



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***

LAST NEWSLETTER OF 2011

This is the last newsletter of 2011. Next will be 5th January 2012. Wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous frackingfree world-wide 2012 (- for ever-)

Let's thanks us all for our efforts so far!
Ineke

touch with Northwest Network against Fracking at youthmardingo@gmail.com or phone Meg on 0863840254.
peace everyone

The Love Leitrim Manorhamilton Group has a stand at the LSC Christmas Open Art Exhibition for a week **from Friday 9th**. The Show is open Monday to Saturday 12pm to 4pm but closed Sunday, **until 23rd December**.

We have information on fracking and T shirts, hi-viz jackets and stickers for sale

Leitrim Sculpture Centre
New Line
Manorhamilton
Co Leitrim
www.leitrimsculpturecentre.ie
Telephone: 071 985 5098

LSC acknowledge the financial support of the Arts Council.

All upcoming events on:

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

IRELAND

Song/movie about fracking in Leitrim –

By David j. info@blackholestudio.ie

A video inspired by the concerned people of Leitrim, Ireland about their worries on the controversial issue of fracking. This song and consequent video goes some way to explain the problems they may be facing in the near future.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBw5ve8hVFY>

Upcoming events

Jan 5th 2012, a meeting will be held in Burkes Bar Bridge St. **Carrick on Shannon at 7.30pm**
This meeting will be for the Save Our Shannon group (SOS) and will be hosted by Carrick Against Fracking.

Guest speakers - including members of Roscommon and Leitrim county councils - are invited.

Groups who are actively engaged in protecting our natural water, clean air and the health of our people are also invited.

This meeting will be weather dependant, ie. severe frost or snow. Ring or txt 087 909 3 909

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

We are manning a stand in **Sligo** in the week before **Christmas**. It will be on O Connell Street, the main thoroughfare, outside McGarrigles Pub, (the manager of the pub is providing a canopy, lights, and table) and we will have literature on fracking, badges, and info stand, and letters to Pat Rabbitte, and a special festive card for people to sign and send to their own TD's, (basically, instead of "Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel", it will read, "No wells, No Wells, No Wells, No Wells" (with a gas flare instead of a star. If anyone would like to volunteer a few hours, or add some material, stickers, etc, please get in

From: info@cer.ie

To: raabheinechristine@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 4:00 PM

Subject: High Level Design Petroleum Safety Framework Consultation Paper



Consultation Responses and Minutes of Respondents Meetings

The CER today (December 16 2011) publishes the 79 responses it received to the *Consultation Paper on the High Level Design of the Petroleum Safety Framework* (CER/11/137). These responses, as well as the minutes of the meetings the CER held with respondents are available to view at the link below:

<http://www.cer.ie/en/consultations.aspx?type=safety&article=57170b43-6dee-433a-b7b3-63dc68cb680f> (Web FFI: political issues)

The CER expects to publish the Consultation Response Paper and the Draft Decision paper on the High Level Design of the Petroleum Safety Framework early in the new year.

Separate to the consultation on the High Level Design of the Petroleum Safety Framework, the CER met with Tamboran Resources in October 2011 at their request. To view the minutes of that meeting please click on the link below:

<http://www.cer.ie/en/petroleum-safety-meeting-minutes.aspx>

For further information, please contact Eamonn Murtagh emurtagh@cer.ie at the CER.

Commission for Energy Regulation, The Exchange, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | Tel: 01 4000 800 | Fax: 01 4000 850 | info@cer.ie
[Unsubscribe from Newsletter](#)

NORTHERN IRELAND

Received from Michael Cairnsnautical_9@hotmail.com

19-12-11

WE MAY have solved the mystery of why Stormont's enterprise committee went so suddenly soft on minister Arlene Foster over fracking, with Green Party leader Steven Agnew going from demanding her resignation to promising never to mention it again. The Detail website has discovered that the MLAs' pension fund is invested in a company that makes nuclear weapons, so complaining about gas extraction seems a little precious. Some radical greens do support nuclear energy. Is Steven 'Atomic' Agnew now among them?

newton@irishnews.com

UK

Tory MEP kept energy share options secret
<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/insight/article/844631.ece>

[Scroll to end of newsletter for full article](#)

(Missed) Hit on radio UK –

This hit was broadcasted last Sunday. Might to be listened again....? By dave wolst dave-southport@hotmail.co.uk Hi on sunday night tune into www.impact-radio.co.uk between 10 and midnight to hear our hit "When are they gonna learn" and an exclusive interview with Jeepster Gaz and Dave Strider with Impact Radio's DJ Colin Davies...!

Shale gas and fracking

Standard Note: SN/SC/6073
Last updated: 2 November 2011
Author: Dr Patsy Richards
Section: Science and Environment Section

This note is intended to update the Energy and Climate Change Committee's *Fifth Rep 'Shale Gas'* (May 2011), to which the Government has now responded, and *POST Note 3 'Unconventional Gas'* (April 2011).

The recent rapid development of unconventional gas resources (notably shale gas) in North America has transformed the World gas-market outlook. In September 2011 the company Cuadrilla announced the results of test drills that indicate substantial reserves in the UK.

Concerns have been raised regarding, for example, resource use, net effects on greenhouse gas emissions and risk of groundwater contamination, although the Government has declined to place a moratorium on drilling and the Committee was supportive of the industry.

Following small seismic tremors near Blackpool in April and May 2011 however, drilling temporarily suspended while a geomechanical study takes place, although Cuadrilla has just (October 2011) published a full economic assessment of the potential for shale gas exploration and production in Lancashire and the UK.

Geoff Copper - geoff@fishingforall.com is an

English fishing journalist and was on **UK radio** re fracking.

'Just spent 15 minutes discussing fracking on live national radio. Should stir it up a bit in the UK.'

Shale gas and fracking report -

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Fracking-report.pdf>

(Web FFI: UK and official reports)

USA and CANADA

DEEP DRILL
REPORTS FROM PENNSYLVANIA'S GASLAND

HOME BATTLE LINES SERIES NEWS & ARCHIVES

Posted Sat, Dec 10, 2011, 2:00 AM

Powerful Pipes, Weak Oversight

By Joseph Tanfani and Craig R. McCoy
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

First in a four-part series.

WAYNESBURG, Pa. - Through the hilly fields here in southwestern Pennsylvania, crews worked for months this year, cutting a trench through woods and past farms for a new natural gas pipeline.

Like many other lines crisscrossing the state's Marcellus Shale regions, this pipe was big - a high-pressure steel line, 20 inches in diameter, large enough to help move a buried ocean of natural gas out of this corner of the state. It was also plenty big enough to set off a sizable explosion if something went wrong.

There was trouble on the job. Far too many of the welds that tied the pipe sections together were failing inspection.

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FRACKING AND SOLAR ENERGY - competitive with coals – A REPORT

A peer-reviewed scientific paper by academics at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada that shows solar photovoltaics are already competitive with coal.

[ScienceDirect - Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews : A review of solar photovoltaic levelized cost of electricity](#)

As the solar photovoltaic (PV) matures, the economic feasibility of PV projects is increasingly being evaluated using the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) generation in order to be compared to other electricity generation technologies. Unfortunately, there is lack of clarity of reporting assumptions, justifications and degree of completeness in LCOE calculations, which produces widely varying and contradictory results. This paper reviews the methodology of properly calculating the LCOE for solar PV, correcting the misconceptions made in the assumptions found throughout the literature. Then a template is provided for better reporting of LCOE results for PV needed to influence policy mandates or

make invest decisions. A numerical example is provided with variable ranges to test sensitivity, allowing for conclusions to be drawn on the most important variables. Grid parity is considered when the LCOE of solar PV is comparable with grid electrical prices of conventional technologies and is the industry target for cost-effectiveness. **Given the state of the art in the technology and favourable financing terms it is clear that PV has already obtained grid parity in specific locations and as installed costs continue to decline, grid electricity prices continue to escalate, and industry experience increases, PV will become an increasingly economically advantageous source of electricity over expanding geographical regions.**

A search on Google turns up several tools, including an Excel spreadsheet, which carries out the relevant calculations.

[Review of solar levelized cost - Appropedia: The sustainability wiki](#)

Powerful Pipes, Weak Oversight – first in four part series - 10 December 2011

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/special_packa ges/inquirer/marcellus-shale/20111208_Gas_lines_proliferating_in_Pa_are_lightly_regulated.html(Web FFI: official reports/ research-articles)

STATEIMPACT A reporting project of local public media and NPR

Pennsylvania
Energy, Environment, Economy

REGULATION ECONOMY INFLUENCE IMPACT

Introducing StateImpact's New Marcellus Shale App

DECEMBER 14, 2011 9:35 AM
BY SCOTT DETROW

OPERATORS	ACTIVE WELLS	VIOLATIONS	TOTAL FINES
52	1,608	1,532	\$2.8 MILLION

Support for StateImpact Pennsylvania is provided by

About StateImpact Pennsylvania
StateImpact Pennsylvania is a collaboration between WITF, WHYY and NPR. Reporters Scott Detrow and Susan Phillips will cover the fiscal and environmental impact of Pennsylvania's booming energy economy, with a focus on Marcellus Shale drilling. Read their reports on this site, and hear them on public radio stations across Pennsylvania.

Learn More » Support StateImpact Pennsylvania »

Featured Posts
Burning Question: What Would Life Be Like Without the Halliburton Loophole?
Preemption Language Gone, But Pennsylvania's Impact

Introducing state impact's Marcellus Shale App – 14 December 2011

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2011/12/14/introducing-stateimpacts-new-marcellus-shale-app/> (Web FFI: official reports)

Landowners turn against leasing for 'fracking'

TOM BAWDEN | MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2011
Tweet | Share | 7 | PRINT | EMAIL | A A

Latest in Business News
Honda plans to create 500 new jobs
Struggling retailer HMV bids to sell live music arm
Fines against individuals hit record £12.9m as FSA gets tough

Suggested Topic
Engineering
Nearly half of the landowners who have leased their ground to shale gas developers in the north-east of America regret doing it, despite the money, according to a new report by Deloitte.
In findings that will intensify opposition to the controversial process of hydraulic fracturing, some 47 per cent of respondents

Spotted by Mike Doherty in today's Independent:

Landowners turn against leasing for fracking – 19 December 2011
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/landowners-turn-against-leasing-for-fracking-6279146.html>

DRILLING DOWN SERIES – for your Christmas break ☺

These links are 'famous' but I add them again for the 'newcomers' (**Web FFI official reports/research articles**)

Thanks to Sarah Akamine
sarahakamine@gmail.com

Who did remind me of these articles
amazing pages in the New York Times
I thought it worth mentioning. It is absolutely packed with links to valuable information.

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/us/DRILLING_DOWN_SERIES.html

There are great articles, and the interactive features are incredible.
They are filled with thousands of confidential US government documents (obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests by the NYT) about subjects like drinking water contamination, wastewater treatment difficulties, fears of a Ponzi scheme scenario among financial regulators, fears for property devaluation and adverse effects on mortgages among financial institutions. etc. etc.

Please have a look, and if it is not on your site already, please highlight it, and encourage people to look at all the links, and to save the page for future reference. The amount of information there is just unreal.

Here is an additional link to the first article in the series, for which I did not find a link on the page above.
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/27/us/27gas.html?_r=1

Received from Charlie Williams - charlie2williams@gmail.com



Dear Charlie,

It's time to double down.

The fossil fuel industry is pulling out all the stops to drill, frack, and dig every last hydrocarbon out of North America. "Drill Baby Drill" isn't just a campaign slogan anymore – it's been turned into a plan.

Every year, the fossil fuel industry pumps more money into Congress, local governments, and advertising. They're upping the ante to get what they want.

But this year, they hit a roadblock. This year, the many stood in the way of the money and said no. From the Keystone XL pipeline to the communities that have said no to fracking in their backyards, people made a real difference.

By working to inform and empower this movement with information that exposed Big Oil's lies and the influence of their money, Oil Change International made a real difference too.

Now [it's time to double down for 2012](#). And thanks to the generosity of one of our donors, you can do just that. **[Whatever amount you can give right now will be doubled, up to \\$15,000.](#)**

We've seen that the cards in our hands are winners:

- Taking on government handouts to oil, gas, and coal
- Revealing the industry's lies about jobs and energy security
- Standing with the 99% and exposing oil, gas and coal as one of the key pillars of power behind the 1%

[We just need your help to double down and up our game.](#)

Big Oil is betting heavily against us. This year, we won a few hands. Next year, as we head into election season, the game becomes higher stakes. We're doubling down and going all in. Please join us.

Peace,

Steve Kretzmann
Founder & Executive Director
Oil Change International

Oil Change International campaigns to expose the true costs of fossil fuels and facilitate the coming transition towards clean energy. We are dedicated to identifying and overcoming barriers to that transition.

We are a 501c3 organization and all [donations](#) are fully tax deductible.

Check out our blog at [PriceOfOil.org](#) and find out how much oil and coal money your Representatives take at [DirtyEnergyMoney.com](#).

Tory MEP kept energy share options secret

A frontbencher claimed to be an unpaid director despite receiving a lucrative package from a shale gas mining group

Insight Published: 18 December 2011

DAVID CAMERON with Tory MEP Charles Tannock. Charles Tannock, the Conservative foreign affairs spokesman, with David Cameron (HO)

A frontbench Tory MEP secretly received share options worth up to £500,000 from a controversial fracking company but failed to declare them to the European parliament.

Charles Tannock, the Conservative foreign affairs spokesman, consistently claimed he was unpaid by the company, 3Legs Resources, based in the Isle of Man.

When the parliamentary authorities were alerted to the MEP's secret options they found there were no clear rules to deal with such a case.

It highlights the lax governance in the parliament which critics fear will lead to further scandals, despite recent attempts to reform the rules.

3Legs was set up to extract supplies of shale gas and oil in Europe using the contentious hydraulic fracturing method, nicknamed fracking. Critics allege the technique pollutes water with carcinogens.

Tannock, a psychiatrist turned London MEP, declared his position as a non-executive director but failed to mention his lucrative share options.

Meanwhile, he has used his role as a politician to call on Europe to lessen its reliance on Russian oil and gas in favour of other energy sources. 3Legs has 11 exploration licences in Poland and Germany.

Financial documents show that 3Legs awarded Tannock 215,884 share options, worth about £500,000, at the peak of the market in July. The MEP was also allowed to buy 160,000 shares for just £400 and sold half of them for a six-figure profit when 3Legs floated on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) in June.

Tannock denies any conflict of interest as he has never specifically spoken in favour of fracking in parliament.

However, anti-lobbying campaigners criticise his failure to disclose his large financial gains from a controversial industry.

He should have been open about the sums involved in his shareholding. His failure to do so raises significant questions about conflicts of interest, said Vicky Cann, of the Corporate Europe Observatory.

Tannock was brought into the 3Legs group in 2007 by his friend Robert Jeffcock, a colourful oil and gas tycoon. Speaking from his home in Monte Carlo, Jeffcock said: 'We felt we would benefit from having someone with political savvy, as opposed to everyone being technical experts . . . frankly I thought he would look good on the board.'

Despite his low profile in Britain, Tannock is well known in Europe for his network of contacts in eastern countries such as Ukraine and Poland.

After buying 160,000 shares in 3Legs, Tannock's 2007 declaration of interests stated he had become a 'small founder shareholder and . . . non-executive director'. In subsequent declarations he removed all mention of these shares and said he was 'unpaid'.

He was awarded options to buy a further 215,884 shares at 13p each in 2009, but still did not update the register.

He resigned from 3Legs in December 2010 but pocketed £152,000 by selling half his shares at £1.90 when the company floated on the AIM. When the price peaked at £2.60 in July, Tannock's remaining shares and options were worth about £740,000. Yet he still failed to declare the holding.

The Jeffcock family made £11.5m from selling part of their holding during the float only for the share price to collapse to 50p after the firm admitted disappointing drilling results. It has now rallied to 85p, meaning Tannock's remaining shares and options are worth more than £200,000.

Tannock's holding in 3Legs came to light after the firm found itself at the centre of protests in the summer over its application for a drilling licence in southern France. British expats involved in the anti-fracking campaign uncovered the MEP's shares and options as they trawled through company documents.

They wrote to Jerzy Buzek, president of the European parliament, pointing out that Tannock had failed to declare his shares. The parliament's rules require MEPs to make a "detailed declaration of their professional activities and any other remunerated functions".

Tannock had declared 3Legs under the section for paid functions on the declaration of interests form, but contradicted this by saying he was "unpaid".

Buzek's hands were tied. He wrote back to say he had no powers to "intervene over the veracity or completeness" of members' declarations. "I do not consider the current arrangements to be entirely satisfactory," he added.

Tannock referred himself to the European parliament's financial watchdog, the quaestors. Bill Newton Dunn, the Liberal Democrat MEP and quaestor, ruled that Tannock had not contravened any existing rules as the shares were investments, not salary.

However, on Friday Newton Dunn explained that the quaestors had been "in the dark" because there are no rules in place to deal with financial declarations by British MEPs: "We weren't given full details [of Tannock's shares] and even if we had been there would have been absolutely nothing we could have done."

Tannock updated his declaration in October to state that he owned shares and options in 3Legs but still did not reveal how many. However, when MEPs voted on a stricter code of conduct this month, Tannock tried unsuccessfully to amend the rules so members would have to declare only shareholdings worth more than £70,000.

Under the new rules MEPs will have to declare relevant shareholdings but it is unclear whether they will be forced to reveal their value.

Tannock continues to promote the extraction of shale gas and oil as an "exciting" alternative energy source, despite growing opposition to fracking. France banned the technique in July, scotching 3Legs' drilling plans.

On Friday Tom Greatrex, the shadow energy minister, demanded a public inquiry into fracking after a US government report linked the method to water pollution.

Tannock insisted that shale gas could provide clean, safe and cheap energy but denied using his influence as an MEP to promote it. He said he had "frequently promoted the idea of energy diversification" but was motivated solely by Conservative and EU foreign policy.

He added: "I have never sought to enhance a direct financial interest or enrich myself or the companies I was director of by participating in foreign policy debates."

He said he did not consider share options as remuneration and so did not feel it was necessary to declare them. But a leading tax expert said: "Someone who is granted share options in this way would be regarded by the UK tax authorities as effectively receiving earnings."

Insight: Heidi Blake and Jonathan Calvert

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Paul de Clerck

Coordinator Corporate Campaign FoE International and Economic Justice
Program FoE Europe

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www.foeeurope.org and www.foei.org
www.facebook.com/FoEEurope
www.twitter.com/foeeurope

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 Schweiger islandview12@yahoo.ie
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Meetings on Thursdays at 9 pm in O'Donnell's pub,
main street **Cliffoney, co.Sligo**
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DULBIN CONTACT

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-Lee Page leepage100@gmail.com

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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

brigitbeemster@hotmail.com

Kinlough, co.Leutrim

Meetings Wed at 8 pm Community Centre/ local Pub?
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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 charlie2williams@gmail.com