im-weinviertel-fordern-richtigstellung-des-sachverhalts)

**This target was reached because of the massive resistance against the shale gas project of the following groups: farmers, wine-farmers, tourism stakeholders and a lot of people who have given their sign against**

**this project.** So as a result the oil and gas drilling company OMV announced that the project will be stopped after a dramatic loss of public confidence due to wrong and poor information strategy. Our major target now is

to force the government to change the law so that dangerous shale gas exploration will be banned in the future.

### **Uptade 10.03.2012:**

At the moment we have the feeling that our major politics are playing on time so that the situation calms down. Next year we have federal state government elections. Since the head of our federal state government called for a compulsory environmental investigation process 3 weeks ago nothing has happened. Before the Greens called for a discussion regarding shale gas 3 times in the federal state government but the discussion was rejected 3 times by all other parties. We want to take part in the process of developing the change in the mining law. One week after the OMV announced that they will freeze the project the town Poysdorf where one of the two test-drillings would have been done the local politics have given official news that they are not able to effort to build the planned street for a big event next year. This event is called "bread and wine".

### **How did we manage to achieve an immediate project stop:**

-) contacted a politician of the leading conservative party and we gave him the attached presentation (this guy is responsible for tourism)  
-) via this guy the information about shale gas reached the head of our federal state government

-) The conservatives (ÖVP) are holding the absolute majority and we think due to a lot of signs for our anti shale gas campaign and the fact that there are elections next year, they started fearing to lose too much votes if they would stay inactive.

I thank all of you for your important work against shale gas exploration. Each ban in other countries helps us to reach the target here in Austria. Together we will protect our homelands.

Bye and sunny wishes

Andreas Czeatke – activist and campaigner  
[www.weinviertelstattgasviertel.at](http://www.weinviertelstattgasviertel.at)

### **POWER POINT PRESENTATION**

<http://ubuntuone.com/6JJKJbNMAL3NKaIDI5Ed4>

## POLAND

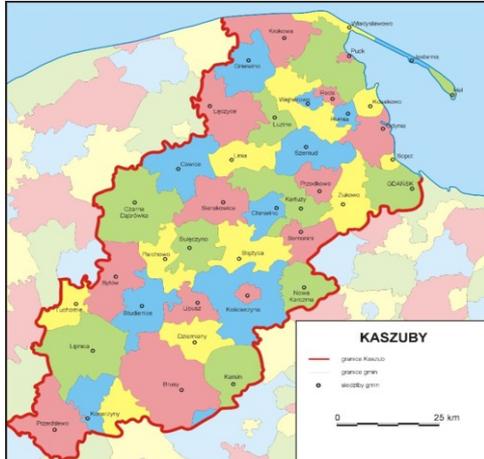
**Educational campaign**

The Polish government intends to educate the opposing locals with a documentary showing how nice and safe fracking is...

[www.naturalgaseurope.com/poland-shale-protests-kashubia](http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/poland-shale-protests-kashubia) (Web FFI: global fracking)

### Map of Kashubia

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kaszuby\\_wg\\_J.Mordawskiego\\_1999.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kaszuby_wg_J.Mordawskiego_1999.png)



Reporter – Magda [gajesia@gmail.com](mailto:gajesia@gmail.com)

laws, regulations, controls on one side -reality on the other..

roughly translated, bad grammar...

**Waste water from shale gas wells, illegally stored in Głobinie near Słupsk, can poison the water supply for the residents of Słupsk and villages - alert the local authorities. Shocking case is under the investigation of the public prosecutor of Słupsk and environmental inspectors.**

It took a year and a half for the gravel pit owner in Głobin near Słupsk to get permission to store frac water flow back waste of shale gas wells in the area. The storage of chemicals permission in the county was twice refused by the governor of Słupsk. When, after several months of the owner of the gravel pit battle proved that the frac flowback fluid (gravel, sand with water and chemicals) will be properly disposed, the county had to finally agree to waste storage. Already the first municipal fire control has proved that pouring (*shell gas borehole flowback*)mud has little to do with disposal.

Inappropriate storage location of chemicals wasn't the only problem. Flowback water was supposed to be immediately mixed with cement to harden, so it would prevent it

from soaking into the ground.

Flowback fluid chemicals may be a threat to the water supply. In the control done by communalguards it was found with that the flowback frac fluid is effusive directly to the gravel pit (*without adding the cement or any other precautions*)

Without waiting for the results of the inspection of Provincial Environmental Protection Inspectorate Mayor of Słupsk has informed the public prosecutor. Gravel pit owner does not want to inform the municipal officials which borehole the chemical flowback waste water is derived from. We also do not know how much they are harmful. The results of frac waste chemical tests will be known in a few days.

<http://www.tvp.pl/gdansk/aktualnosci/spoleczne/odpady-z-odwiertow-gazu-lupkowego-moga-zatruc-ujecia-wody/6684833>

### Analysis - Polish shale gas to date

*This is a shortened version of an article on Polish shale gas results to date. The complete version will appear in the 2nd volume of the Shale Gas Investment Guide, due out on March 15th, 2012*

Although most industry participants agree it will take 20-30 wells before early results can be said to be decisive, certain actors in the investment community have spoken early and loudly about the difficulty of getting gas from shales to flow in commercial quantities.

[http://www.cleantechpoland.com/en/fossil-fuels/shale-gas/analysis-polish-shale-gas-results-to-date/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=article&utm\\_campaign=newsletter-12-03-2012](http://www.cleantechpoland.com/en/fossil-fuels/shale-gas/analysis-polish-shale-gas-results-to-date/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=article&utm_campaign=newsletter-12-03-2012)

### Below an analysis of the first 12 wells drilled in Poland

Reporter: Kuba Gogolewski  
[kuba.gogolewski@bankwatch.org](mailto:kuba.gogolewski@bankwatch.org)

[http://www.cleantechpoland.com/en/fossil-fuels/shale-gas/analysis-polish-shale-gas-results-to-date/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=e-](http://www.cleantechpoland.com/en/fossil-fuels/shale-gas/analysis-polish-shale-gas-results-to-date/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=e-)

[mail&utm\\_content=article&utm\\_campaign=newsletter-12-03-2012](mailto:utm_content=article&utm_campaign=newsletter-12-03-2012)

A case of dumping untreated flow-back water in a san extraction pit has also been reported and turned to the prosecutor near Slupsk. It thus poses real risk to the grounwater as it slowly filters through the sand. More info is available here: <http://www.tvp.pl/gdansk/informacja/panorama/wideo/07032012/6685544> (Three first minutes for now only in Polish).

### **ANALYSIS | Polish Shale Gas Results to Date**

News, Shale Gas

March 9, 2012

This is a shortened version of an article on Polish shale gas results to date. The complete version will appear in the 2nd volume of the Shale Gas Investment Guide, due out on March 15th, 2012

Although most industry participants agree it will take 20-30 wells before early results can be said to be decisive, certain actors in the investment community have spoken early and loudly about the difficulty of getting gas from shales to flow in commercial quantities.

Sanford Bernstein, a sell-side research firm for private equity clients, led the chorus with a bearish desktop-report, citing problematic geology. "Recent data from Poland's shale gas wells validate our concerns about European shale gas: poor flow rates in over-pressured, hard-to-develop shales," wrote Bernstein analyst Oswald Clint.

At the start of Q1 2012, all five of the large publicly traded independents were trading at one-third to one-fifth of their peak share price. The small cap independents are a litmus test for market confidence. If they're down, confidence is down. Mark Gordon, portfolio manager for Soros Fund Management, works in a high tower

across from Central Park in New York, and oversees the hedge fund's investments in unconventional gas.

Of the independents operating acreage over the past year, Soros Fund Management has exposure to at least three: San Leon, BNK Petroleum and Cuadrilla. (Realm as well, but it was acquired in November by San Leon.)

Mr. Gordon is in charge of evaluating the hedge fund's investments in an upstream unconventional portfolio. In October of 2011, after Lane Energy's first horizontal well was fractured, he was quick to express frustration at the results when Cleantech Poland met up with Mr. Gordon in October in New York.

Citing problems from the first few fracs, his sentiments were shared by other fund managers at institutions such as Blackrock, Quantum Partners, Vanguard and Fidelity, because that hoped-for early shale gas boom never happened. These funds have upstream exposure, either through private placements or in a position taken post-IPO.

In total, just over a dozen wells have been drilled and between 6-8 have been hydraulically stimulated. What follows is an overview of what information has been made public from the operators at work in Poland's shale basins.

### **Unconventional gas wells drilled to date in Poland**

3Legs/ConocoPhillips Gas shows	?EBIEN LE-1
3Legs/ConocoPhillips Gas shows	??GOWO LE-1
3Legs/ConocoPhillips Flared	?EBIEN LE-2
BNK Petroleum Gas shows	WYTOWNO ? 1
BNK Petroleum Gas shows	L?BORK S-1
BNK Petroleum 1 Gas show	STAROGARD ?
PGNiG 1 Flared	LUBOCINO ?
PGNiG MARKOWOLA ? 1	No commercial gas

Orlen Upstream Drilled to depth	SYCZYN OU-1	a target zone that was approximately 5 meters. When this horizontal well was stimulated in Q3
Orlen Upstream 1 Drilled to depth	BEREJOWO OU-	of 2011, the results were moderate but not
ExxonMobil No commercial gas	KRUPE ? 1	commercial: using nitrogen lift, the well recorded an initial production (IP)
ExxonMobil No commercial gas	SIENNICA ? 1	on September 8, 2011 of about 2,200 mscf/day, which declined
San Leon/Talisman Gas shows	LEWINO 1G-2	to 500 mscf/day on September 13th. Also with the aid of nitrogen
San Leon/Talisman Gas & liquid shows	ROGITY ? 1	lift, the well continued to flow 450-520 mscf/day, but was soon shut- in pending further analysis.
Source: company press releases, Cleantech Poland research		WYTOWNO ? 1 This well was operated by BNK Petroleum, in partnership with several other companies. It was drilled to a depth of 3580
BALTIC BASIN (north Poland) In north Poland, targeting the Silurian, Ordovician and Cambrian shales, at least six modern exploratory wells have been drilled to date. The first to drill in the basin was 3Legs Resources (Lane Energy) working in partnership with ConocoPhillips.		meters, and encountered gas shows of 220 meters in lower Silurian, Ordovician and Cambrian shales, mostly methane, but a small percentage ethane and propane.
Although limited data has been released from operators other than 3Legs, the basics are fairly well known: gas shows were encountered in all six wells drilled in the Baltic, although hydraulic stimulation failed to flow gas at commercial quantities.		L?BORK S-1 Operated also by BNK, this well was drilled to a depth of 3590 meters with over 220 meters of core taken. Gas shows were recorded over 285 meters in lower Silurian and Cambrian shales, mostly methane. BNK was not able to successfully keep proppant in place during the fracture stimulation. ?The reservoir was over pressured but it took even higher pressures to stimulate the shales than
?EBIEN LE-1 was drilled by 3Legs to a depth of 3085 meters. A core section of approximately 215 meters was recovered; 200 meters were gas bearing. DFIT (diagnostic fracture injection testing) was done on Ordovician and Silurian shales, and a single stage frac on Silurian, where gas flowed to the surface.		anticipated. It appears that both the Ordovician and Alum shales have complex fracture matrices, which were predominantly responsible for the reduced amount of proppant placed,? the company said in a release. BNK plans to restimulate the L?bork well in 2012.
?EGOWO LE-1 In August 2010, 3Legs began drilling on a second test vertical well to a depth of 3580 meters, and encountered gas shows of 220 meters in lower Silurian, Ordovician and Cambrian shales, mostly methane, but also a small percentage of ethane and propane.		STAROGARD ? 1 Spudded on July 16, 2011, this well was operated by BNK Petroleum and LNG Energy. It was drilled to a depth of 3524 meters, while numerous gas shows were encountered over 250 meters in lower Silurian, Ordovician and Cambrian shales including methane, ethane, propane, butane and pentane. The presence of heavier hydrocarbons, according to David Afseth president of LNG Energy, is ?consistent with Saponis? thermal maturity mapping of the Baltic Basin.?
?EBIEN LE-2 Then 3Legs moved to drill a second horizontal section of some 1000 meters at 4080 meters in depth in		

BNK Petroleum's country manager Jacek Wróblewski says that the gas shows encountered on all three locations do give a positive outlook on the commercial viability of the wells. "We are now analyzing the data in a US lab, after which we will be able to speak on commercial potential of the wells," he said.

LUBOCINO # 1 This well was drilled and operated by PGNiG, the Polish state owned oil and gas company. Although little data was released, according to a press spokesperson, "Analysis of the gas confirms very good energy characteristics, absence of hydrogen sulfide, and low nitrogen content." Images of the gas flare were released by the prime minister's office, as this well was drilled previous to the elections held in October 2011.

LEWINO 1G-2 Talisman in cooperation with San Leon drilled this well on the Gdansk West concession to 3,600 meters. Gas shows were encountered

over 1,000 meters in the middle and lower Silurian shales, Ordovician and upper Cambrian, mostly methane, but also a small amount of ethane, propane, butane and pentane. Over 300 meters of core were taken for evaluation.

ROGITY # 1 Talisman in cooperation with San Leon announced gas shows of over 500 meters in Lower Silurian, Ordovician, and Middle Cambrian sections. The gas shows consisted of heavy hydrocarbons, including C1-nC8. The richness of the gas shows is consistent with a wet gas system, according to a company press release.

Kuba Gogolewski

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> www.bankwatch.org

## GLOBAL NEWS

### **Peaceful Anti-Fracking Activists Pursued by FBI as 'Eco-Terrorists'**

Continued FBI surveillance of environmental activism amidst expanding definitions of 'eco-terrorism'

- Common Dreams staff

In recent years, the broad definition of 'eco-terrorism' has come to include environmentalist activities ranging from arson to setting mink free at fur farms to protests in front of the homes of corporate executives. Environmental activists have seen increased imprisonment (including maximum security sentences) for non-violent crimes.

Now, as the FBI suggests that 'eco-terrorism' is in decline, the Washington Post reports that the FBI has increased heavy surveillance of environmentalists including anti-fracking protesters.

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/03/11-2>

Financial Times, March 8, 2012 6:11 pm

### **Shale boom drives equity issuance**

Full cover at the end of the newsletter

### **Considerations from a Fracking Expert – Anthony Ingraffea**

If you want to talk fracking, then Cornell engineering professor Anthony Ingraffea's your guy. After all, he got his PhD in rock fracturing and conducted hydro-fracturing research with Schlumberger. So EPA has invited Ingraffea to their technical workshop focusing on the engineering aspects of drilling, fracture design and stimulation, and mechanical integrity in gas wells. The March 10 workshop is one of four that EPA is holding as part of the Hydro-fracturing Study.

<http://garrettcounnymarcellus.org/garrett->

[county-marcellus-shale/considerations-from-a-fracking-expert-anthony-ingraffa/](http://www.thejournal.ie/readme/interview-%E2%80%99it-started-with-nosebleeds%E2%80%99-%E2%80%93-what-fracking-did-to-one-us-town/)

**Interview: 'It started with nosebleeds' what fracking did to one US town**

-<http://www.thejournal.ie/readme/interview-%E2%80%99it-started-with-nosebleeds%E2%80%99-%E2%80%93-what-fracking-did-to-one-us-town/>

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**PRESS RELEASE 8 March 2012**

Reporters:

Larisa Ruoff, Green Century Capital Management 617-482-0800

Richard Liroff, Investor Environmental Health Network (IEHN) 703-532-2929

Luan Steinhilber, Miller/Howard Investments, Inc. 845-679-9166

**Natural Gas Companies Respond to Investor Concerns over Environmental, Community Impacts of Fracking Operations**

**Companies agree to increase disclosures on managing and reducing risks**

Boston, MA—Four companies, **EOG Resources\***, **Noble Energy\***, **PennVirginia Corporation\*** and **Stone Energy\***, have responded to shareholder concerns and are improving transparency around the impacts of their hydraulic fracturing operations (fracking) and their efforts to reduce risks to communities and the environment. Investors have consequently withdrawn shareholder resolutions seeking such enhanced reporting.

"Right now, many companies are not providing investors, or the communities in which the companies operate, sufficient information on the steps they are taking to address and mitigate the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing operations, so shareholders are pressing companies to provide increased transparency," said Luan Steinhilber, Director of Shareholder Advocacy at [Miller/Howard Investments, Inc.](http://www.millerhowardinvestments.com), filer of the resolutions at PennVirginia and Stone Energy. "We commend these companies for taking steps to provide increased transparency not only on the impacts of their operations but on their risk

reduction practices."

<http://iehn.org/news.press.pressreleasewithdrawals3-0-12.php>

**Fracking Failing to Crack China, Europe Shale, Exxon Says**

March 8 (Bloomberg) -- Some shale formations in Europe and China are impervious to drilling techniques that opened vast reserves of natural gas and oil from Texas to Pennsylvania, said Rex Tillerson, Exxon Mobil Corp.'s chief executive officer.

New methods and tools will need to be invented to tap many of the shale fields that energy companies and governments expect eventually to yield a bonanza of fuel, Tillerson said during a meeting with analysts in New York today.

Exxon, the largest U.S. gas producer after its 2010 acquisition of shale driller XTO Energy, failed in its first two efforts to crack gas-rich shale fields in Poland. Gas discovered in a pair of wells finished during the final three months of last year didn't flow, even after the company used high-pressure jets of water and sand to create fissures in the rocks.

"Some of the shales don't respond as well to hydraulic fracturing," Tillerson said during a meeting with reporters after his presentation to analysts. "It's going to take research and time in the lab to understand that."

Some parts of U.S. shale formations also have proven impervious to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, he said. The company is studying whether using different fluids, proppants or pumping techniques will be successful, Tillerson said. Proppants are tiny granules of sand or ceramic used to hold open fissures that allow oil and gas to flow through rock.

"Parts of some of these well-known shale plays everyone's all excited about don't work," Tillerson said. The geologic obstacles may stem from the depositional history of the formations and factors such as high temperatures deep under ground, he said.

[http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2012/03/08/bloomberg\\_articlesM0KKHN6S972A01-M0KYI.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2012/03/08/bloomberg_articlesM0KKHN6S972A01-M0KYI.DTL)

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## **KS Senate gives tentative OK to fracking waste**

By The Associated Press on February 25, 2012

The Kansas Senate has tentatively approved a measure allowing oil and gas drilling companies to spread clay shavings produced by fracking operations over fields in Kansas.

By The Associated Press on February 25, 2012

The Kansas Senate has tentatively approved a measure allowing oil and gas drilling companies to spread clay shavings produced by fracking operations over fields in Kansas.

<http://6lawrence.com/news/politics/ks-senate-gives-tentative-ok-to-fracking-waste/>

## **REPORTS - RESEARCH**

### **CIEH : a Policy Briefing and a Policy Position paper on Shale**

Reporter: Lisette van Vliet

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in the UK, a member organisation of HEAL, learned about fracking at our Annual Meeting event last October, and David Kidney is their Head of Policy

The papers have been prepared by their Northern Ireland Director Gary MacFarlane, but if you have any feedback, please send it first to Bob Mayho, Principal Policy Officer

[r.mayho@cieh.org](mailto:r.mayho@cieh.org)

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[www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org)

### **HF impacts on the environment and human health**

Briefing: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/06022012-CIEH-Policy-Briefing-on-Fracking-FINAL.pdf>

Position: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/06022012-CIEH-Policy-Briefing-on-Fracking-FINAL.pdf>

### **Fracking US – fracking the new global water crisis -**

<http://ubuntuone.com/5Iy6aBMDb9wPpNIQpBcyMc> (Web FFI: official reports)

### **Study suggests hydrofracking is killing farm animals, pets**

By [Krishna Ramanujan](#) A new report has found dozens of cases of illness, death and reproductive issues in cows, horses, goats, llamas, chickens, dogs, cats, fish and other wildlife, and humans. It says these conditions could be the result of exposure to gas drilling operations.

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/March12/FrackingAnimals.html> (7 March 2012)

(Web FFI: official reports)

## **Council Canadians meets with Irish minister of energy to talk fracking**

Council of Canadians Trade Campaigner Stuart Trew and I met with Irish Energy Minister Fergus O'Dowd in Toronto to raise our concerns about hydraulic fracturing. The Embassy of Ireland contacted us to set up a meeting so Minister O'Dowd could hear our perspectives about hydraulic fracturing in Canada.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a controversial method used to extract unconventional sources of natural gas such as shale gas, coal bed methane and tight gas. The process uses a mixture of sand, water and chemicals to blast apart shale and other rock formations to release trapped natural gas.

I raised [concerns](#) about water contamination, water use, the lack of a legal requirement to disclose chemicals used in the fracking process and the problem fracking wastewater.

The fracking process uses 8 to 34 million litres of water and tens of thousands of litres of chemicals

for each fracking job. While British Columbia has a database for companies to disclose what chemicals are used in the fracking process, there is concern that companies can still apply to have some chemicals excluded because they are considered 'trade secrets.' As well, there is no government regulatory body that verifies whether companies have disclosed all chemicals used.

Trade Campaigner Stuart Trew expressed concerns about how Ireland could be limited in implementing environmental, health and public safety regulations related to fracking with the possibility of an investor-state dispute process in the Canada-EU Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement. As has been seen in [cases](#) around the world, an investor-state dispute chapter would give companies the right to bring a case against a country for implementing environmental, health or human rights standards as these are seen as trade barriers.

Minister O'Dowd was open to our concerns and interested to learn about hydraulic fracturing in Canada. He did raise common arguments in favour of fracking such as the economic incentives, the creation of jobs and the need for national energy security. However, we expressed points about the decrease in royalties because the abundance of natural gas has now driven down prices and thus public returns on natural gas. Food and Water Watch published a [report](#) raising doubts about the number of jobs that industry purports to have created by the fracking process in New York state. As well, we raised the points about how the natural gas being extracted in Western Canada is to be shipped to Asia or used for tar sands exploration.

Jessica Ernst, landowner and biologist from Rosebud, Alberta was [in Ireland](#) at the end of February to share her experiences with fracking. Ernst has a lawsuit against gas company Encana, Alberta Environment and the Energy Resources Conservation Board for negligence and unlawful activities. Ernst's well is so contaminated with methane that she can light her water on fire.

According to the Minister, fracking has not begun in Ireland. The three major companies (including Taboran Resources) have applied for exploration permits and have yet to apply for licences to develop shale gas on a commercial scale. However, many groups are already raising concerns about

Minister O'Dowd's visit is timely in that it comes on the heels of ban on fracking in Niagara Falls, New York (which includes the ban of the treatment of fracking wastewater) and with the release of Food and Water Watch's report [Fracking: The New Global Water Crisis](#) (Minister O'Dowd indicated he would be visiting Pittsburgh to learn further about fracking in the US). It is also interesting to note that the Irish government arranged a meeting with the Council of Canadians while the Canadian government has failed to consult with the public here in Canada despite their two federal review processes. We hope that Minister O'Dowd listens to the concerns of people in Ireland and does not go down the road that most governments in Canada and the US are going.

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This will give the fracking industry another argument:

Financial Times, March 13, 2012 11:46 pm

### **High gas prices hasten UK energy crunch**

By Sylvia Pfeifer, Energy Editor

Britain is heading towards an energy supply crunch sooner than expected as many of the country's coal-fired power stations face early closure under European Union environmental regulations.

Eight coal-fired plants are due to close by 2015 as part of efforts to cut harmful emissions but several are set to shut before then as companies rapidly burn through their

remaining EU production allowances.

Coal has become the preferred source of electricity generation in recent months as profit margins at gas plants have slumped because of higher prices. Poor returns on gas are discouraging investment in the new plants needed to replace the coal-fired fleet, deepening long-running concern over a looming power supply shortfall towards the end of the decade.

Coal accounted for 43 per cent of generation in January compared with 26 per cent for gas, far more than normal, according to National Grid.

Gas prices in Europe are still heavily linked to oil prices, which have been driven up by political tensions in the Middle East. This is in [marked contrast to the US, where the shale gas boom has driven domestic natural gas prices to a 10-year low, making many coal-fired plants uneconomic.](#)

In Britain, however, the so-called “dark spread” – the profit margin made from burning coal and selling the resultant electricity – remains higher than the equivalent “spark spread” for natural gas.

Some 11GW of mainly coal-fired generation is due to close by 2015 under the EU’s Large Combustion Plant Directive. As coal is cheaper at the moment, most of the plants have been pumping at more than 75 per cent capacity, compared with 25 per cent a year ago.

Analysts are now forecasting that most of this capacity will shut in 2013 or 2014 as plants quickly eat up the remaining hours they are permitted to operate before closure. Eon, the German utility, last week announced its 1,940MW Kingsnorth plant in Kent would close in March 2013.

In addition to higher gas prices, coal usage has been encouraged by low prices for burning carbon under the EU’s carbon trading scheme as the eurozone crisis has cut demand. This has created the unintended consequence of helping coal remain competitive.

“The current carbon price of around €10 a tonne [of carbon dioxide emissions] is not enough to bridge the gap between coal and gas producers, even though generators have to buy more carbon credits,” said Peter Atherton, head of utilities research at Citi Investment.

The UK, unlike Germany for example, has enough coal and gas-fired generation to be able to switch between the fossil fuels as prices fluctuate.

Andrew Horstead of Utilyx, the energy consultancy, said Britain was likely to avoid a supply crunch before 2015 because of new gas plants and renewable energy capacity due to come online.

“However, there are risks to security of supply after 2015,” he added. “Although a lot of gas plants are planned, the question is whether the companies will build these given the current situation.”

In addition, to the coal-fired plants due for closure, several of Britain’s ageing nuclear

reactors are also approaching the end of their lives. However, industry executives say they are holding back on investment because of the unattractive economics of gas and uncertainty over planned reforms to the UK electricity market.

Mr Atherton said: “There is spare capacity today but the big worry is that the longer we continue with low spark spreads for gas, no new gas plants will be built.

“Combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) plants are just uninvestable today given the economics. Clean spark spreads are about £1 per MW/hour. You need between £22-£23 per MW/hour for an all-in return on capital,” he added.

Centrica, the owner of British Gas, recently proposed closing two of its CCGT plants.

Volcker Beckers, chief executive of RWE Npower, said the energy market needs regulatory reform but cautioned: “Both customers and investors need far greater clarity. However, I feel less clear about the government’s market reform proposals now than I did a year ago.”

Some in the industry argue that new renewable capacity – including wind and solar – coupled with suppressed demand as a result of economic weakness should mean Britain avoids an energy crunch in the middle of this decade.

But, while the extent and timing of the feared supply shortfall is open to debate, most experts agree the UK is facing a big challenge to meet its energy needs while weaning itself off coal in years to come.

## FLAWS SEEN IN EMISSIONS TRADE

When the European Union launched its emissions trading system in 2005, the scheme was expected to discourage the coal-fired power generation responsible for a large portion of greenhouse gas emissions.

Instead, a combination of overly generous allocations of carbon permits, and the impact of the Eurozone crisis, have so far made the system less effective than anticipated.

The ETS sets an overall cap on emissions allowed from the power stations and heavy industries it covers. The emissions are then converted into allowances, each equal to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, which are distributed to the plants.

Companies can emit more than their allocation by buying allowances from the market and if they emit less, they can sell the surplus.

Most heavy industries initially got a large amount of allowances for free and some, including coal power plants, were accused of making windfall gains by passing on the cost of allowances to consumers even though many were free.

A sharp drop in carbon prices amid the eurozone crisis has made it relatively cheap to burn coal, compared to lower-carbon fuels such as gas. Carbon prices, which fell more than 50 per cent in 2011, were well below €6.50 in December and allowances are still trading for less than €8.

The system is due to be tightened from next year, when all allowances for the power

sector will be auctioned in most EU countries, rather than distributed free of charge. But analysts expect carbon prices to stay subdued unless the economy improves sharply, meaning coal is often likely to be as cheap to burn as gas.

Financial Times, March 8, 2012 6:11 pm

## **Shale boom drives equity issuance**

By Ajay Makan, Michael Mackenzie and Telis Demos in New York

[The US shale boom](#) has come to Wall Street with new share issuance associated with the sector driving equity capital market activity this year.

Investment vehicles known as [Master Limited Partnerships](#) (MLPs) that buy and develop gas and oil assets have raised \$4.3bn through share issuance this year. That is almost a third of the record \$13.8bn raised by the sector last year, and accounts for 20 per cent of all US equity capital raising in 2012, according to Dealogic.

MLPs gather assets that provide steady cash flow and seek to make regular dividend-like payments to their investors. With natural gas prices at decade lows, many energy companies are looking to sell their gas assets to fund exploration for higher value shale oil deposits, creating buying opportunities for MLPs.

“MLPs are enjoying a perfect storm: the shale boom means there are a lot of mature gas assets available, while they can issue equity easily because investors value their payouts in the current low interest rate environment,” said Ethan Bellamy, an analyst at RW Baird.

“However, if natural gas prices do not recover, investors could be disappointed by the level of returns in future years,” he added.

A third of the cash has been raised by MLPs that buy up oil and gasfields, where reserves have been proved, and production costs stabilised.

Linn Energy, for example, raised \$700m in January in the largest MLP share issuance so far this year and then purchased a natural gasfield in the Hugoton Basin in Kansas from [BP](#) for \$1.2bn.

The company says it has purchased derivative contracts that lock in a natural gas floor price for the next five years, guaranteeing some profit as long as production costs do not rise substantially.

However, MLP hedging strategies have been undone by commodity price falls in the past. For example, Constellation Energy Partners, another MLP that invests in natural gasfields, saw lenders reduce credit lines during the financial crisis, as the natural gas price fell rapidly, reducing the value of its outstanding reserves.

Constellation was forced to stop making dividend payouts in early 2009, and its share price has fallen from above \$40 in 2007 to less than \$3.

Most of the remaining cash has been raised by MLPs that buy or build oil or gas pipelines, and use the charges levied for using the pipelines to fund regular dividend-like payouts. The rapid increase in production in isolated shale oil and gas plays has led

a to a surge in pipeline construction to connect the new fields to consumers.

Investors are receptive to MLPs in large part because of their steady cash flow that generates strong dividends. Some corporate bond funds are seeking to capture yield against a backdrop of historically low rates on US Treasuries.

“We believe that onshore natural gas shale and oil shale developments are creating opportunities to invest in energy companies that may grow significantly faster than the overall US economy,” said Mark Kiesel, managing director at Pimco. “Growth, high yields and growing distributions in the pipeline sector are attracting new equity investment, while rising volumes and free cash flow are expanding asset coverage for bond holders.”

### **Natural Resources Committee to meet the Commission for Energy Regulation**

A delegation from the Joint Committee on Communications, Natural Resources and Agriculture will tomorrow morning receive a detailed briefing from representatives of the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER).

CER is the regulator for the electricity and natural gas sectors in Ireland. Tomorrow’s meeting will include discussion their current work priorities, including their increased responsibilities in regulating petroleum safety onshore and offshore.

The CER representatives will introduce the Draft Decision Paper on the High Level Design of the Petroleum Safety Framework, published last month and accessible via the Commission website here: <http://bit.ly/wZ8GzW>.

Chairman of the Oireachtas Joint Committee Andrew Doyle TD said: “Our Committee has an important role in oversight of statutory bodies and tomorrow’s meeting is an opportunity to question representatives from the Commission on their current work priorities.

“Committee Members will be particularly keen to explore the CER’s responsibility for regulating the safety of onshore shale gas extraction. While the CER’s role concerns safety with no statutory authority to permit or ban hydraulic fracturing, the discussion will hopefully afford the Committee an insight into this highly contentious issue – we note that responses to their public consultation on the Petroleum Safety Framework were dominated by concerns on fracking.

“Another matter of public concern is the proposed high-voltage power line from Meath to Tyrone. Last month in multiple meetings, the Committee provided a unique public forum for all sides of the debate on the new interconnector to thrash out long running issues in a frank, comprehensive and open manner. We will seek the perspective of the Commission on how best to deliver this key piece of national infrastructure, as we finalise a response for consideration by Minister for Energy Pat Rabbitte TD.

We will also discuss the CER’s role in their role in regulating the Single Electricity Market with their counterpart in Belfast. The Committee will question the representatives on how the benefits of having the wholesale electricity market on the island of Ireland can increase the use of renewable energies such as wind power in electricity generation.”

The meeting takes place at 11 a.m tomorrow morning 15 March in Committee Room 4, LH 2000.

Committee proceedings can be followed live at: <http://bit.ly/xMg2nJ>

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/mediazone/pressreleases/name-7265-en.html>

Ends

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Michael Colreavy, Sinn Fein  
Pat Deering, Fine Gael  
Andrew Doyle, Fine Gael  
Martin Ferris, Sinn Fein  
Noel Harrington, Fine Gael  
Martin Heydon, Fine Gael  
Colm Keaveney, Labour Party  
Mattie McGrath, Independent  
Michael McNamara, Labour Party  
Michael Moynihan, Fianna Fail  
Éamon Ó Cuív, Fianna Fail  
John O'Mahony, Fine Gael  
Ann Phelan, Labour Party  
Thomas Pringle, Independent

Senators  
Michael Comiskey  
Paschal Mooney  
Pat O'Neill  
Mary Ann O'Brien  
Brian Ó Domhnaill  
John Whelan

## OVERVIEW OF GROUPS/NETWORKS

### **Carrick Against Fracking**

Meetings every week (Thursday) in Burke's Bar, Bridge  
Street Carrick-on-Shannon  
Contact: John Cronogue [jcronogue@gmail.com](mailto:jcronogue@gmail.com) tel: 087 909 3 909

**SOS "SAVE OUR SHANNON"** meeting, hosted by Carrick Against Fracking group.  
The first Thursday of each month will be set aside for SOS meetings in Burke's Bar, Bridge  
Street, Carrick on Shannon (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  
Contact: John Cronogue [jcronogue@gmail.com](mailto:jcronogue@gmail.com) tel: 087 909 3 909

### **West Cavan: Shannon-Erne Protection-Alliance**

Contact: Tom Hyde [toseitheachain1@eircom.net](mailto:toseitheachain1@eircom.net)

### **Ardcarne Against Fracking**

Meetings every Monday in a pub in Cootehall  
Contact: Leah Doherty ( [doherty.lea@gmail.com](mailto:doherty.lea@gmail.com) ) 087  
7409102 / 071 966 7360

### **Love Leitrim - Manorhamilton -**

Chair: Bernie Meehan [bernziemeehan77@gmail.com](mailto:bernziemeehan77@gmail.com)  
Contact: Dervilla Keegan ( [dervybird@hotmail.com](mailto:dervybird@hotmail.com) )  
086 165 7424

**Kiltibrid Antifracking Action Group -**

[julieanngale@eircom.net](mailto:julieanngale@eircom.net)

**Sligo/Glean**

Contact: Kate Wilson [tulipsandoysters@eircom.net](mailto:tulipsandoysters@eircom.net)

**North West Network against Fracking**

[www.facebook.com/pages/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking](http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking)

by Meg Rybicki [youthmardingo@gmail.com](mailto:youthmardingo@gmail.com)

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Ursula Schweiger [islandview12@yahoo.ie](mailto:islandview12@yahoo.ie)

Magdalena Jozwiak [gajesia@gmail.com](mailto:gajesia@gmail.com)

Meetings on Thursdays at 9 pm in O'Donnell's pub,  
main street **Cliffoney, co.Sligo**

contact: Meg Rybicki [youthmardingo@gmail.com](mailto:youthmardingo@gmail.com) 086  
3840254

**Good Energies Alliance Ireland**

Contact: Campaign [goodenergiesalliance@gmail.com](mailto:goodenergiesalliance@gmail.com)

Chair: Miriam Hennesy [miriamhennesy@eircom.net](mailto:miriamhennesy@eircom.net)

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**Dame Street Outreach coordinator:**

**-Lee Page** [leepage100@gmail.com](mailto:leepage100@gmail.com)

**Tommy Foster**

[tommy.j.foster@gmail.com](mailto:tommy.j.foster@gmail.com)

**Talamh task group** - research/legal group

contact: [talamhactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:talamhactiongroup@gmail.com)

**Telephone information/tree service** is available.

- contact John and Val Bailey: **071 9643989**

[bailey.john45@gmail.com](mailto:bailey.john45@gmail.com)

**Kinlough, co.Leitrim**

Meetings Wed at 8 pm Community Centre/ local Pub?

[kinloughnofracking@gmail.com](mailto:kinloughnofracking@gmail.com)

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Brian Sweeney [sweeneymusic@yahoo.com](mailto:sweeneymusic@yahoo.com)

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**Bawnboy Glen**

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**Ballinamore** Joan, Tracey

Joan Walsh [joanw2006@eircom.net](mailto:joanw2006@eircom.net)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=518359759> (Joan)

**Geevahn**

Tiffany Budd [tiffanybudd79@gmail.com](mailto:tiffanybudd79@gmail.com)

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## **Ballyshannon**

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conservation/tamboran/south fermanagh/Donegal

## **COUNTY CLARE**

### **County Clare contact details:**

Clare Frack: West and East Clare: [clarefrack@gmail.com](mailto:clarefrack@gmail.com) contact: Susan.  
Clare Fracking Concerned contact: Tony TA-Khu [takhu@eircom.net](mailto:takhu@eircom.net)  
East Clare [alisrob@eircom.net](mailto:alisrob@eircom.net)

Veronica Miriam Quilligan:  
[90035950@umail.ucc.ie](mailto:90035950@umail.ucc.ie);

### **Blogs/facebook:**

#### **No Fracking Ireland:**

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

<http://www.facebook.com/nofrackingcavan>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Carrick-Against-Fracking/246513672047924>

<http://www.facebook.com/WhatTheFrack>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking/279444575416522>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/No-Fracking-ClareLimerick/241082045932097>

#### **Fermanagh**

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-Fracking-Fermanagh/133710973389744>

#### **Groups**

[fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com](mailto:fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com) apply for membership to Charlie Williams  
[charlie2williams@gmail.com](mailto:charlie2williams@gmail.com)

#### **Websites:**

Fracking Free Ireland:  
[www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org)  
contact: Ineke Scholte [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

Fracking Ireland – with comment on articles and letters to politicians and media  
<https://sites.google.com/site/frackingireland/>  
contact: Charlie Williams [charlie2williams@gmail.com](mailto:charlie2williams@gmail.com)

Frackingfree Clare

<http://frackingfreeclare.org/>

What the frack

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

No Fracking Ireland

<http://nofrackingireland.wordpress.com/>

<http://lough-allen-frack-free.weebly.com/index.html> - not active

## **Northern Ireland**

Not for Shale

[www.notforshale.com](http://www.notforshale.com)

contact Mike Cairns [nautical\\_9@hotmail.com](mailto:nautical_9@hotmail.com)

FFAN Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network

<http://www.frackaware.com/wordpress/>

<http://notofracking.com/>