



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

facebook: [NO FRACKING IRELAND](#)

fracking ireland google groups, apply for membership: charlie2williams@gmail.com

BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!

For an overview of all groups and contact details visit:
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-local-groups/>



Cecily's walk to the Dail.

Thanks to Frank McGrath and Marion van der Pol who offered her a warm bed in Roosky and to all on her way who offered her tea, joined her en route etc.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/1029/1224325866938.html>



EVENTS and other CAMPAIGN news

Dublin group – kicking off

Hey all,

just to let you know three of us in Dublin met this evening (31 Oct) to discuss kicking off a Dublin group.

If anyone out there is around Dublin please get in touch with us by e-mailing

nofrackingdublin@gmail.com

We are planning to have a meeting for those interested in getting involved with the Dublin group on

Tuesday the 13th of November 8pm (Venue TBA)

please pass this on to anyone you know or any lists your on.

thanks

Fergal/Richard/Orla

EPA- ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR – TERMS OF REFERENCE – MEETING BUSH HOTEL

The Environmental Pillar was 'testing the water' : read their proposal and later the week their statement which were issued before the meeting of the campaigners took place in the Bush hotel on Sat. 27 Oct.

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/environmental-pillar-proposal-and-statement.pdf>

The Friends of the Earth Ireland issued a statement as well (26 Oct. 2012)
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/foe-Ireland.pdf>

The following questions were sent to the chair of the Environmental pillar, Michael Ewing (to my knowledge no reply is received yet- Ineke)

Questions sent to Michael Ewing of Environmental Pillar -

1. How did the meeting between the Pillar and the Department come about? are there minutes available?
2. Who was in attendance at the meeting?
3. What reason did the Minister give as to why a full public consultation process would not be possible? do the Pillar agree with reason given?
4. Why the timeframe and what do you mean by getting the document to the Department in time to have an effect?
5. Which parts of this proposal were made by the department and which parts were formulated by the Pillar?
6. How long did the Pillar Plenary spend discussing this proposal? was there a meeting? Can we have the minutes of the meeting?
7. Who from the Pillar was involved in these discussions and drafting of this proposal?
8. Are all members of the Pillar aware of this proposal, if not which members of the Pillar are aware or were involved in deciding this proposal?
9. What is the purpose of the workshop?
10. What is the purpose/ aim of the survey/telephone follow-ups?
11. Who does the Pillar have in mind to employ to carry out this process?
12. What is the role of the EPA in respect to exploratory licenses as far as the Pillar are aware?

*It was noted in the email that these were just some of the questions and others in the group may also contact Michael Ewing looking for further clarification on other aspects of his proposal to us.

Questions sent to the Minister -
Dear Minister,

as part of a campaign network calling for a ban on "fracking" could your department please clarify the following points.

1. Will the present EPA research which is to formulate a comprehensive report be published before any exploratory licenses are awarded ?
2. The Environmental Pillar has contacted several campaign groups with regards to a 'form' of consultation - they stated they met with you and your department, can you please outline who arranged this meeting, when it took place and who was present?
3. Can you explain why your department stated to with the Environmental Pillar at aforementioned meeting that a full public consultation process is not possible?
4. Are you aware minister that the majority of the people/communities in areas where fracking is being proposed are not remotely aware of what this industry fully entails or that it is even being proposed?
5. If the exploratory licenses are not sought by the three companies by the end of February 2013 is there an extension that may be awarded to these companies?
6. If exploratory licenses are awarded in feb 2013 what role will the EPA play in the issuing of such licenses and all work done by the companies under exploratory licenses?
7. From your previous email to me - "Any application for an exploration licence that would involve exploration drilling, including drilling that proposed using hydraulic fracturing, would likely involve 1-3 exploration wells and would require:

- A consent from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (who would be advised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)); and
- Planning Permission for the well pads from the Local Authority.

Planning consent would be subject to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) Directive. Such an assessment would entail consideration of the potential impacts of the project on population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors. This process would also include a Public Consultation Phase, of at least 8 weeks, which would be advertised on my Department's website and in the local press. This would provide an opportunity for the public to input into the decision making process. My Department would also seek and be guided by the expert advice of other relevant statutory authorities such as the EPA, the NPWS and the relevant Local Authorities. The outcome of the EIA would help determine whether or not an Exploration Licence would be granted"

This is what Michael Ewing of the Environmental Pillar said he agreed with your department - "If the response is positive then the Pillar intends to employ a person to carry out the following process over the three weeks leading up to the 16th November. This date will have to be checked against the Department of Energies timetable to ensure the document gets to them in time to have an effect."

Can you please explain the difference in the two timeframes and proposals and why our groups would have to have questions submitted in such short notice and what does "to ensure the document gets to them in time to have an effect." - why also can we not submit research/reports/statements etc etc ?

8. Considering this is such a controversial process does the minister not agree this timeframe is ridiculous, unrealistic?

9. Under the Aarhus convention we are not being given our full rights as members of the community with respect to this issue - members of the community must be engaged from the beginning at all levels, this has not happened so far, the Environmental Pillar does not represent the groups or communities on this issue, does the minister agree this proposal through the Environmental Pillar must be re-thought, re-framed etc etc, many people in this campaign feel it is grossly unfair and must be conducted through members of the community?

10. This issue concerns the whole of this island, there needs to be much more public debate and public understanding of the issue before this process moves any further, are you aware minister of the available funding from the EU to be used to inform the people about fracking, if so, who will this money be allocated to and how will it be used, has this money already been accessed, given out?

11. What dealings to date has your department been having with the department of Health and the Department of Environment given these are two major areas of concern when it comes to this industry?

12. Minister are you aware of recent comments made by the Taoiseach in Pennsylvania, where he met with the governor of the state and stated that Ireland was keen to emulate Pennsylvania's fracking industry?

13. Are you aware of the thousands of cases of violations by the fracking industry in Pennsylvania?

14. Considering the scale of this industry if introduced into Ireland and the seriousness of the issues surrounding it, would you not agree minister that it seems incomprehensible and highly irresponsible that Minister Rabbitte as head of your department has relinquished all responsibilities to you with regards to this highly controversial issue?

I look forward to your reply to these questions, I am taking for granted that you and members of your department understand the gravity of this issue and the importance of ALL of these questions and the necessity for them to be ALL clearly answered,

PRESS RELEASE

Following a meeting at the Bush Hotel in Carrick-on-Shannon on Saturday 27th October, where a large attendance gathered, of concerned individuals and members from all groups involved in the anti-fracking campaign.

An unanimous agreement by all in attendance, that a statement should be issued as follows.

"We demand a complete ban on fracking in Ireland, i.e. a ban on on-shore unconventional hydrocarbon exploration and extraction inter alia also called hydraulic fracturing."

As Founder and Secretary of the Irish Environmental Forum, I was requested to chair this meeting. Our Forum felt that it was important that a united approach to a complete ban on Fracking in Ireland should be the goal, by all groups in the campaign. It was evident that all groups and individuals

had one aim and one aim only, that was to ban this fracking outright throughout Ireland and not just in Leitrim.

It was also evident, that the amount of work already put into this campaign was huge and comprehensive by all groups and the meeting at Bush Hotel on the 27th further showed that this determination and fight would not stop until the Government, its Agencies and the Industry in Question would walk away defeated from this project.

The Irish Environmental Forum believes that under no circumstances, fracking should even be considered for any part of Ireland. It would be one of the biggest Environmental Disaster ever to hit Ireland. Campaigners working together have a huge strength and capacity to make real change, in particular, to make sure that the social system works for the ordinary people and not just for big industry."

Another important item on the agenda was the Terms of Reference for the new EPA study on fracking. A lively discussion was held on an offer to the campaigners from the EPA to engage in a limited public participation exercise to formulate "a list of questions that need to be answered by the research". The meeting unanimously agreed not to engage in any process other than full public consultation that would be suitable to all, that would take into account their concerns that they would raise, on certain aspects of that full public participation. Nothing could be taken for granted until these questions have been answered in full and agreed by all.

The concern to the EPA been immune from prosecution under the EPA Act was raised. This meant that no one in the EPA would be held accountable, should the EPA make any decision in relation to Fracking that would impact on the community regarding its environment and human health in particular.

Another concern were the public comments by the Director General of the EPA, Ms Laura Burke " That the Environmental Protection Agency should not be racing to prosecute business for not complying with environmental licenses and regulations" The question must be asked, if the EPA themselves does not intend to uphold the law to protect the Environment in Leitrim or any part of Ireland, then who will? It certainly cannot inspire confidence in any process that the EPA would be involved in.

A statement was issued by the meeting asking all environmental groups, including members of the Irish Environmental Pillar not to engage in the process proposed. Strong feelings at the meeting, that any proposal from Government or Agencies should be made directly to the Community where fracking is been considered.

During the discussion it was pointed out that on 19th November (the final date for the proposed EP/EPA 'consultation' to be submitted) the EU was taking a very important vote. Apparently 9 EU countries threatened with fracking have already officially submitted their county's hard copy and online petitions to be presented to the PETI commission in time to add weight to the vote against the adoption of these reports - Ireland is apparently noticeably absent from the list.

It is vital that all petitions are returned as soon as possible to Ineke Scholte She can also be contacted by email ineke@frackingfreeireland.org

Our forum was happy to facilitate this meeting and that decisive decisions were take on an unanimously basis in coming to the decisions it did. This shows the strength and solidarity of the campaign and forms an excellent basis for going forward. Fracking would cause an environmental disaster nationally as well as locally and these big industries must learn that local communities have a voice and the strength to protect their land and their health."

1/11/2012

Contact- Pat Geoghegan secretary of the IEF geogheganpat@eircom.net (087) 2241182 END

Divide & Conquer - Ala will possibly be doing this participatory theatre piece about the impact of fracking on a community again in **Ennis on 18th November** and in the New Year <http://ala-ct.ie/>

Ailliliú Fionnuala - Donal O'Kelly's new solo play about the Shell Corrib gas project in Rossport Co. Mayo, will run in Theatre Upstairs @ Lanigans, Eden Quay, Dublin at lunchtime 1pm-1.50pm, Mon-Sat, **5 - 17 November**.



Report from 'Resisting fracking' sessions at the Grassroots Gathering 2012
Galway 12th-14th October 2012

Contents - Notes from the following workshop sessions:

1. Introduction to the Fracking-Free movement sessions	1
2. Introduction to fracking and campaigns to keep Ireland fracking free	4
3. Divide and Conquer: Forum theatre	6
4. Resisting Fracking - Discussion 1: How can we win?	9
5. Resisting Fracking - Discussion 2: Key questions	14
6. Reaching the mainstream media	17
7. Media skills sharing workshop	21

Images from the venue: Talk about Fracking art exhibition at the gathering – thanks to the engage collective. Timeline on the wall of the main discussion space for the fracking sessions.



Report grassroots gathering - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Report-from-fracking-sessions-at-grassroots-gathering2012.pdf>

(Web FFI: fracking in Ireland?)

Full of practical feedback, tips etc.

Visit <http://frackingfreeireland.org/fracking-in-ireland-update/>
for the fracking situation in Ireland. (Townlands, letters, powerpoint, statements/position on fracking of Env. Pillar, FoE Ireland etc.)

(Web FFI: fracking in Ireland?)

Dear all,

Attached is the report from the fracking-free movement sessions at the Grassroots Gathering in Galway from 12th-14th October 2012.

The report is compiled from notes from all the workshops and photos from some of the sessions, and photos of the graphic recording during the weekend. I hope it's a useful document for all who couldn't make it - be interested to hear any feedback you have on the discussions.

The photos included as low resolution to keep the document small. If anyone needs a high resolution image for anything just let me know.

There were two theatre performances during the weekend - in case you missed them - both are going to be on again soon:

Divide & Conquer - Ala will possibly be doing this participatory theatre piece about the impact of fracking on a community again in **Ennis on 18th November** and in the New Year <http://ala-ct.ie/>

Ailliliú Fionnuala - Donal O'Kelly's new solo play about the Shell Corrib gas project in Rosspport Co. Mayo, will run in Theatre Upstairs @ Lanigans, Eden Quay, Dublin at lunchtime 1pm-1.50pm, Mon-Sat, **5 - 17 November**. It's a theatrical exploration of an issue that has become a microcosm of Ireland's present economic and sociological state. It's also a sequel to Donal's 1988 solo play Bat The Father Rabbit The Son - a generation on! There will be a photographic display of recent events in Rosspport and an information stall in the foyer. Further information on Facebook event page: Ailliliú Fionnuala

- <http://www.facebook.com/events/453610148013600/>

Supported by the justice and human rights organisation Afri.

Best wishes

Jerrieann

LECTURES

Here is the link: <http://www.tcd.ie/Geology/news/eveninglectures2012.php>

Tuesday evenings at 8 pm, starting Tuesday 25 September 2012, in Room 4, Museum Building, Trinity College.

Date Lecturer Subject

Sep 25 Patrick Wyse Jackson Building stone: the changing face of Dublin

Oct 2 Ian Sanders Quarrying: extraction for construction

Oct 9 Robbie Goodhue Pyrite: an expansive legacy?

Oct 16 Chris Nicholas Earthquakes: natural and man-made

Oct 23 Robin Edwards Tsunamis: wild wave power in Ireland?

Oct 30 Balz Kamber Radioactivity: blight or benefit?

Nov 6 Quentin Crowley Radon: roots, risks and remediation

Nov 13 Catherine Coxon Groundwater: on managing a liquid asset

Nov 20 George Sevastopulo Metals: 3,500 years of mining in Ireland

Nov 27 Geoff Clayton Fossil fuels: Ireland's coal, oil and natural gas

Dec 4 David Chew Fracking: fact and friction

Dec 11 Emma Tomlinson Volcanoes: ash, aerosols and our airspace

WHAT YOU CAN/MUST DO

Sign the petition against the company that makes profit no matter how! (and are using a religious symbol, the shell, used by pilgrims!)

When we hit a million signers, we'll bring our unprecedented global call to the steps of Nigeria's Parliament. Send the email below to friends and family, and post this link on your Facebook wall.

http://petition.avaaz.org/en/make_shell_pay_b/?tta

Dear friends,

In days, Nigeria's Parliament could approve a \$5 billion fine against giant oil polluter Shell for a spill that devastated the lives of millions of people, and pass a law to hold all oil companies to account for polluting and plundering. This is a watershed moment, but unless we all speak out, oil giants will crush it.

Finally, Big Oil is having to pay for the wasteland and violence that they've created. President Jonathan supports the Shell fine, and progressive Senators are pushing for strong regulations, but oil companies are slick, and without huge international support MPs could buckle under the pressure.

Politicians are deciding their positions right now -- sign the urgent petition for the Nigerian Parliament to fine Shell and support the bill, and then forward this to everyone -- when we hit a million signers we'll bring our unprecedented global call to the steps of Nigeria's Parliament:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/make_shell_pay_b/?bptEKbb&v=19059

Experts say that every year Big Oil spills as much crude into the Niger Delta as an Exxon Valdez, but as it is Africa, it gets little media play. After a leak occurred at Shell's Bonga oil facility last December, millions of gallons poured into the ocean and washed up on the densely populated coast -- resulting in one of the largest African oil spills ever. The fine and bill on the table are a once in a lifetime chance to stand up to Big Oil.

Oil companies have made \$600 billion in the last 50 years in Nigeria, but locals don't see the benefits. Their land, drinking water and fishing grounds are ruined. And Shell has spent hundreds of millions of dollars a year on security forces, repressing protest against its harmful practices.

The oil industry is crucial to the economy, but companies have never been held to account for the devastation of drilling. Now, the Nigerian President and a few brave MPs are speaking out and they could finally slam the oil giants with tough fines and give fair pay outs to the victims. If we show MPs that the world supports these crucial steps, we can literally change the lives of millions. Click below to sign the urgent petition:

http://www.avaaz.org/en/make_shell_pay_b/?bptEKbb&v=19059

Avaazers have stood up to Big Oil all over the world, from Chevron in Ecuador, to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, to ending fossil fuel subsidies at the Rio Summit. Now let's do it for Nigeria too. Make sure the politicians send a message to Big Oil: your days of impunity are over.

With hope and determination,

Pascal, Patricia, Alex, Ricken, David, Rewan, and the Avaaz team

In days, **Nigeria's Parliament could approve a \$5 billion fine against giant oil polluter Shell** and set in motion a law that would hold oil companies to account for the first time ever. The President endorses the penalty, but Big Oil are lobbying MPs like crazy to vote against reform. **Our voices can drown them out to win justice for Nigeria's people.** Join the urgent call now!

SIGN THE PETITION ▶

Shell Faces \$5 Billion Nigeria Fine (Wall Street Journal)

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303933704577532723563488122.html>

Shell urged to pay Nigeria \$5bn over Bonga oil spill (BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18875731>

Shell's grip on Nigerian state revealed (The Guardian)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/dec/08/wikileaks-cables-shell-nigeria-spying>

U.N. slams Shell as Nigeria needs biggest ever oil clean-up (Reuters)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/us-nigeria-ogoniland-idUSTRE7734MQ20110804>

Nigeria: Oil spill investigations 'a fiasco' in the Niger Delta (Amnesty International)

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/nigeria-oil-spill-investigations-fiasco-niger-delta-2012-08-02>

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

There was a meeting with Members of the EU Parliaments Committee on Industry, Research and Energy at Leinster House.

From a campaigner

I am subscribed to Noel Harrington's Facebook page and have just read the following message:

"Just attended a meeting with Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy at Leinster House. Members included Sean Kelly MEP, Pilar de Castillo MEP from Spain and Roger Helmer MEP from the UK."

I have asked what this meeting is about, but my bet is it is about fracking, for obvious reasons.

Harrington is a Cork Fine Gael TD and is pro-fracking, despite knowing next to nothing about it. The same could be said about Roger Helmer who sits on the European Parliament's Industry Committee. (Check out his blog to know more) **Let's not forget this committee votes on a shale gas report on November 19. (ETRI report)**

For those who may be interested, here is Harrington's reply to my question regarding the topic of the meeting:

"Common interests as I sit on the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications which also deals with Energy. This meeting was also attended by members of the Joint Committee on Jobs and Enterprise. Our meeting was preceded by a meeting with Minister Pat Rabbitte."

Does anyone happen to know if the public can access minutes of this meeting? It would be interesting to know what was said.

CORRESPONDENCE – LETTERS- CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



Petroleum Safety Levy Methodology Draft Decision Paper

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Draft Decision Paper
REFERENCE:	CER/12/176
DATE PUBLISHED:	31 st October 2012
CLOSING DATE	28 th November 2012

Received from: info@cer.ie (reported by a campaigner)

The CER today (1 November 2012) publishes the Draft Decision Paper on the Petroleum Safety Levy for public consultation.

The CER now invite all interested parties to comment on the Draft Decision Paper as provided below.

<http://www.cer.ie/en/petroleum-safety-current-consultations.aspx?article=bff4e361-5705-40e0-98f8-cb282b89035c>

For further information, please contact Roisin Cullinan (rcullinan@cer.ie) at the CER.

Commission for Energy Regulation, The Exchange, Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24 |
Tel: [01 4000 800](tel:014000800) | Fax: [01 4000 850](tel:014000850) | info@cer.ie

[Unsubscribe from Newsletter](#)

Follow debate regarding the CER on fracking ireland google groups, apply for membership: charlie2williams@gmail.com (and other social media)

BBC call for submissions

received from the campaigners from the Czech republic

Dear colleagues,

the BBC world service got interested in fracking and aired a call for submissions with the question "Shale gas: is it causing worry or controversy where you live?" Their email address is world.business@bbc.co.uk.

It was aired at the end of the October 29 Business daily issue

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/bizdaily>

where our coalition (the campaigners from the Czech republic - ineke) had the chance to speak after an industry representative. Although we're not very happy with the end result, at least some points could be mentioned.

Best wishes,

Jan Kozderka [kozderka@gmail.com]



THOUGHTS – OPINION



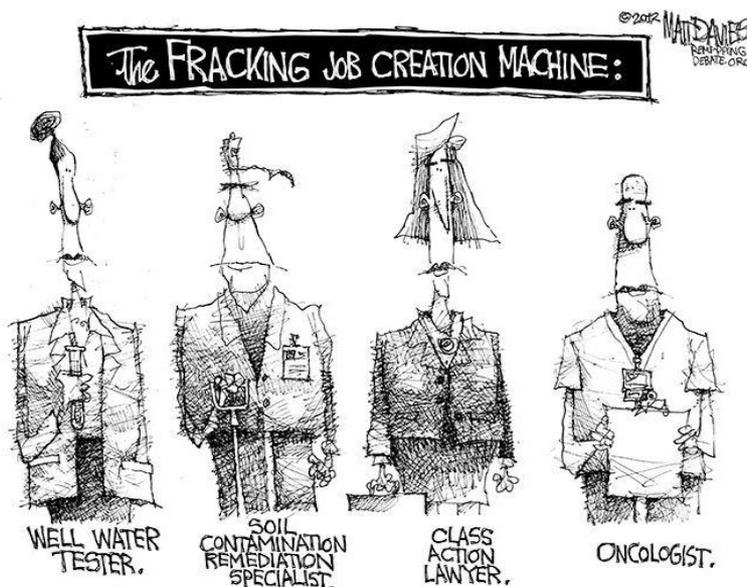
Frackademia – scientific fraud

One to pass on to the EPA - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2012/nov/02/scientific-fraud-good-science>

(Web FFI: food for thoughts/opinions)

Greg Palast: "Mitt Romney's Bailout Bonanza: How He Made Millions from the Rescue of Detroit"

http://www.democracynow.org/2012/10/18/greg_palast_mitt_romneys_bailout_bonanza



MOVIES- SONGS/NEW WEBSITE

NEW WEBSITE: Fracking: A Thick Description

<http://frackingathickdescription.blogspot.ca/>

Fracking: A Thick Description is a welcome resource at a time when industry, Mr. China and the rest of our elected officials are stripping us of community, unity and voice. resist the brain washing and slick lies of synergy alberta, our stories are important. tell write sing dance make (eg art, jewelery, food, clothing, machinery etc) YOUR story! do it your way. loudly. w passion. never, ever stand down. your story, your life, your experiences are YOURS. they do not belong to the petro-harper complex. our stories and voices are vital to community, health, ourselves and loved ones. ever wonder why dictators like harper strip funding from arts, culture, community?

I suppose the Half-breeds in Manitoba, in 1870, did not fight for two hundred and forty acres of land, but it is to be understood that there were two societies who treated together. One was small, but in its smallness it had its rights. The other was great, but in its greatness it had no greater rights than the rights of the small, because the right is the same for everyone, and when they began by treating the leaders of that small community as bandits, as outlaws, leaving them without protection, they disorganized that community.

The Queen v. Louis Riel
Regina, 1885

IRISH NEWS

It really pays to check the **EPA site** regularly...

A new report on Irish air quality. Check out the sections on the impacts on human health and ecosystems from air pollution.

<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/air/quality/Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Report%202011%20final.pdf>

Received from a campaigner

There was a report on **RTE news** last, as part of a series on the US one year before Obama goes for re-election, on South Dakota (or was it North, doesn't matter). The report showed a boom in this essentially farming area caused by an oil find. There is simply not enough accommodation for the thousands of workers who have arrived, for example.

A small reference was made to the use of fracking to extract the oil, in passing, and some small reference to the risks.

Teacher on 200km 'anti-fracking' walk

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/1029/1224325866938.html>



EU -NEWS



Bad news from Poland and the UK

Quick (depressing) update in case you missed these very recent information:

- First from Poland where the civil society is put under highly worrying pressure by the government, the media and the industries
(<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/polish-environmentalists-allege-news-515745>)

- And then from the UK, after Britain's Energy Minister John Hayes announced that Britain could soon **launch a new round of licensing for shale gas exploration**
(<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL5E8LUHFX20121030>)

Britain may soon start new shale gas licensing round

* Govt requested details from Cuadrilla about seismic tests

* Regulation needed to assure shale gas safety

LONDON Oct 30 (Reuters) - Britain could soon launch a new round of licensing for shale gas exploration, pending information from the country's most advanced shale gas company and tighter regulation, Britain's Energy Minister said on Tuesday.

The government last year put a temporary halt to fracking, a process whereby water and liquid are injected at high pressure into rock formations to retrieve trapped gas, after earthquakes were measured near a fracking site operated by Cuadrilla Resources.

Energy Minister John Hayes told Reuters he had requested detailed information from Cuadrilla Resources about seismic testing, its management process and the company's timetable for moving from exploration to

production.

"I'm confident that once those questions are complete, we can look again at the timetable for licensing new work," he said.

In addition to answers from Cuadrilla, he said he wanted to ensure the correct regulation was in place to guarantee the work would be safe.

"I have further things to say about the regulatory framework, the oversight essential to assure absolute safety and security," Hayes said.

A number of expert reports have recommended that the government should allow shale gas fracking to resume under tighter rules to take advantage of potentially vast resources, which could help ease Britain's growing dependence on gas imports.

The government is expected to issue a new estimate of shale gas resources in the Bowland formation before the end of the year, followed by a more comprehensive prediction for the whole country in 2013.

Even though fracking is still prohibited, Britain's finance minister said earlier this month the government was considering the introduction of generous tax breaks for shale gas exploration. (Reporting by Karolin Schaps; editing by Jane Baird)

It's not possible to read the complete article unless you have a

subscription, but the headline sounds very nice:

<http://www.petroleum-economist.com/Article/3111728/Unconventional/Environmental-opposition-likely-to-hinder-UK-shale-gas-sector.html?LS=EMS739450>

All the best,
Anita
Heaven or sHell

Oettinger calls for new renewables target

Sounds like good news until you read on...

"The Energy Partnership launched today will represent the combined interests of the renewable and gas sectors. Gas is a natural complement to renewable energy because it is a flexible source of power that can be turned up during periods of no wind or sun. The partnership, which so far consists of Alpine Energie, Dong Energy, First Solar, GE and Shell, is calling for better infrastructure to connect renewable installations to gas plants."

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2012/october/oettinger-calls-for-new-renewables-target/75579.aspx>

Another article on this story:

<http://www.clickgreen.org.uk/news/international-news/123675-renewable-energy-firms-link-up-with-gas-giants-to-push-for-clear-energy-policy.html>

GLOBAL NEWS

EGYPT

Anti-fracking campaign launched in Egypt

Shell is bringing fracking to Egypt, threatening the North African country's already scarce water resources by drilling in the western Desert. Concerned that the Nile and crucial aquifers will be poisoned, the **Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights** (EIPR), supported by Platform's Mika Minio Paluella, has demanded an immediate moratorium and launched North Africa's first anti-fracking campaign. Read more [here](#).

US

Five states leading the fight against fracking - <http://www.care2.com/causes/5-states-leading-the-fight-against-fracking.html>

Read about dirty companies their lies and (campaigners)opinions:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/global-fracking/global-shale-gas-liescorruption/>
(**Web FFI: Global fracking/global shale gas lies-corruption**)

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/food-for-thought/opinion/>

Scientific fraud - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2012/nov/02/scientific-fraud-good-science>



Outrage, But No Surprise At DEP Corruption Charge

Fellow citizens of Pennsylvania, we have a serious problem. The suspicion that PA DEP is colluding with the gas industry, a belief long held by many living in the Marcellus Shale, has just been supported by the sworn testimony of two whistleblowers. Two employees from within the PA DEP, Taru Upadhyay and John Carson, have given depositions describing outrageous breaches of trust by the PA DEP, alleging they deliberately failed to report the presence of metals, which are known hydrofracking-related contaminants, in water wells it tested in the Marcellus Shale:

Aluminum

Copper

Silicon

Lithium

Molybdenum

Zinc

Nickel

Cobalt

Titanium

Boron

In addition, the following volatile organic compounds commonly found in the Fracking process were also found in the wells and not reported:

Acetone

Chloroform

T-butyl alcohol

Don Hopey has been reporting in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that the DEP has systematically been producing incomplete lab reports on water wells affected by hydraulic fracturing and has been using those tainted reports to refute the claims of those Pennsylvanians whose water has been affected by drilling operations.

These are VERY serious allegations. People in PA usually only request water testing by the DEP because they suspect their water has been contaminated. PA Rep. Jesse White is rightly calling for a State and Federal investigation. If the PA DEP has been deliberately altering or obstructing test data and telling people their water was safe, then, as Rep. White says "anyone who relied on the DEP for the truth about whether their water has been impacted by drilling activities has apparently been intentionally deprived of critical health and safety information by their own government".

Many throughout PA have waited months for DEP water test results, only to find out that they were mysteriously hung-up in Harrisburg. Many have experienced discrepancies between the costly independent water tests they ordered from private labs and "official" test results from the DEP. As a result, many have long suspected misconduct or some form of obstruction at work within the DEP. I'm one of them. But this week's revelations are jaw-dropping for even the most jaded conspiracy theorist. They leave me shocked and outraged.

This egregious behaviour represents a naked example of putting corporate profits ahead of public health and safety, even at the cost of poisoning our water and our faith in government.

What a sad contrast with what we've seen in the last week as federal, state and municipal governments mobilized an unprecedented and moving response to Hurricane Sandy. All across the eastern seaboard we are mourning the lives taken by this storm and sending our thoughts to those whose loved ones have been lost. While we reel from its effects, we're also aggrieved that these extreme weather events, which grow in intensity and destructiveness every year, are only beginning to be acknowledged as effects of climate change. Fracking and other extreme techniques for extracting and increasing our reliance on fossil fuels only stand to make it worse.

Pennsylvania's citizens have had enough of being exploited by big oil and gas. They deserve an immediate and thorough investigation into this brazen, and what seems to be illegal conduct of Krancer and Corbett's DEP. If the whistleblower's allegations and the Post-Gazette's reporting turn out to be true, we should call for the impeachment and/or recall of the Corbett administration.

THANK YOU DEP WHISTLE BLOWER!!



**EXPOSES MASSIVE CORRUPTION IN
PENNSYLVANIA DEP
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**WHISTLE BLOWER REVEALS THAT
THEY'VE BEEN HIDING CONTAMINATED
WATER TEST RESULTS PUTTING
THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS AT RISK**

amazing article at: Lawmaker challenges Pennsylvania DEP's reporting of gas well water safety

"the lab found volatile organic compounds, including acetone, chloroform and T-butyl alcohol — industry-recognized components of fracking fluid — in Mr. Kiskadden's water."

Alberta regulator found Tert-butyl alcohol in my water too. Alberta Research Council (now Alberta Innovates) dismissed it, said the alcohol came from sampling, never mentioned it is used in frac'ing. and chloroform was found in some contaminated water wells, when you chlorinate methane contaminated water one gets chloroform. alta environment refused to test contaminated water wells, unless the landowner chlorinated first! and they knew, chloroform is by product. it's what the bad guys use in movies, in a cloth over someone's face, to knock people out. aenv didnt test for acetone, that i know of.

Amazing stuff happening in USA. What does Canada get? Peter Kent and massive deregulation. What does Alberta get? Synergy Alberta and massive deregulation white's astounding press release and other articles at: White calls on state, federal authorities for investigation of DEP over deceptive Marcellus Shale water-quality testing practices, Testimony by DEP lab chief reveals possibility of intentionally undisclosed public health risks from Marcellus Shale gas drilling

RIGHT ON FOR HERO DEP WHISTLEBLOWER!

<http://ecowatch.org/2012/marcellus-shale-water-quality/>

**Oil servitude and the new Canadian petrostate: An interview with Andrew Nikiforuk
BY LORI THERESA WALLER | OCTOBER 29, 2012**

Part one: <http://rabble.ca/news/2012/10/oil-servitude-and-new-canadian-petrostate-interview-andrew-nikiforuk>

Part two: <http://rabble.ca/news/2012/11/slaves-big-oil-interview-andrew-nikiforuk-part-ii>

Andrew Nikiforuk is an Albertan journalist and author of several books, including the acclaimed *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*. Lori Theresa Waller interviewed

him late last month on the eve of a talk he gave in Ottawa for the launch of his latest book, *The Energy of Slaves: Oil and the New Servitude*. What follows is an excerpt of their conversation. Part II of this interview will be published later this week.

Lori Theresa Waller: You write, "When it comes to oil, there are only masters, traders and slaves." Which category would you put Canada in?

Andrew Nikiforuk: We're all three, right now. Canada has almost become a plantation economy where all conversations are about the production and export of oil. If you're opposed to that agenda, you're a radical and unpatriotic. That's the kind of low-level conversation you have in petrostates. But we're also a slave to oil in the sense that half the country is dependent on foreign oil from the Middle East and the North Sea. We are not an energy independent country at all.

LTW: This concept of a petrostate is one you discuss at length. What are the defining characteristics of a petrostate?

AN: The person who's done the most work on this is Terry Lynn Carl, an extraordinary political scientist from Stanford University. Americans pioneered oil, and now we have an American who's pioneered the study of how oil impacts states and governments. Technically a petrostate is any jurisdiction where approximately 20 per cent of its income is coming from hydrocarbons. Alberta was there a long time ago. The first thing that petrostates do is they dismantle the relationship between representation and taxation. They say, "We're gonna make you all feel warm and fuzzy about oil production by lowering your taxes." They don't add the next part, which is "Oh, and by the way, if we're not taxing you, we're not going to represent you."

"Like the proverbial three monkeys, science first had its tongue cut out. Now as target of the omnibus budget, the eyes of science are being blinded and its ears deafened. The deaf, dumb, and blind monkey is the governments' designated spokesperson."

<http://www.thespec.com/opinion/columns/article/826161--ottawa-blind-to-dangers-of-firing-environmental-scientists>

Tom Muir

Mon Oct 29 2012 00:01:00

" Ottawa blind to dangers of firing environmental scientists"

I read recently that the federal government signed a revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with the United States. As a retiree of Environment Canada, with friends still inside, I say a new agreement doesn't matter because the federal government has largely destroyed its capacity to deliver it.

Over the past seven years the two governments spent talking, what was a trickling loss of environmental science capacity in Canada is now a flood. In Burlington, where I worked for 30 years at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW), there about 80 research scientists on staff in 2004. I'm told that by this year, there are about 20.

Making things worse for the Great Lakes scientists remaining is their secondment to the Alberta oilsands. The government has an oilsands study under way, but it is coming out of the Great Lakes program.

More targets in the omnibus budget make things worse. Fisheries and Oceans scientists, doing contaminants monitoring and research across Canada, including the Arctic, are being fired, and their labs closed.

These scientists work with Great Lakes colleagues on overlapping problems, all relevant to the Great Lakes agreement.

These layoffs are particularly alarming as these people are irreplaceable. Their work cannot be contracted out effectively. Their function is early-warning radar — monitoring the canaries in the coal mine. The freshwater and marine fish, mammals and wildlife, are sentinels for humans. But now nobody will be watching.

I guess Canadians don't need to know that Arctic beluga whales pass many chemical contaminants, like PCBs and flame retardants, to their fetus. Maybe people will get concerned about the same chemicals in their own fetus. This transfer in the belugas was shown by Fisheries and Oceans scientists located in B.C. It won't happen again. Some of these scientists are fired, and survivors will get the message.

In Winnipeg, Fisheries science finds flame-retardant chemicals in freshwater fish and Arctic marine mammals. These chemicals cause thyroid disease and sex hormone disruption in fish, and act in ways that may contribute to prostate cancer in humans.

I guess Canadians shouldn't be bothered by concerns about these health effects either. They won't be again — the entire lab is being closed, and the staff fired.

Downstream, other Fisheries laboratories find similar contamination and effects in St. Lawrence belugas and Atlantic fish. Canadians won't be bothered with this concern any more — these researchers are fired too.

Is there some kind of disconnect here? Fisheries scientists working on fish health, and ocean scientists working on ocean health, getting fired? With climate meltdown happening in the Arctic, the scientists monitoring health in Arctic fish, mammals, and wildlife are fired?

The dismantling of environmental science in Canada has more stories. The Experimental Lakes Area, in northern Ontario, is to be shut. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and the Fisheries Act, have been radically reduced in scope and effectiveness. The Species at Risk Act is next, but it has been never used, no one knows how it works.

None of these acts was meant to stop projects, just monitor, make people accountable and try to avoid mistakes.

Now does anyone else see a pattern? Like others, I too see it as positively Orwellian.

Public ignorance is government strength. Remove the right to think by removing the facts to think about; ensure public servants do not serve the public.

These events reflect a war of attrition and suppression waged by the government on environmental science for years, and particularly under Prime Minister Harper's watch since 2006.

Environment has been politicized and bureaucratized, especially regarding chemicals and climate. Threats, fear, and paranoia are the tools of staff relations.

No scientist can do anything, or say anything, or go anywhere, without running the gauntlet of supervisor, senior management, communications, policy, the deputy minister's office, the minister's office and the prime minister's office. Media inquiries often don't make it through. Everything is laced with ambiguity.

Like the proverbial three monkeys, science first had its tongue cut out. Now as target of the omnibus budget, the eyes of science are being blinded and its ears deafened. The deaf, dumb, and blind monkey is the governments' designated spokesperson.

I have to ask if the government understands what it is doing to destroy environmental science?

If this were an enemy of Canada, who wanted to knock out our intelligence capability for early warning of foreseeable threats, they would be hard-pressed to improve on the strikes made by environment and fisheries managers against key positions that comprise this capacity. And under orders from our own government.

Do they want everyone to be in the dark? What is next?

These are terrible mistakes, that can bring terrible harms. But it is not too late to reverse these cuts.

If not, then whose side is the government on?

Tom Muir lives in Burlington, and worked for Environment Canada at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters from 1974 to 2004, when he retired. Since then he has remained professionally active working as an independent researcher.

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Dogpound Creek, Premier Trout Stream Loses Water To Fracking!

<http://streamtender.com/wordpress/?p=361>



REPORTS - RESEARCH

It really pays to check the EPA site regularly...

Today I found a new report on Irish air quality. Check out the sections on the impacts on human health and ecosystems from air pollution.

<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/air/quality/Air%20Quality%20Annual%20Report%202011%20final.pdf>

Irish Examiner.com - Saturday, November 03, 2012

Axing coal not cutting CO2

By Emily Beament - Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Moving from burning coal to generating electricity from shale gas in the US is not cutting emissions as much as thought, as coal is being exported for use elsewhere, a report has warned.

Gas produces lower carbon emissions than coal, and the US is now burning less coal to generate electricity because of the development of unconventional gas reserves in shale rock.

However, millions of tonnes of unused coal are being exported to the UK, Europe, and Asia, researchers from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research in Norwich said.

So while carbon emissions from the US energy sector have fallen by 8.6% since 2005, equivalent to 1.4% per year, more than half the reductions could simply have been displaced overseas as coal is exported for use in power plants abroad.

The report said a switch to shale gas would only cut emissions if the coal it displaced stayed in the ground.

The centre's Kevin Anderson said: "Since 2008, when the shale gas supply became significant, there has been a large increase in US coal exports.

"This increases global emissions as the UK, Europe and Asia are burning the coal instead.

"Earlier Tyndall analysis suggests that the role for gas in a low carbon transition is extremely limited, with shale gas potentially diverting substantial funds away from genuinely low and zero carbon alternatives."

John Broderick, the lead author on the report, said it was the total quantity of CO2 from the energy system that matters to the climate.

And he said: "Despite lower-carbon rhetoric, shale gas is still a carbon intensive energy source."

Shale Gas Development and Property Values: Differences across Drinking Water Sources
Lucija Muehlenbachs, Elisheba Spiller, and Christopher Timmins
NBER Working Paper No. 18390
September 2012
JEL No. Q4,Q53

ABSTRACT

While shale gas development can result in rapid local economic development, negative externalities associated with the process may adversely affect the prices of nearby homes. We utilize a triple-difference estimator and exploit the public water service area boundary in Washington County, Pennsylvania to identify the housing capitalization of groundwater risk, differentiating it from other externalities, lease payments to homeowners, and local economic development. We find that proximity to wells increases housing values, though risks to groundwater fully offset those gains. By itself, groundwater risk reduces property values by up to 24 percent.

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Shale gas, water pollution and property values

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Paper_GroundwaterPropertyValues1.pdf

[Shale Gas Development and Property Values: Differences across Drinking Water Sources](#) by Lucija Muehlenbachs, Elisheba Spiller, Christopher Timmins, September 2012, *NBER Working Paper No. 18390*. You may purchase this paper on-line in .pdf format from SSRN.com (\$5) for electronic delivery.

While shale gas development can result in rapid local economic development, negative externalities associated with the process may adversely affect the prices of nearby homes. We utilize a triple-difference estimator and exploit the public water service area boundary in Washington County, Pennsylvania **to identify the housing capitalization of groundwater risk**, differentiating it from other externalities, lease payments to homeowners, and local economic development. We find that proximity to wells increases housing values, though risks to groundwater fully offset those gains. **By itself, groundwater risk reduces property values by up to 24 percent.**

[Shale gas boom makes some Pennsylvanians richer — and some poorer](#) by Brad Plumer, October 31, 2012, *Washington Post*

In recent years, states like Pennsylvania have seen a massive natural gas boom as improved drilling techniques have allowed companies to extract natural gas from shale rock in the Marcellus. The boom has helped drive U.S. natural gas prices down to stunningly low levels and has upended the country's energy sector. But how does it affect the people living in those regions?

...

But there are risks, as well. Scientists are still trying to assess whether drilling for shale gas — through a technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” — can contaminate nearby groundwater. ... **If the well casings are faulty, or if fracking occurs too close to aquifers, either chemicals or methane could conceivably contaminate nearby drinking water.** ... Ideally, in trying to craft regulations around gas drilling, state governments would try to balance those risks against the benefits. So far, however, those risks have been fairly difficult to quantify. That's what makes this new NBER working paper by Lucija Muehlenbachs, Elisheba Spiller and Christopher Timmins so interesting. The authors try to look at how shale-gas drilling has affected property values around drilling sites in Pennsylvania. Doing so, they say, can help give a better sense of how to tally those upsides and downsides.

The authors looked specifically at Washington County, just southwest of Pittsburgh. And after running a variety of statistical tests and controlling for as many relevant variables as they could, they found that proximity to a well has a fairly large effect on nearby property values. A property near a drilling pad gets a 10.7 percent boost in value, on average — presumably reflecting the benefit of those lease payments from gas companies.

But the story didn't end there. Properties that depend on groundwater, meanwhile, take a

large home-value hit — up to 24 percent — if they're within 2,000 meters of a new well. This decrease in value, the authors argue, is one way to quantify the perceived risks of groundwater contamination. And for some properties, the downsides of groundwater risk may currently outweigh the upsides from having a well nearby: **"To the extent that the net effect of drilling on groundwater-dependent properties might even be negative," the authors write, "we could see an increase in the likelihood of foreclosure in areas experiencing rapid growth of hydraulic fracturing."**

Now, the authors are very careful to note that this paper is far from the final word on natural-gas regulations. (Property values are only one slice of the economy, and there are other environmental considerations, like air pollution, that aren't studied here.) But it does suggest that **there's an economic case for more careful oversight of groundwater contamination risks.**

Economic arguments against shale gas extraction by Andy Gheorghiu

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Microsoft-Word-Economic-arguments-against-shale-gas-extraction_Any-Gheor.pdf

(web FFI: official reports/research)

More articles to help undermine the economic success story of shale gas:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/reports/press-articles/>

(web FFI: official reports/research)

**Silent killer: Health Canada urges testing homes for cancer-causing radon
BY THE CANADIAN PRESS NOVEMBER 1, 2012 1:47 PM**

It is estimated that 16 per cent of lung cancer deaths in Canada are caused by indoor radon exposure.

Photograph by: Courtesy of the American Cancer Society , Getty Images

TORONTO - Health Canada is urging Canadians to test their homes for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer.

After smoking, exposure to radon is the second leading cause of the often deadly disease.

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the ground and can leak into homes through foundation cracks or gaps around pipes.

It cannot be seen, smelled or tasted, but there are inexpensive and easy tests sold by most hardware stores that can measure radon levels.

Health Canada suggests testing for a minimum of three months starting in the fall, when windows and doors of a home are typically closed.

It is estimated that 16 per cent of lung cancer deaths in Canada are caused by indoor radon exposure.

"Canadians are at higher risk of getting lung cancer if radon gas is present in their homes and if they smoke or are exposed to second-hand smoke," Mary-Pat Shaw, acting CEO and president of the Canadian Lung Association, said in a statement issued by Health Canada.

A survey conducted for Lung Cancer Canada and released Thursday showed that only one per cent of Canadians are aware of the fact that radon exposure is the second leading cause of

lung cancer.

That result is drawn from an online survey of 1,600 adults conducted by Pollara Strategic Insights. The poll was conducted between Sept. 12-18 among adults at least 18 years of age and has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Note to readers: This is a corrected story. An earlier version said the survey cited was commissioned by the Canadian Lung Association. In fact, it was commissioned by Lung Cancer Canada.

Read more:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/Health+Canada+urges+testing+homes+radon+leading+cause+lung+cancer/7484196/story.html#ixzz2B14Ub9mX>

[Refer also to:

Fracking, Has the USGS Been Co-opted?

Bayou Sinkhole: Radioactive dome issues covered up over a year

Hydraulic Fracturing Poses Substantial Water Pollution Risks, Analysts Say

Fracking: Radiation Now in Discussion

Natural Gas: Avoidable Health Hazard

MEDICAL-ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: A Review of the Potential Health Effects of the Proposed Sable Gas Pipeline Project from the perspective of Environmentally Induced Illness/Chemical Sensitivity, Asthma and Allergy