

Fracking Matters Newsletter 37-12 (72) – 31 July 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

visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org



**Hydraulic fracturing saves you time,
you can wash the chicken and simultaneously flame it.**

Cartoon by: Czech painter Jan Bohuš.

EVENTS and other small CAMPAIGN news

Love Leitrim....



Daisy in Manorhamilton show (28th July)



Fighting spirit (28th July)

New group in Cork – youth gathering and 'fracking' training in Manorhamilton

Sian (See-anne), is a 28-year old student of international development in UCC. But since about 2003, Leitrim has been her homeplace.

She and Chris Coffey chriscoffey.11@gmail.com have starting up a **FrackingFree Cork** group ([on Facebook so far](#)). Chris is going to produce and distribute flyers soon and we would like to organise a talk with activists from the NorthWest in late September when college is back.

This summer Sian is interning part-time with Young Friends of the Earth, helping to organise the youth network. One of her jobs is to organise a weekend gathering (7 th September) in Manorhamilton before college starts. Talks will be given by Love Leitrim and Leah Doherty – the young friends of the earth prefer talks by local campaigners - and Sian is hoping to give the young friends of the earth a good enough grounding in the issue during this weekend, that they can hold their own fracking awareness talks when they go back to college or to their communities. Here is the [event page on Facebook](#) (fracking free cork)and [on EventBrite](#). If you know young people who might be interested in attending, please direct them here or to youngfoe@foe.ie.

Join the Irish Wildlife Trust for Green Drinks Dublin in Messrs Maguires, Burgh Quay, Dublin City Center

When? Tuesday **August 7 nd**, doors 18:30, talk at 19.00

Where? Top floor of Messrs Maguire, 2 Burgh Quay

How Much? FREE

RSVP: Facebook or email dublinbranch@iwt.ie

The Irish Wildlife Trust Dublin Branch continue to bring you the very best of green issues with Dublin Green Drinks on the first Tuesday of every month. This month come and hear **Ineke Scholte and Geraldine Ring talk about Fracking** - what it is, how it affects you and the anti-fracking campaign. Find out about the Irish situation, how we fit into Europe & how you can have your say.

This year's **All-Island Permaculture Gathering** will take place in Strokestown, Co.

Roscommon from **August 3rd to 6th**.

Sian Cowman will set up a fracking info stand on Saturday 4th August

Carrick regatta 2012 on 5th August Any fracking info stand?

Friends of the Earth

contact: Molly Walsh-Friends of the Earth molly@foe.ie

Dear ,

We have some great news.

We are very excited and honoured to welcome the **Chair of Friends of the Earth International, Nnimmo Bassey as our guest to Ireland this August**. While here he will speak at events in Leitrim, Mayo and Dublin. [Nnimmo is an award winning environmental activist](#) and is best known for his organisation's work to prevent and reverse the negative impacts of Shell's activities in Nigeria. Indefatigably, Bassey has stood up against the practices of Shell and other multinationals in his country, often taking great personal risks to protect his environment and community from destruction. He is a truly inspirational activist and we are extremely honoured by his visit.

Nnimmo is here to meet and speak with communities opposing extractive industries in Ireland and share his insights from resisting Shell in Nigeria. Nnimmo will speak at three events during his trip.

On Friday the 17th of August we will be in Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim at 8pm.

[You can register for this event here.](#) There are proposals to extract shale gas in the area using the dangerous and controversial method of hydraulic fracturing or fracking. Local community groups are opposing these plans.

On Sunday the 19th of August we are jointly organising an event with Afri, in Glenamoy, Co Mayo starting at 2pm.

[You can register for this event here.](#) This event is entitled "Ar Scáth a Chéile: Sustaining Hope and Humanity". The local campaign has been resisting Shell in Erris for over a decade. In the face of Shell's repression the resistance has sustained powerful hope and humanity. This event will be about sharing and celebrating hope.

On Monday the 20th of August Nnimmo will speak in the Project Arts Centre in Dublin at 7pm.

[Please register for this event, spaces are limited](#) . Nnimmo will be joined on the panel by activists from Mayo and Leitrim. The evening will be chaired by our Director Oisín Coghlan and the activists on the panel will share their experiences and reflections of protecting their communities from destruction by multinational energy corporations.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these inspiring events.

Your Friends of the Earth Team,
Molly, Oisín and JoAnne.

Grassroots Gathering: community struggles - campaign strategies - developing networks

Galway, October 12 - 14

A grassroots gathering is a one-off event run by a local group bringing together people involved in different community campaigns and social movements to learn from each other's experiences, talk about what works and what doesn't, develop networks and make alliances. This one will have particular sessions for communities resisting fracking and drilling and for movements against austerity, as well as an open stream. The idea is to bring together campaigners, people in communities, people organising at the base in unions, experienced activists and people just starting out to share their experiences, discuss what way they think things might go, ask questions of each other, make connections and have a good chance to chat and meet new people and old friends. It's not for profit, it isn't run by any political party and nobody will try to recruit anyone. You can see the **Grassroots Principles** at <http://grassroots.pageabode.com>, email grassrootsgalway@gmail.com (facebook coming)

FRACKING IS A GLOBAL ISSUE – THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO PUT IRELAND ON THE INTERNATIONAL MAP

Get involved, join the global frack down day. Organise an event – sign up – get your town/village on the global map!

GLOBAL FRACK DOWN DAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2012

Thank you to all of you who signed up to join the Global Frackdown Day!
The microsite is finally ready for launch today including the facebook events page so please start sharing and spreading!

Also for those of you who already know you will be doing an event, please register your event as soon as possible on the website to show that people will be doing things all over the world and of course partners can still be added if they want.

Please check the partners page to make sure the information or link to your website is correct and **feel free to link as much as possible to the Global Frackdown page to make more noise.**

Here is the website www.globalfrackdown.org

Here is the Facebook event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/137678913040126/>

Thank you for all the solidarity and let's bring the world together to bring fracking down!

Gabriella Zanzanaini gabizanza@gmail.com

Fracking Free Ireland and What the frack did [sign up already](#) (button partners) and are joining the other international anti fracking movements.

<http://www.globalfrackdown.org/global-frackdown-endorsers/>

Unconventional Gas & The Environment Conference

What makes the European unconventional gas market more complex, more uncertain and riskier than in the US? Higher density populations • Public acceptance and understanding of onshore drilling • Differing geologies • Mineral rights • Not in my back yard syndrome • Taxation regimes and environmental laws • Shortage of quality equipment and supply chain • An immature market • Higher well and production costs.....the list is endless! www.unconventionalgasconference.com

So how are **Cuadrilla Resources Ltd, Statoil, MOL, EBN B.V, San Leon (Poland) Sp. z o.o, PGNiG Capital Group, Breitling Oil and Gas, Tamboran Resources and Hutton Energy** overcoming these obstacles to communicate the opportunities and engage stakeholders on the environmental impact of unconventional gas? [Download brochure here.](#)

Find out at the **Unconventional Gas & The Environment Conference - Engaging Stakeholders, Tackling Misinformation** on 25th September in London, where 21 senior decision makers will be revealing their real-life, honest perspectives on how to gain government, scientific, local and public acceptance by engaging stakeholders on the environmental impact of unconventional gas. For more information, [please email me](#), call the team on +44 (0)20 7953 4016 or [visit the website here.](#)

We very much hope to see you there!

Unconventional Gas & The Environment Conference

Tel: +44 (0)20 7953 4016

info@unconventionalgasconference.com

www.unconventionalgasconference.com

REPORT

Euroscience open forum

By Helen Birtwistle (Envi.Sci. Bsc(Hons)).

Hello Everyone,

Sorry for delay in this report about the **Euroscience Open**

Forum. <http://esof2012.org/>

As we expected the session titled Hot Science 2: Shale Gas Fracking: Global problem or Global solution? ran much like a shale gas fracking promotion, we expected this after Googleing the 3 speakers. **Speakers**

[Ivan Pearson](#)

Joint Research

Centre of the European Commission

[Olive Heffernan](#)

Freelance science

journalist

[Peter Styles](#)

Professor in Applied

and Environmental Geophysics, Keele Uni...

[Zoe Shipton](#)

University of

Strathclyde, UK

The session was introduced by Olive Heffernan who works for Nature publishing the session was sponsored by Nature publishing whose most recent articles about fracking seem to be getting more pro fracking. <http://www.nature.com/nature/index.html> perhaps some emails would be in order.

Zoe gave a brief description of fracking and made it sound wonderful .

She went on to describe the paper she co authored for the royal institute on the risks of fracking, they were told to ignore the environmental and the financial side of things and only concentrate on what could go wrong with seismic activity and the leaking of fracturing fluids into Aquifers. They found very little risk in the end because earth quakes "if you could even call them that" and tremors only occurred in areas where there was geological instability. Leaking to aquifers is very unlikely to occur and if it does damage would be minimal because the diameters of the fractures are less than a grain of sand ?

This was followed by Peter saying it would be more environmentally friendly to extract gas locally than have it piped in from Russia in terms of emissions

Then Ivan who said how hard everyone had worked on their regulations and frame work policies. But he couldn't comment on separate countries policies because he was from the eu and it wasn't his position to say, however he hoped they would adhere to the guide lines set by the eu when making their own policies.

This probably gives you an Idea of the session, Emma recorded the

whole thing but it is very crackly. The fracking session was much better attended than expected and delegates were standing outside and sitting on the steps.

Good Questions were put to the speakers by delegates about possible problems with emissions, NORMS, water contamination and well casing but the answers relied largely on preventing all these problems using regulation and baseline monitoring. Miriam Hennessy also made a statement that the speakers had not explored any of the environmental or health effects of fracking.

We had a small protest outside and handed out flyers asking the delegates to question the process of unconventional gas extraction for themselves. The flyers clearly stated that none of the many scientists who are speaking out about fracking had been invited nor in fact anyone who was against fracking.

The fracking session was much better attended than expected and delegates were standing outside and sitting on the steps.

I sent an email to ESOF expressing my disappointment that they had missed the opportunity to debate such an important issue at a conference that had so many world experts attending..

This conference was heavily funded by taxpayers (the Government). Perhaps there is room for more emails to ESOF so far I have had no reply.

On the upside what we set off to do was inform delegates and make contacts. Many delegates did not know what fracking is but they stopped and chatted, many were very supportive of our small protest.

The delegates and speakers entering were nearly all friendly and polite Prof Patrick Cunningham Chief Scientific Adviser to the Govt. accepted a flyer and was seen discussing it inside the convention centre, Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer CERN Director General also accepted a flyer and politely said he would look into our concerns.

One of the contacts we made sent us this link

<http://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/open-letter-ed-davey-draft-energy-bill>

This is Mary Robinson's excellent presentation at the ESOF conference. I have sent an email to Mary but I wonder have any of the No Fracking groups in Ireland approached her for support or asked her to join in with a presentation? If not I think it should be considered.

http://www.livestream.com/esof2012/video?clipId=pla_ae7458a8-861c-49d2-960a-1ba48b6577bf

Another item not directly linked to fracking but of interest...The Death of Evidence
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v487/n7407/full/487271b.html>

I think the global day of action against fracking is a great idea

PLEASE ADD/CORRECT EMAIL – CONTACT ADDRESSES

Just looking for info on any protests and info nights etc. in the future. I also wish to subscribe to the mailing list.

Regards from a concerned Irish citizen,

Sean Pardue sean.a.pardue@gmail.com

CONTACT DETAILS , please correct!

NI

Michael Mc Evoy mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com

Contact details for the Belfast group Tyler McNally is not involved anymore so please remove his email address and pop mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com instead. That will ensure that folks get a response when we are contacted.

Love Leitrim

Correct email address: proloveleitrim@hotmail.com

WHAT YOU CAN/MUST DO

Sweden needs help from all over Europe with a petition to our wellknown friend Janec Potocnic:

Nordkalk, a Finnish company, has been given the rights to mine for limestone in an area bordering to Natura 2000 sites and Gotland's biggest fresh water reserve. This will severely affect a number of protected species.

The Swedish EPA has appealed to the Supreme Court to stop this and has requested that the company should not be allowed to establish the site before the case is tested by the Supreme Court. In the meantime, Nordkalk can continue to cut down the woods and destroy the land. Please inhibit the Swedish courts' decision to allow this quarry and demand that Sweden adhere to the Habitats Directive

The petition (in english) can be signed on the following page:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop limestone quarry to secure fresh water reserve and natural habitat for a number of endangered species/](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Stop_limestone_quarry_to_secure_fresh_water_reserve_and_natural_habitat_for_a_number_of_endangered_species/)

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Shell to Sea related

Michael D. Higgins (president) is a shell to sea supporter?

<http://royaldutchshellplc.com/2011/11/10/shell-to-sea-supporter-becomes-president-of-ireland/>

The TBM (tunnel boring machine) is on way to Eris. 100s cops and Shell's private army.

Just to let people know that Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) (that Shell are planning to use to bore a 4.2m tunnel through Sruwaddacon estuary) left Dublin Port tonight and it is expected to take 2 or 3 nights to arrive in Erris. It is rumored that it will be coming the Sligo route and then going

through Ballina and traveling in a 3 truck convoy with a lot of Gardaí.

Hundreds of Garda deployed to protect Shell's machine from the people of Ireland

http://www.irishleftreview.org/2012/07/30/hundreds-garda-deployed-protect-shells-machine-people-ireland/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=irishleftreview



Conflict of interest in studies on the risks of fracking

A study conducted by the Energy Institute of the **University of Texas at Austin**. One of the main conclusions of the study, which has been widely cited ever since its publication, is that surface spills are the main environmental problem. And that the problems with fracking are not different from conventional gas projects.

This claim was picked up in a recent [draft report of the EP](#):

- *"Stresses that prevailing expert opinion indicates that the inherent risks of UFF extraction, most of which are common to conventional fossil fuel extraction, could be contained through pre-emptive measures".*

This study was presented as as an "independent study of hydraulic fracturing in shale gas development to inject science into a highly charged emotional debate." with the press release emphasizing that the research was **funded by the university, not by energy companies**.

HOWEVER, research by the Public Accountability Initiative showed that the main author of the study Charles G. **"Chip" Groat** has a major stake in several energy companies, involved in fracking:

"Since 2007, Groat has received over \$1.5 million in cash and stock compensation from PXP

(an average of \$380,000 per year). As a result, the value of Groat's current stake in the company is \$1.62 million (based on PXP's closing stock price on July 20, 2012, \$40.34). This level of compensation dwarfs the \$173,000 salary Groat earns from the University of Texas as of 2012."

This news was covered in the following article by Andrew Revkin of the NYT:

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/23/when-agendas-meet-science-in-the-fracking-fight/>

This speaks to a broader issue of the fracking industry funding academic research in times of scarce research funds. See this article by Bloomberg:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-23/frackers-fund-university-research-that-proves-their-case.html>

And another study about the environmental risks of fracking by the University at Buffalo's Shale Resources and Society Institute (SRSI) that was discredited by the Public Accountability Initiative, partly because of strong industry ties of the authors:

<http://public-accountability.org/2012/05/ub-shale-play/>

You all remember the University of Texas at Austin study that said that fracking did not contaminate groundwater (only surface water), unless the well casings were faulty... which gave rise to headlines around the world saying that **Fracking Does Not Pollute Groundwater**. This study was one of the few studies cited in the University of Aberdeen study **commissioned by the Irish EPA**, and it was cited as an example of a peer-reviewed, proper, respectable scientific study.

Except that the director of the study, Charles ("Chip") Groat has strong ties to the fracking industry, sitting on the board of a company involved in fracking.

Well, the Public Accountability Initiative has now published a report highlighting his conflict of interest. And their report has caused the University of Texas to set up an inquiry into the conflict of interest. And all of this is making news, calling into question several studies that have been financed by the gas industry. The Public Accountability Initiative is a non-profit organization investigating corruption in business and government.

Here is the Public Accountability Initiative report:

<http://public-accountability.org/2012/07/contaminated-inquiry/>

Here is a Bloomberg article:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-23/frackers-fund-university-research-that-proves-their-case.html>

Here is a quote from the Bloomberg article about Groat:

"Groat also sits on the board of Plains Exploration & Production Co. (PXP), a relationship he didn't disclose in the report, to his boss, or at the Feb. 16 meeting. As a board member, Groat receives 10,000 shares of restricted stock each year, according to company reports. His holdings as of March 29 totaled 40,138 shares, worth \$1.6 million at the July 19 closing price. He also receives an annual fee, which was \$58,500 in 2011. Houston-based Plains Exploration is fracking in shale formations in Texas, company spokesman Ed Memi said in an e-mail. "



THOUGHTS – OPINION



Greg Palat's visit to Ireland

"Sian is a student of international development and journalism in UCC. She wrote this article after attending Greg's talk in Carrick-on-Shannon. Since then, she has become aware that perhaps not all of Greg's facts are airtight, but nonetheless the article could be suitable for college publications or the like, as it is more entertaining than serious. The college magazine in UCC may publish it in their September edition. Please feel free to publish, share, or edit as you desire."

Vulture's Picnic in Leitrim

By Sian Cowman

Investigative journalist Greg Palast landed into Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim like he stepped out of a movie. Dressed in the classic detective's outfit of suit and trilby, he is an entertaining speaker, telling stories of corporate criminality with flair. He spent years as a fraud investigator, later using his skills for the BBC and the Observer.

He came to Ireland in early July at the invite of No Fracking Ireland. He spoke at several locations around the country, and signed many copies of his latest book, *Vultures' Picnic: In Pursuit of Petroleum Pigs, Power Pirates and High-Finance Carnivores*.

While his talk provided plenty of fun and laughs, most of what he had to say was sobering. He gave many practical questions for the local community to put to gas companies that are planning to 'frack' in the area. All of them revolved around safety. If the companies aren't telling the truth, people get hurt.

One of the first provisos he mentions, probably because it's one of the most dangerous, is the cement. Palast tells a hair-raising story about BP, the Deepwater Horizon, and nitrogen-injected cement involving fake press passes, encounters with 'BP security police', and Wikileaks documents. Apparently BP had already had a well blow-out before the Deepwater Horizon: "BP continued to use the cheap crap cement and saved millions of dollars, and it failed again." I hadn't even thought of what kind of cement Tamboran might use! (Tamboran is an Australian company planning to frack in Ireland.)

So that's Question Number One. Next: pipelines. "By the way, I understand, from the plans I've seen, that the gas you're going to get out of these wells is going to market by carrier pigeon. I haven't seen a single pipe drawn on a map." Palast points out that the North-West of Ireland is not exactly flat for running pipelines like the home of American fracking, the mostly empty Dakotas. As well as being ugly, they're dangerous. And by his calculations, gas companies are going to need a lot of pipes.

The companies may be shirking cement quality, but at least the pipes are secure. Well crews use a sophisticated robot - called a PIG, a Pipeline Inspection Gauge - to check every inch of pipeline for corrosion and over- or under-pressurisation. When the pig squeals, they go out and fix the pipe. But there's a catch - Palast found out that it's common to manipulate the pig's software to lower its sensitivity. It's expensive to go out there and investigate a squeal.

What about the water? Louisiana, apparently, was the number one cattle ranching state in America: "It was prairie, bog prairie. Then they started dragging the drill rigs through and it created ditches, and the ditches filled with water, land started subsiding, and the water's coming up. And the canals became bigger, and they became sluiceways and they became bayous." Leitrim does have a boating industry...

So we might get a little flooded. At least Tamboran tell us that they won't pollute the water - no chemicals, and they'll reuse all the water that comes back up. Palast spelled it out: "Even if you put in clean water, it's going underground, it's going to pick up arsenic, chemicals, and sludge and crap, and the cement. All that crap, sludge, toxins, poison, you're going to separate it out. Uh-oh. Where does that go?" Into sludge pits, that's where it goes.

Bringing us neatly to a wrap-up point: who cleans up the mess? Several gas companies, or smaller subsidiaries, have gone bust and cleared out - Chevron Ecuador didn't clean up after

themselves in the Amazon because they had gone bankrupt. We can expect these vultures, as Greg Palast calls them, to leave behind their mess. Polluted land and water, broken pipelines, sludge pits, old wells, concrete pads, compressors, generators and all the other heavy industrial equipment will be their legacy. Not to mention the damage to the roads and the land from the haulage.

He may sound alarmist to some, but it's evident from hearing him speak and his book that Palast has investigated a lot of this chicanery on the frontline. His hour-long talk concluded with a stark statement: "You were a colony too long, and you don't need to be an oil colony... that's not here. You have a choice before you, but before you even make the choice, they have a lot of questions to answer."

See www.vulturespicnic.org and an article he wrote about Ireland's situation:

<http://www.gregpalast.com/fracking-in-ireland-and-beingdependent-on-halliburtons-mud/>

MOVIES- SONGS

Fracking Facade video

A video exposing a flawed claim often abused in the sales pitch for promoting shale gas development across the world:

"With a history of 60 years, after nearly a million wells drilled, there are no documented cases that [hydraulic fracturing](#) (fracking) has lead to the contamination of groundwater."

Brought to you by the team behind the upcoming South African feature documentary, *Unearthed*, that is investigating natural gas development and the [controversial method of extraction known as fracking](#) from a global perspective. Should South Africa and other countries drill down?

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/unearthed-fracking-facade/>

IRISH NEWS

Pollutant Release and Transfer Register Regulations 2011.

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/en.si_2011.0649.pdf

From our France orientated correspondent

How the US energy industry stopped worrying and learned to love fracking -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2012/0321/1224313630174.html> (21 March 2012)

A similar article was posted in Le Monde by scientific reporter, Stephane Foucart

Le Monde (July 26), (1) an editorial on the front page saying "Let's not bury the debate on shale gas" and (2) an article entitled "Welcome to Fort Worth, capital of shale gas" on page 2. The article read pretty much like the one in the IT. All about how Texas is making gazillions from shale gas, etc. etc. And how all the people who said otherwise had been discredited...etc. etc. Of course I wrote to them to complain and I recommended Deborah Rogers if they wanted another side of the story from Texas.

Fortunately, in France there is an alternative media online called Arret Sur Images, and their function is to keep an eye on the stuff that the regular media get up to.

Turns out they asked the journalist who wrote the article for Le Monde about it, and he **admitted to them that his trip to Texas had at the invitation of / funded by Chesapeake Energy, and their partner Total** (Le Monde neglected to mention this).

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2012/0321/1224313630174.html>.

LANGCO - Martin Keely, ceased as director

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/56151113.pdf>

List of public companies world wide

<http://investing.businessweek.com/research/common/symbollookup/symbollookup.asp>

Martin Keeley: Executive Profile

Executive Profile*

Martin Keeley Ph.D.

Former Exploration Director, Gold Oil plc

Age Total Calculated Compensation This person is connected to 12 board members in 1 different organizations across 3 different industries.

See Board Relationships

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Background*

Dr. Martin L. Keeley, Ph.D. served as the Chief Operating Officer at Eagle Star Petroleum Corp. since March 13, 2008. Dr. Keeley has 27 years of international exploration experience in both large and small operating oil companies, and in consulting, oil and gas exploration and development with focused expertise on fund raising, project management and opportunity generation. Throughout his tenure in the oil and gas industry, Dr. Keeley is linked to major finds worldwide. ... During his career, Dr. Keeley is credited with discovering the Jurassic oil field in western Egypt, to be extended into NE Libya, guiding Samsung towards the Issaouane farm-in discovery wells in southern Algeria, overseeing Plan Argentina, resulting in more than \$100 million in new investment and developing major exploration plays in Colombia, Peru and Argentina. Dr. Keeley started his oil and gas career as a Geophysicist for Shell International Petroleum where his main focus was on seismic acquisition, processing, interpretation on and offshore mainly in Libya and Brazil. Dr. Keeley served as Exploration Director at Gold Oil plc from May 2005 to October 30, 2005. In 1982, he joined Charterhouse Petroleum PLC as Senior Geologist where he headed G & G operations, basin studies, evaluations, license applications and farm-in and out: onshore UK, UKCS, Egypt. In North Western Europe, he participated in the offshore UK Chestnut discovery and Palmers Wood onshore. He served as Consultant for multiple companies including Ecopetrol, Triton, and Monument Oil & Gas. He also worked for various public and private companies including Emerald Energy PLC (London LSE:EEN), Schlumberger Ltd., and Gold Oil with titles including Chief Operating Officer, Business and Strategic Consultant, Chief Executive Officer and Exploration Director. His expertise has also been sought after in print, having published 20 technical articles on stratigraphy, basin dynamics and tectonics and petroleum geology and systems in NE Africa, Ireland and South America. He has been a Member of Technical Advisory Board at Resinco Capital Partners Inc. since December 2009. Dr. Keeley served as a Director of Fieldco International Ltd. For seven years, he served as an Active Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Petroleum Geology. He was Visiting Professor in Petroleum Geology at University College London. He is a Geologist. Dr. Keeley holds a Ph.D in Geology from Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin in 1980, followed by receiving Executive Management Diplomas in Effective Management and Finance and Accounting.

Collapse Detail
Corporate Headquarters*
666 Burrard Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6C 2X8

Canada

Phone: 604-282-7222
Fax: 604-669-2322

Education*
Unknown/Other Education
The University of Dublin
PhD
The University of Dublin
Other Affiliations*
The University of Dublin
Eagle Star Minerals Corp.
Resinco Capital Partners Inc. Annual Compensation*

EU -NEWS

UK

Climate change is the 'norm' by Martin Keely

The author, Dr Martin Keeley, is Visiting Professor in Petroleum Geology, at University College London, UK.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4066189.stm>

SHAFTED!!

On Tuesday three people from Liverpool and Brighton were found guilty of 'disrupting lawful activity' for occupying Cuadrilla Resource's drilling rig in Lancashire for eleven hours last November. See [SchNEWS 795](#)

The [trial](#) which lasted for four days saw prosecution witnesses from Cuadrilla, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and Lancashire County Council, cross examined on the legality of Cuadrilla's earthquake production operations in Lancashire. Evidence from a number of expert witnesses from the US and UK was presented to demonstrate the massive threat posed to the global climate, local communities and human health by the expansion of fracking for shale gas around the world. Despite admitting that the defence had painted "a picture of an Armageddon that no-one would wish to contemplate" the District Judge sentenced the three defendants to 2 year conditional discharges and £750 costs each.

<http://www.schnews.org.uk/stories/SHAFTED!!/>

Sponsors Aberdeen University



<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/explohub/support/current/>

GLOBAL NEWS

For some information on the propaganda battle in the USA, have a look at
www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2012/07/fracked-professors

Monday, July 30, 2012

Received from: Sue Heavenrich sueheaven@gmail.com

5000 Protesters in DC - Media focuses on Romney's Olympic Gaffe's instead

This weekend a news item on NPR noted that thousands of people formed a human chain around Japan's Parliament complex to demand that their government abandon nuclear power.

But you'd be hard-pressed to find media coverage about the 5,000 people who came from across the country and around the world to demand that Congress stop hydrofracking. Granted, 5,000 people is a "drop in the bucket" according to Washington DC standards. Still – with all the mainstream press taking photos and interviewing folks, you'd think at least one story might have surfaced in the local news.

Washington Post? Nada – unless you count the hundred-word or so blurb from AP about the protest "going to happen". The NY Times? Not one peep; the gray lady was probably getting her hair dyed.

<http://marcelluseffect.blogspot.com/2012/07/5000-protesters-in-dc-media-focuses-on.html>

Community monitoring of produced water from coal seam gas shows very high levels of heavy metals

Clash over CSG waste water findings

Reporter: Hamish Broome | 26th July 2012 (www.Northern star.com)

"Aluminium, a neurotoxic linked to dementia and Alzheimers, was detected at 440 times drinking-water standards and 800 times the allowable environmental limits. Lead, a cumulative poison renowned for its negative effect on children's mental development was measured at seven times drinking-water standards and 20 times the safe environmental limit."

A WASTEWATER sample collected anonymously from a Metgasco holding pond has been found to contain levels of heavy metals toxic to humans and wildlife, says Lock the Gate Northern Rivers.

The sample was analysed at the nationally accredited SCU laboratory in Lismore and evaluated alongside Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council environmental guidelines and drinking water standards.

In contrast, Metgasco water sampling data released last week found the water was merely salty. But the new results show at least 10 heavy metals in concentrations well beyond safe levels defined by ANZECC.

Aluminium, a neurotoxic linked to dementia and Alzheimers, was detected at 440 times drinking-water standards and 800 times the allowable environmental limits.

Lead, a cumulative poison renowned for its negative effect on children's mental development was measured at seven times drinking-water standards and 20 times the safe environmental limit.

Lock the Gate spokesperson Boudicca Cerese said the results proved the community could not rely on the water- quality results provided by Metgasco.

"There is an urgent need for State Government authorities to undertake rigorous independent testing of all Metgasco's ponds before any further actions regarding treatment and disposal of this wastewater," she said.

"Plans to use this water in agriculture or to reinject produced water back into the ground are a dangerous notion, one which will backfire on future generations."

Metgasco chief executive Peter Henderson said in a statement, "Metgasco stands by the results we published, which summarise results of multiple sampling in different ponds, with analysis by certified testing authorities.

"The analyses we perform are accepted as being appropriate for the produced water and drilling fluid and confirm the water is salty, not toxic."

Financial Times, July 26, 2012 7:49 pm

Shale gas glut dents oil major earnings

By Guy Chazan

[©Bloomberg](#)

The US shale gas glut is weighing heavily on oil company earnings, with results at [ExxonMobil](#) and [Royal Dutch Shell](#) overshadowed by low US natural gas prices.

Shell said its [second-quarter earnings fell 13 per cent to \\$5.7bn](#) compared with \$6.6bn a year ago, with weak energy prices a big factor in the drop. It said the price received for natural gas in the US was 52 per cent lower than last year.

ExxonMobil, the world's largest oil company by market value, [reported quarterly profit](#)

[of \\$15.9bn](#), up from \$10.7bn a year ago. But the result was flattered by proceeds from the sale of a stake in a Japanese refinery. Without a gain of \$7.5bn related to divestments and tax-related items, earnings would have been \$8.4bn.

Exxon said the lower prices at which it sold its oil and US natural gas reduced earnings by \$870m. That cast a pall over earnings from its US upstream division, which plunged more than half in the second quarter to \$678m.

Exxon was also hurt by falling crude prices, which have been driven down by the weakening global economy, and lower oil and gas output. As well as its troubles on the US gas front, Shell was affected by planned maintenance.

A massive gas supply glut has kept US natural gas prices depressed, with Henry Hub now at \$3.07 per million British thermal units – less than a quarter of the high it reached in the summer of 2008. There has been a surge in shale gas production, powered by techniques such as hydraulic fracturing that have opened vast reserves long considered too difficult and expensive to exploit.

Rex Tillerson, Exxon's chief executive, said last month that energy companies were "all losing our shirts" thanks to low gas prices. The admission marked a departure for Exxon, which has previously claimed it was immune to the effect of lower gas prices due to its operational efficiency and low production costs. Exxon became the largest producer of natural gas in the US after its \$41bn acquisition of XTO Energy in 2010.

The shale gas boom has also weighed on [BG Group](#), the FTSE 100 oil and gas company, which on Thursday [announced that it was taking a \\$1.3bn writedown in its US natural gas assets](#). Including the impairment charge, as well as other exceptional charges and gains, BG's pre-tax profits for the quarter slipped sharply from \$2.2bn to \$609m. Without them, profits were a much healthier \$1.9bn.

Oil companies have adopted a number of strategies to cope with low gas prices. Exxon has shifted to drilling shales that yield high-value liquid hydrocarbons as well as gas.

Shell is advancing plans to build a petrochemicals plant in the US, to export liquefied natural gas from Canada and to sell LNG as a transport fuel in North America

Royal Dutch Shell plc and its three Asian partners have applied to export an enormous volume of natural gas from the British Columbia coast, as global attention begins to focus on the movement of Canadian energy to Japan, China and other markets.

On Friday, Shell said it had applied to the National Energy Board for **a licence to export up to 24-million tonnes per year of natural gas. That is equivalent to 3.4-billion cubic feet per day, fully a quarter of Canada's entire output in 2011.**

REPORTS - RESEARCH

[EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES \(Groundwater\(\(Amendment\) Regulations 2012](#)

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/en.si_.2012.0149.pdf

Geological storage of Carbon Dioxide

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/l_14020090605en01140135.pdf

Greenhouse gases, climate change and the transition from coal to low-carbon electricity

Natural gas is not an effective "bridge fuel" to a carbon-free future. Only rapid deployment of low-emission technologies will achieve substantial climate benefits.

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/1748-9326_7_1_014019.pdf

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 tel: 087 909 3 909/086-9127536

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 tel: 087 909 3 909/ 086-9127536

West Cavan: Shannon-Erne Protection-Alliance

Contact: Tom Hyde toseitheachain1@eircom.net

Ardcarne Community Against Fracking

Roscommon Cora Molloy 071-9667223 doherty.lea@gmail.com

Love Leitrim - Manorhamilton -

Chair: Bernie Meehan berniemeehan77@gmail.com

meeting every two weeks

Contact: Dervilla Keegan proloveleitrim@hotmail.com

Kiltubrid Anti-Fracking Action Group,

Co. Leitrim, Mary Rose Geoghan, Monica Grossman mongrossman@eircom.net

People's Association Watchdog,

Sonya Oldham andraiocht@hotmail.com

Sligo/Glean

Contact: Kate Wilson tulipsandoysters@eircom.net

North West Network against Fracking

www.facebook.com/pages/North-West-Network-Against-Fracking

Contact: Meg Rybicki youthmardingo@gmail.com

Ursula Schweiger islandview12@yahoo.ie

Good Energies Alliance Ireland

Contact: Campaign goodenergiesalliance@gmail.com

Chair: Miriam Hennesy miriamhennesy@eircom.net

Spokes person: Eddie Mitchell eddie.mitchell@gmail.com

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 information/tree service is available.

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

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Ballinagleragh

Gearoid lynch.gearoid@gmail.com

Ballinamore Joan, Tracey

Joan Walsh joanw2006@eircom.net

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

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Susan 087-7917589 ClareFrack@gmail.com

Sarah nofrackingthanks@gmail.com (Guaranteed Fracking Free and Keep Ireland Fracking)

Free logo)

COUNTY CORK

Chris Coffey chriscoffey.11@gmail.com

Northern Ireland.

Belfast Anti Fracking Group

Not for \$hale

Michael Cairns: mcairns@notforshale.com,

Michael Mc Evoy: mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com

Veronica Miriam Quilligan: 90035950@uamail.ucc.ie;

Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network

network co-ordinator Derek McGuidir info@frackaware.com

Blogs/facebook:

NO FRACKING IRELAND (all caps) on Facebook - Follow @notofracking on twitter

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

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

Cavan

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

Carrick-on-Shannon

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

North-west (Sligo etc)

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

Clare/Limerick

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

Cork (new!)

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

Fermanagh

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

Groups

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

charlie2williams@gmail.com

Websites:

Fracking Free Ireland:

www.frackingfreeireland.org

contact: Ineke Scholte 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

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

Good Energies Alliance Ireland (GEAI)
<http://goodenergiesalliance.com/>

Northern Ireland

Not for Shale
www.notforshale.com

FFAN Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network

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

<http://notofracking.com/>