



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***

Upcoming events

On the **19th and 20th** the North West network against Fracking will hold an info stall beside Mc Garrigle's pub in O Connell jStreet, Sligo from 11 -14 hours.

All queries, supporters, networkers are welcome. We will also have letters for councillors ready on the day that people can send to a Sligo councillor.



All upcoming events on:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/upcoming-events/>
visit also: <http://what-the-frack.org/events/>

EU parliament CONTACT and REQUEST

Received via Web FFI

From: Geert De Cock <gdecock@fweurope.org>
Subject: EU campaign on fracking

Message Body:

Dear Sir / Madam,

My organization Food & Water Europe is starting an EU-wide campaign against fracking, trying to convince European policy-makers to not pursue shale gas in Europe. Our campaign will mainly focus on the risks that shale gas and the practice of fracking poses to Europe's water sources. The goal of our campaign is to get the EU institutions to decide in favour of a ban on fracking.

As this work is just starting, I am contacting organisations across the EU to learn more about their local and national campaigns on fracking.

I am particularly interested in hearing how we can support your local campaigns from Brussels.

At the end of January, members of my organisation will be meeting with a number of Members of the European Parliament about our concerns regarding the increased interest in shale gas in Europe. Among them are Nessa Childers and Bairbre Debrun. **Please let me know if there are specific issues that you'd want us to address in our meeting.**

I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Geert

Geert De Cock
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<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/europe/>

LETTERS

Published in the Leitrim Observer

By Des Guckian dgucks@yahoo.com

FRACKING, A DEADLY THREAT

The threat is so deadly that it behoves us all to try to understand, as far as possible, what fracking involves. Checking the arguments for and against by reading articles on the internet, Irish and American newspapers and Time magazine has convinced me that this is one method of natural gas extraction that is a massive threat to those unlucky enough to live in the general area where it is being employed. Leitrim, north of Drumshanbo, and neighbouring counties are under immediate threat. The Lough Allen community held their information meeting, in The Bush Hotel, on 31 August. A week later, another was held by the gas exploration company Tamboran. I found the community meeting most informative and well presented but the company's approach was very defensive and, as I publicly told them "very economical with the truth".

Fracking is a really new and, as yet, a very imperfect method of extracting gas from ancient shale deposits deep in the earth's crust. Each well is created as follows: A vertical bore-hole, up to one mile deep, is drilled. Gradually, that bore-hole is turned so that it is horizontal by the time it enters the shale. Powerful charges, like small earthquakes, are detonated in the pipe down in the shale. This causes fractures. A mixture of water, sand and chemicals is pumped, at very high pressure, into the cracks. The sand keeps the cracks open and the gas and large amounts of wastes flow to the surface. The wastes are stored in large pools on the pad that contains the well-head. Hundreds of such well are proposed here.

There have been instances, in USA etc, where these polluted pools have collapsed causing overflow into the local water and into larger rivers. New York State is particularly nervous about contamination of the New York City water supply and is about to ban fracking near the watershed. An essential thing is to keep the well pipes fully sealed so that the gas and wastes do not get into aquifers and surface water wells. That essential safeguard is sometimes neglected, leading to environmental disasters and forced migration of locals to other safer places. France has imposed a total ban on fracking.

The award-winning documentary film *Gasland* and the excellent community meeting presentation by Dr Aedin McLoughlin, Ballinaglera, revealed that plenty of chemicals are used in the fracking process. Up to 80,000 pounds of chemicals are injected into the earth's crust to frack each well and up to 70% of fracking fluid remains in the earth's crust and is not biodegradable. It builds up forming a poisonous deposit. Drilling emits nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds. Researchers suspect that 65 compounds used in fracking are hazardous to human health. Not only is there a danger of the methane gas itself escaping, but dangerous radon gas, brine and even radioactive material can be set loose in the mining areas.

In the *Gasland* film, many of the residents interviewed in parts of Pennsylvania and New York States, USA, revealed how their lives were turned upside-down by fracking. They suffered diseases by being exposed to chemicals, their cattle died or were contaminated, their wells and rivers were rendered useless and an ugly industrial wilderness was created in what had been agricultural and tourism areas. Possibly, the most startling thing of all was to see water from a kitchen tap going on fire when a flame was applied – it was carrying methane gas.

At the Tamboran meeting, their spokesman was forced to admit that they will have to increase the size of each bore-hole and the pressure they use, they will most certainly be using chemicals in drilling each bore-hole and if they sell on to another company then that company will in no way be bound by any undertaking given by Tamboran to the N. Leitrim and Fermanagh communities. The, so far, limited licence which Tamboran inherited from another company was issued, last February, by Junior Minister Conor Lenihan's Department of Natural Resources, in the last days of the recent FF/Greens government. Tamboran, or whoever may succeed them, will get our gas deposits for a song and only after they begin to make a profit will they be subjected to a low rate of corporate tax. That give-away needs to be publicly condemned and people power must be applied to get laws in place immediately to defend our local rights and our national interests against speculators. We must credit Tamboran with holding a four hour long public meeting but I wonder will the second company, called Lough Allen Natural Gas Company (who also hold a similar limited licence in the region), come out from cover and have the guts to state what are their interests and intentions.

I cannot see any of our major political parties defending the rights of the public in this issue. As of now, the exploration companies can carry on regardless and confidently expect to be given full

drilling licences – knowing that the EPA will not know how or have the necessary teeth to monitor fracking and our big political parties are going to sit on their hands and not interfere. Honourable exceptions are Luke Flanagan TD (Ind) and Michael Colreavy TD (SF) who stand with the people and have ideas on the thoughtful uses of our natural resources and renewable power. Independent Cllr Gerry Dolan told the meetings that he had visited blighted areas in the USA and did not want to see our farming, tourism and the Shannon River wiped out in similar fashion. The net loss would far outweigh any possible income from gas extraction.

When I spoke at the community meeting, I said that we all wish to have employments of a variety of sorts and that holding on to MBNA employments is vitally important. Fracking rocks is one thing, and is very dangerous in its own right but also there is a huge danger that greedy, ignorant politicians and speculators will frack the community in a manner similar to what happened in tragic Mayo. That would be the ultimate destruction. We need to be informed and to use people power to pressurise our politicians. Otherwise, we are facing yet another regional and national disaster.

Sincerely. Des Guckian, Derrywillow, Dromod.

(Web FFI: Irish Press/local Press)

Letters published in the Irish Times

The Irish Times - Thursday, December 15, 2011

Fears about fracking

Sir – I was glad to see your article on hydraulic fracturing (Home News, December 12th).

To clarify the point regarding divided opinion, I think the fact that Roscommon and Leitrim councils have unanimously voted against fracking, as well as the town councils of Bundoran and Donegal, the only councils to have voted so far, throws some weight in favour of the numbers opposed. And Dublin is planning to pipe Shannon water in, so the potential contamination will reach households and hospitals there.

Is it clean energy? Studies show that (unlike conventional natural gas) shale gas, in its extraction and processing, has so much embedded energy that it is worse than coal in emissions.

In terms of jobs at risk. Government figures show in excess of 320,000 employed in agriculture and tourism, not counting the wider food industry, all mainly locally/family-owned industries. We rightly pay An Bord Bia and Fáilte Ireland millions to continue promoting this country as a clean and safe environment for growing food and for tourists to visit in their millions. Why put all that at risk?

The Minister for Agriculture recently said we hope to increase our share of the world market in baby formula from the present 18 per cent to 25 per cent. Today I spoke with a full-time dairy farmer in Wexford who, although he is well

In this section »

- Saving local health services
- Talking about depression
- A society without a dream?
- Change in the banks
- Sitting up the snow
- Mr Cardiff's appointment

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/letters/2011/1215/1224309100230.html> (15 December 2011)

(Web FFI: Irish Press)

THOUGHTS/DEBATE/INFO

Some further developments in the French saga. – by Natalie Descheres

n.descheres@socratconsulting.com

After having had its license revoked, Total has vowed to appeal the government's decision. A few newsletters back, I

forwarded an article on how the industry, as a whole, is devising PR strategy with views to make fracking socially acceptable. As predictable as rain is here, Total is not yet using the legal route but is launching a massive PR exercise promoting the technology and belittling "scaremongers". This includes:

- A vast number of articles have been hence written and diffused in news media (radio, TV) all considered very partial by experts in the fields. Of course, none mention expert concerns and occurred accidents or pollution.

- A "Greenwashing" operation targeting politicians and decision-makers. Part of this initiative is the infiltration of the 9th colloque on the 17th of Jan 2012 of the "club of energy and development", overseen by Gunther Oettinger (EU representative in charge of energy) and which will be attended by all relevant French ministers. One table-ronde is "Can France do without shale gas: How to overturn the French ban?". I guess presented like, the "need" part of the discussion will be overlooked.

Speaking will be: A director assistant from some energy quango, and Bruno COURME, directeur de Total Gas Shale Europe, Mark KATROSH, président de Hess Oil France, Emmanuel MOUSSET, directeur général de Toreador Energy France, Peter SIDER, vice-président des Opérations en Europe de Vermilion REP. No public or anti-fracking representation is planned. A highly balanced panel !

- o It is worth noting that according to the "legal ban", public participation, public reporting and impact study should be enshrine in the decision process – a meagre detail already disappearing in the background.

Thank you to Charlie for his article on Ireland's energy. Watching George Lee "Business" TV program, he mentioned the recovery of gas from grass and slurry and slaughter carcass being an area of development in green energy. **Is anybody aware of anything like that happening in the areas targeted for fracking. If we want to develop a positive vision, on the renewable energy front, it might be worth exploring.**

UPDATES WEB FFI

IRISHTIMES.COM Thursday, December 15, 2011

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The Irish Times - Thursday December 15, 2011

Print RSS Text Size: A - A ADVERTISE

Fracking found to be worse than coal or gas emissions

FRANK McDONALD, Environment Editor

UPDATED RESEARCH at Cornell University in New York has found that methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of shale gas deposits would contribute more to climate change than emissions from conventional natural gas and even coal.

The latest research by Prof Robert Howarth, director of Cornell's agriculture, energy and environment programme, shows that one well-pad fracking shale gas would emit more greenhouse gases than a community of 100,000 people in a year.

In this section »

- Hunt for bargains tops list of internet trends
- Science gallery wins Ctn award to set up global network
- Guinness settles on St James's Gate
- Rolling back the years at Ansett or dresses still show

Latest

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Fracking found to be worse than coal or gas emission

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2011/12/15/1224309098752.html> 15 December

2011

(Web FFI: Irish Press)

Movie

Another fracking movie with the people involved - Sound piece by Brigitta Varadi. Portraits by David Michalek (same producers as the children's fracking animation movie)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCwTTiq3Hus&feature=related>

UK

VISIT TO CUADRILLA SITE IN LANCASHIRE

Hi all

Please see my blog below following a visit to the Cuadrilla drilling site in Lancashire, UK

http://www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/campaigning/campaigns_news/?5535/Cuadrilla-defends-shale-gas---but-are-we-convinced

Jenny

Jenny Banks | Energy and Climate Change Policy Officer | Climate Change Team | WWF-UK, Panda House, Weyside Park, Godalming GU7 1XR | Jbanks@wwf.org.uk | 01483 412570 | 07766 602196 |

SWEDEN

The situation on the island Öland is far more severe than it is in my region where Shell has left (for good as we hope). The **exploration on Öland is done by a company called Gripen Gas.**

Best regards from Sweden,

Anita

Heaven or sHell

<http://heavenorshell.se>

USA

THE AMERICAN INTEREST

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From the January/February 2012 issue:

Shale Storm

ANDREW A. MICHTA

An earthquake is winding up under the crust of European soil—not a conventional seismic one, but an energy temblor, with the potential to transform the Continent's energy market and alter the strategic parameters of Russian-European relations. The prospect of the commercialization of shale gas has already generated a high-stakes debate within the European Union about how fossil fuels, nuclear power, solar and renewables should factor in its energy mix. Adding an American dimension to the problem, Europe's debate on energy security also affects Transatlantic relations because of shale gas's potential to link U.S. and European energy sectors and influence the wider Euro-Atlantic debate on climate change, regulatory requirements, emissions and supply sources.



An earthquake is winding up under the crust of European soil—not a conventional seismic one, but an energy temblor, with the potential to transform the Continent's energy market and alter the strategic parameters of Russian-European relations. The prospect of the commercialization of shale gas has already generated a high-stakes debate within the European Union about how fossil fuels, nuclear power, solar and renewables should factor in its energy mix.

<http://the-american-interest.com/article-bd.cfm?piece=1168> (Jan/Febr. Issue)

(Web FFI: Global Fracking)

FRACKING AND HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT RELEASED

Dear friends in Europe,

On Monday (12 Dec 2011), the **Environment and Human Rights Advisory has released a new report** on the human rights dimensions of fracking. It is specific to New York State--and its failure to investigate health impacts in its draft environmental impact statement--but there is much here that could apply to fracking universally and there is much drawn from human rights principles developed in Europe. Tom Kern, principle author, looks at two dozen human rights norms, including safety of person and free, informed consent, in relationship to fracking.

I recently referenced this document in testimony on fracking wastewater at NY Senate hearings.

Faithfully,

Sandra

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.

Distinguished Scholar in Residence

Department of Environmental Studies
Ithaca College
Ithaca, New York 14850
www.steingraber.com

.....
The topic was fracking wastewater. Here attached is my written testimony, which focuses on public health effects from chemical exposures and radioactivity and the impossibility of containing vast amounts of toxic fluid forever.

Also mentioned are drill cuttings, also radioactive, which are allowed to be buried in landfills.

A link to the video of my ten-minute oral presentation is also below. Written testimony is much more comprehensive and fully referenced.

The Senators who convened this hearing are both Republican. At the end of my remarks, I appealed to the conservative principle of honoring fetal sanctity and pointed out the admission, in the draft environmental impact statement, that fracking increases sedimentation of surface water, that chlorinated surface water with sediment and dissolved solids will increase trihalomethanes (disinfection byproducts), and that these chemicals are linked to pregnancy loss.

Kind regards,

Sandra

13 of 17: *Sandra Steingraber*, Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Ithaca College, Environmental Biologist and author. NYS Public Hearing, Senate Standing Committee on Energy Conservation. Sponsored by NYS Senators Mark Grisanti ...

[Shaleshock Media](#)

13-Sandra Steingraber, Canandaigua Fracking Waste Hearing 12-12-11

Posted on 12.14.11

YouTube Posts

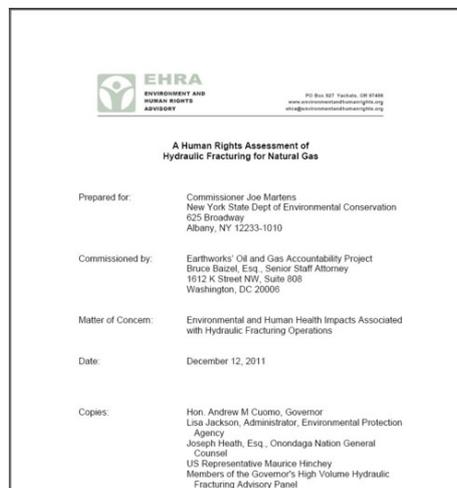
0 Comments



13 of 17: Sandra Steingraber, Distinguished Scholar in Residence at Ithaca College, Environmental Biologist and author. NYS Public Hearing, Senate Standing Committee on Energy Conservation. Sponsored by NYS Senators Mark Grisanti and Patrick Gallivan to examine waste water produced by hydraulic fracturing. The Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua, NY December 12, 2011.

[13-Sandra Steingraber, Canandaigua Fracking Waste Hearing 12 ...](#)

By Cris McConkey



EHRA report

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/EHRA-frac-rpt-111212-1-final.pdf>

States testimony:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/senate-testimony-1212111.pdf>

(Web FFI: Official reports)

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, WORLD WIDE

Dear All,

I am happy to say that after a recent Friends of the Earth meeting, a number of Friends of the Earth national campaigners working on shale have joined our listserve. Welcome!

At that meeting, we agreed to **collaborate on compiling an overview / bibliography of resources available for national and EU level work (NGO materials for awareness raising & advocacy action, authoritative studies, and other useful resources)**. I am happy to take any recommendations. Please send to the listserve.

I am now resending a couple of items for the new people, and which will also go on the bibliography.

1. E-mailings on 'fracking' from the USA NGO Investor Environmental Health Network.

Rich Liroff sends on a regular basis around 8-10 selected media **reports (mostly US-based) on fracturing**, which add the most new information or that consolidate existing information in a particularly useful way. This is information targeted to IEHN's network of investors working on hydraulic fracturing, and to the proxy voting

advisory services who may support IEHN's shareholder resolutions. Investors in the United States have been pressing companies for greater disclosure of chemicals and for adoption of best management practices to reduce hazards.

You can sign up with him directly to receive these mailings:
rliroff@iehn.org

Rich has been involved with a dozen shareholder resolutions at US companies in 2009, six in 2010, and 9 resolutions this year. For a summary of investor concerns and various resources, see: <http://iehn.org/overview.naturalgashydraulicfracturing.php>

Rich also refers us to US national on-line chemical disclosure website will be populated with data from companies. See: www.hydraulicfracturingdisclosure.com.

2. another place where English language news stories are tracked (mostly US):
<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/topic.jsp?term=Topic/fracking&title=Fracking>

Note that the further back in time you go in the archives, the more likely it is that the link will be dead. News outlets vary in their policies on how long they keep them alive and accessible.

Environmental Health News can only guarantee that the links were good when they put them up. Usually they last at least two weeks. Some for years.

Best,

Lisette van Vliet, Ph.D.
Toxics Policy Advisor

Health & Environment Alliance

28 Boulevard Charlemagne
B-1000 Brussels BELGIUM
Tel: +32 2 234 3645 (direct) Fax : +32 2 234 3649

E-mail: lisette@env-health.org

Website: www.chemicalshealthmonitor.org

FRACKING AND CHEMICALS – received from Lisette van Vliet

Colorado approves disclosure of fracking chemicals

Published December 13, 2011

| Associated Press

DENVER – Colorado will require energy companies to disclose the concentrations of all chemicals in hydraulic fracturing and also ask

drillers to make public some information about ingredients considered trade secrets.

Colorado regulators unanimously approved the new rules Tuesday that **take effect in April**.

The guidelines are similar to those required by a first-in-the-nation law passed in Texas this year but go further by requiring the concentrations of chemicals to be disclosed.

"That's the big advancer here. We're getting a full picture of what's in that fracking fluid," said Michael Freeman, an attorney for Earthjustice who worked with industry to write the rules.

Also, if Colorado drillers claim a trade secret, they would **still have to disclose the ingredient's chemical family**. In emergencies, companies would have to tell health care workers what those secret ingredients were.

"It yielded a good rule for the state and a workable rule for the industry," said Jep Seman, an attorney for the Colorado Petroleum Association.

Companies have been fracking for decades, but as drilling expands to more populated areas, residents near wells are concerned about the effects on their health and drinking water. Texas, in passing its law this summer, noted that fracking has been done safely in that state for 60 years.

Arkansas, Montana, Texas, and Wyoming all require companies to disclose the chemicals in fracking fluid but not their concentrations, said Matt Watson, senior energy policy manager for the Environmental Defense Fund. Louisiana and New Mexico only require disclosure of some chemicals deemed workplace hazards by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Other states, including Michigan and Pennsylvania, have proposed similar regulations.

Gov. John Hickenlooper called for Colorado to draft a disclosure rule. The commission proposed having companies list nonproprietary ingredients and concentrations on FracFocus.org, a national website created by two intergovernmental agencies. The rule was proposed to take effect Feb. 1, but commission staff recommended delaying that until April 1 to give drillers more time to comply.

"I think we've reached the fairest and most transparent rules on the transparency of frack fluids of any state in the country," Hickenlooper said afterward. "I think this will likely become a national model that if other states they don't copy it, they will certainly use it as a touch point."

Commission staff said a survey of Colorado disclosures on FracFocus.org shows a small percentage claim trade secrets, though the website includes only voluntary disclosures. Companies on the website say the fluid is mostly water mixed with sand and small percentages of petroleum chemicals and alcohols such as Isopropanol, which is used in rubbing alcohol, while some contain hydrochloric acid.

Freeman said some fracking fluids also might contain diesel fuel, benzene and other chemicals commonly found in gasoline. **The database will be searchable by company, well location and type of chemical used.**

The Environmental Protection Agency last week found a possible link between groundwater pollution and hydraulic fracturing beneath Pavillion, Wyo. The EPA found compounds likely associated with fracking chemicals in the groundwater beneath the small central Wyoming community where residents complain their well water smells like chemicals. Health officials last year advised residents not to drink their well water after the EPA found low levels of hydrocarbons.

Industry officials pointed out that the EPA announcement didn't focus on the domestic water wells but two wells drilled somewhat deeper into the aquifer specifically to test for pollution. The owner of the Pavillion gas field, Calgary, Alberta-based Encana, said the compounds could have had other origins not related to gas development.

Commission Director Dave Neslin said the commissioners are reviewing the draft EPA report but Colorado already has implemented regulations meant to protect groundwater. Those regulations include how to properly encase and cement walls, clean up spills and properly dispose of waste.

"Disclosure is important for transparency and public education, but it's not our first line of defense," he said.

Read more:

ENERGY IN AMERICA

Colorado approves disclosure of fracking chemicals

Published December 13, 2011 | Associated Press

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Denver — Colorado will require energy companies to disclose the concentrations of all chemicals in hydraulic fracturing and also ask drillers to make public some information about ingredients considered trade secrets.

Colorado regulators unanimously approved the new rules Tuesday that take effect in April.

The guidelines are similar to those required by a first-in-the-nation law passed in Texas this year but go further by requiring the concentrations of chemicals to be disclosed.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/12/13/colorado-approves->

disclosure-fracking-chemicals/#ixzz1gS72yMVV
(Web FFI: official reports/research-articles)

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ANOTHER ARTICLE ABOUT EPA

USA Today (9 December 2011)

EPA: Fracking may cause groundwater pollution

By Mead Gruver, Associated Press
CHEYENNE, Wyo. — CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The **U.S.** Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday for the first time that fracking — a controversial method of improving the productivity of oil and gas wells — may be to blame for causing groundwater pollution.

By Ralph Wilson,

The draft finding could have significant implications while states try to determine how to regulate the process. Environmentalists characterized the report as a significant development though it met immediate criticism from the oil and gas industry and a U.S. senator.

The practice is called hydraulic fracturing and involves pumping pressurized water, sand and chemicals underground to open fissures and improve the flow of oil or gas to the surface.

The EPA's found that compounds likely associated with fracking chemicals had been detected in the groundwater beneath Pavillion, a small community in central Wyoming where residents say their well water reeks of chemicals. Health officials last year advised them not to drink their water after the EPA found low levels of hydrocarbons in their wells.

The EPA announcement could add to the controversy over fracking, which has played a large role in opening up many gas reserves, including the [Marcellus Shale](#) in the eastern U.S. in recent years.

The industry has long contended that fracking is safe, but environmentalists and some residents who live near drilling sites say it has poisoned groundwater.

The EPA said its announcement is the first step in a process of opening up its findings for review by the public and other scientists.

"EPA's highest priority remains ensuring that Pavillion residents have access to safe drinking water," said [Jim Martin](#), EPA regional administrator in Denver. "We look forward to having these findings in the draft report informed by a transparent and public review process."

The EPA also emphasized that the findings are specific to the Pavillion area. The agency said the fracking that occurred in Pavillion differed from fracking methods used elsewhere in regions with different geological characteristics.

The fracking occurred below the level of the drinking water aquifer and close to water wells, the EPA said. Elsewhere, drilling is more remote and fracking occurs much deeper than the level of groundwater that would normally be used.

Environmentalists welcomed the news of the EPA report, calling it an important turning point in the fracking debate.

"This is an important first indication there are potential problems with fracking that can impact domestic water wells. It's I think a clarion call to industry to make sure they take a great deal of care in their drilling practices," said [Steve Jones](#) with the [Wyoming Outdoor Council](#).

Pavillion resident John Fenton, chairman of the group Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens, applauded the EPA for listening to the homeowners with contaminated water.

"Those of us who suffer the impacts from the unchecked development in our community are extremely happy the contamination source is being identified," Fenton said.

Calgary, Alberta-based Encana owns the Pavillion gas field. An announced \$45 million sale to Midland, Texas-based Legacy Reserves fell through last month amid what Encana said were Legacy's concerns about the EPA investigation.

Encana spokesman Doug Hock said there was much to question about the draft study.

The compounds EPA said could be associated with fracking, he said, could have had other origins not related to gas development.

"Those could just have likely been brought about by contamination in their sampling process or construction of their well," Hock said.

The low levels of hydrocarbons found in local water wells likewise haven't been linked to gas development and substances such as methane itself are naturally occurring in the area.

"There are still a lot of questions that need to be answered. This is a probability and it is one we believe is incorrect," Hock said.

Sen. [James Inhofe](#) said the study was "not based on sound science but rather on political science."

"Its findings are premature, given that the Agency has not gone through the necessary peer-review process, and there are still serious outstanding questions regarding EPA's data and methodology," the Oklahoma Republican said in a statement.

Wyoming last year became one of the first states to require oil and gas companies to publicly disclose the chemicals used in fracking. Colorado regulators are considering doing the same.

The public and industry representatives packed an 11-hour hearing on the issue in Denver on Monday. They all generally supported the proposal but the sticking point is whether trade secrets would have to be disclosed and how quickly the information would have to be turned over.

And while the EPA emphasized the Wyoming findings we're highly localized, the report is likely to reverberate.

The issue has been highly contentious in [New York](#), where some upstate residents and politicians argue that the gas industry will bring desperately needed jobs while others demand a ban on fracking to protect water supplies. New York regulators haven't issued permits for gas drilling with high-volume hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale since they began an extensive environmental review in 2008.

Kate Sinding, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council in New York City, said in an e-mail Thursday that the EPA in Wyoming is now recognizing what other experts and families in fracking communities have known for some time: "Fracking poses serious threats to safe drinking water."

OVERVIEW OF GROUPS/NETWORKS

Carrick Against Fracking

Meetings every week (Thursday) in Burke's Bar, Bridge street
Contact: John Cronogue jcronogue@gmail.com
tel: 087 909 3 909

West Cavan: Shannon-Erne Protection-Alliance

Contact: Tom Hyde toseitheachain1@eircom.net

Ardcarne Against Fracking

Meetings every Monday in a pub in Cootehall

Contact: Leah Doherty doherty.lea@gmail.com
087 7409102 / 071 966 7360

Love Leitrim - Manorhamilton -

Weekly meetings on a Thursday at the Bee Park,
Manorhamilton, 8pm.
chair: Bernie Meehan
berniemeehan77@gmail.com
Contact: Dervilla Keegan (
dervybird@hotmail.com)
086 165 7424

Kiltibrid Antifracking Action Group -

julieanngale@eircom.net

Sligo/Glean

Contact: Kate Wilson
tulipsandoysters@eircom.net

North West Network against Fracking

www.facebook.com/pages/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking
by Meg Rybicki youthmardingo@gmail.com
0863840254
Ursula Shweiger islandview12@yahoo.ie
Magdalena Jozwiak 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
0863840254

DULBIN CONTACT

Dame Street Outreach coordinator:
-Lee Page leepage100@gmail.com
Tommy Foster
tommy.j.foster@gmail.com

Talamh task group - research/legal group
contact: talamhactiongroup@gmail.com

Telephone tree service is available.
- contact John and Val Bailey: **071 9643989**
bailey.john45@gmail.com

Kinlough, co.Leitrim

Meetings Wed at 8 pm Community Centre/ local
Pub?
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Lucy Cooke lucyman123@googlemail.com

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Bawnboy Glen

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COUNTY CLARE

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

Blogs:

<http://www.facebook.com/nofrackingcavan>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Carrick-Against-Fracking/246513672047924>
<http://www.facebook.com/WhatTheFrack>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-Fracking-Fermanagh/133710973389744>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking/279444575416522>
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/No-Fracking-ClareLimerick/241082045932097>

Groups

fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com apply for
membership to Charlie Williams
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