

Fracking Matters Newsletter 8-12 (43) – 22 January 2012



Information letter for those to whom fracking matters and (some) updates on the website FFI
contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org

Thanks to all for the contribution

**Our friends teach us what we can do
Our enemies teach us what we must do**

**This is not the fight of our lives
This is the fight for our live**



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The Anglo-Celt

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Published: Thursday, 19th January, 2012 12:00pm

Tamboran rules out 'entirely' West Cavan fracking plans

West Cavan has been ruled out as a possible fracking zone by one of the companies with licensing options for the area, writes Damian McCarney.

A Tamboran Resources CEO has told The Anglo-Celt that gas extraction from the shale rock formation in the section of West Cavan for which they have a licensing option, is not commercially viable.

The Anglo-Celt has been unable to contact the second company, Lough Allen Natural Gas Company (LANGCO), which holds a licensing option for a section of West Cavan in the general Dorrva area comprising 51 townlands, to determine whether its area is viable. LANGCO also hold license options for significant portions of counties Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo.

See this week's Celt for more...



Richard Moorman, Chief Executive of Tamboran Resources Ltd.



I WANT TO...

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see what's new on our great to

page.

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families around Co. Cavan

Tamboran rules out entirely West Cavan fracking plans-

[http://www.anglocelt.ie/news/roundup/articles/2012/01/19/4008562-tamboran-rules-out-entirely-west-cavan-fracking-plans-/](http://www.anglocelt.ie/news/roundup/articles/2012/01/19/4008562-tamboran-rules-out-entirely-west-cavan-fracking-plans/)

(Web FFI – Irish Press/Local Press ROI)

IRISH NEWS

Sources close to Pat Rabbitte: 'Fracking bans aren't worth the paper they are written on and are an utter waste of time'

FRACKING ROW: COUNCIL HAS NO POWER TO BAN IT

January 19, 2012

A DONEGAL bid to ban fracking is 'an utter waste of time' because councillors don't have the powers to outlaw it, donegaldaily.com has learned.

Sources close to Minister Pat Rabbitte have told us that a motion passed by councillors to include a ban on the practice in the County Plan 'aren't worth the paper it is written on'.

Fine Gael councillor Barry O'Neill won the support of all parties when he introduced the ban earlier this week.

The move is being hailed as sending out a clear message to companies who want to use the practice to extract natural gas.

In America it has been blamed for poisoning water supplies.

But the ultimate powers on whether or not it will go ahead will lie with Minister Rabbitte, the minister for Natural Resources.

Fracking row: council has not power to ban it

<http://www.donegaldaily.com/2012/01/19/fracking-row-council-has-no-power-to-ban-it/>



Senator says we should allow fracking – to create jobs

Fri, 7:15 AM 4,537 Views 116 Comments

Share 47 Tweet

SENATOR FEARGAL QUINN has proposed that Ireland should allow fracking to happen here because it would create jobs and give us access to billions of euro worth of natural gas.

Independent senator Quinn – who founded the Superquinn chain – was speaking in the context of a Seanad debate/thinktank on how best to create more jobs in Ireland. One of his suggestions was for people to consider allowing fracking, a process of extracting natural gas by pumping chemical fluids at high pressures into the covering rock and

Senator says we should allow fracking to create jobs. -

<http://www.thejournal.ie/senator-says-we-should-allow-fracking-to-create-jobs-332350-Jan2012/> (Web FFI – Irish Press)

Feargal Quinn suggests that companies could be asked to put up a bond equal to the clean-up cost of any possible environmental dama.....

email : feargal.quinn@oireachtas and use the sample letter from Charlie

(see next article)

Charlie William's Sunday

Charlie did not go to sleep until he had finished his open letter to the Taoiseach and sent out to

(...) '40 media addresses, to the *Taoiseach*, the *Tánaiste*, all Labour Party Ministers, Senators and the Chief Party Whip, the Labour Party members of the European Parliament, and to our President, Michael D. Higgins. (...)'

He wrote his open letter on Sunday 4.14 am and worked the entire night until it was finished, hours later... !!

(...) 'It's now 10:35am and I haven't slept a wink. Tired now. Will see what replies will arrive this week coming :-)'

'We need to bombard them with letters'.

minister.rabbitte@dencr.gov.ie

pat.rabbitte@oireachtas.ie

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **write a letter to:**
 - **Feargal Quinn**
feargal.quinn@oireachtas
 - **Pat Rabbitte**
minister.rabbitte@dcentr.gov.ie

Letters can be found at the end of the newsletter and:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/letters-to-irish-politicians/> in odt

Letter to Pat Rabbitte pdf

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Letter-Pat-Rabbitte-inform-and-call-for-a-ban.pdf>

Letter to Senator Quinn

pdf <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Letter-Senator-Quinn-jobs.pdf>

All email addresses on

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-irish-politicians/>

- **VOTE/POLL:**
<http://www.thejournal.ie/poll-should-we-ban-fracking-in-ireland-324474-Jan2012/>

TAMBORAN

- minutes -

Tamboran promises, explanations etc

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/cer-oct-2011-1.pdf.pdf>

- ocean fm

Listen again to the ocean fm

<http://soundcloud.com/oceanfm/ocean-fm-richard-moorman-ceo-1>

UK

The screenshot shows a Guardian article from January 18, 2012. The headline is "Shale oil and gas will help make western hemisphere self-sufficient". The sub-headline reads: "BP forecasts that growth in fuel sources will make North and South America self-sufficient by 2030 – but UK will still need Gulf supplies". The author is Richard Wiseman. The article includes a photo of an oil rig and a tweet from reddit. On the right, there are utility-related widgets: "Find the cheapest gas & electricity deals" and "Environment network on Twitter".

Shale oil and gas will help make western hemisphere self sufficient

- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/18/shale-oil-gas-us-energy-self-sufficient>
(Web FFI – Irish Press/UK)

US

Report on the newest phase in fracking technology, titled "Super Fracking."

Like Fracking? You'll Love 'Super Fracking'

Oil service companies roll out new technologies to break up more earth more cheaply



Photograph by Spencer Platt/Getty Images

By David Wethe

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Few energy industry practices have sparked more controversy than hydraulic fracking. First, wells are drilled horizontally below the surface, allowing a single bore or pathway to reach vertical pockets of oil and natural gas trapped between formations of shale and other rock. Then

RELATED ITEMS

Schlumberger Fourth-Quarter Profit Rises as Drilling Booms

Fracking Market to Grow 19% to

Like Fracking – You'll love super fracking

<http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/like-fracking-youll-love-super-fracking-01192012.html>

MOVIES

Funny environmental protection ads
Fracking Ireland: 1,200,000,000 elephants



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyjLn9P5LwA>



TED Talk All Gore new thinking on the climate crisis

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-0p7GbPJ14>

PORTRETS FOR FRACKING CAMPAIGN

As part of our TRADE residency programme we are shooting a FRACKING campaign to raise awareness on the subject. If you are interested, please come along this Wednesday between 1pm - 4pm to our studio. Please see attachedment for further details.

Regards,
David j.

[Black Hole Studio](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Clare: There will be a number of free screenings of Gasland and a short briefing on fracking at:

- Kildysart Hall on Friday, January 20 at 8pm
- Fanny O'Dea's, Lissycasey, on Thursday, January 26 at 8pm

Donegal:

- MOVILLE : Tues 31st Jan 7pm Moville Library
- BUNCRANA: Wed 1st Feb 6.30pm Buncrana Library

Belfast Anti-fracking week

Presentation **31st January** by Aedin McLoughlin

Enniskillen - 22 February 2012

By Mike D nautical_9@hotmail.com:

'I think this event organised by the DARD would be a good event to go along to and hand out DVD's, flyers and talk to people on the threat of Fracking to farmers.

I hope to get down and do what I can.'

From: Transition Omagh

[mailto:transitiontownomagh@googlemail.com]

Sent: 16 January 2012 11:54

To: Transition Omagh

Subject: Free Screening of Fracking Film
Brogans Pub Omagh

Free Screening of Gaslands Film about Fracking

Brogans pub Omagh 8pm Wed Feb 1st

[For more information about the film click here](#)

SLIGO:

MARDI (making a real Difference, Ireland) and the **North West Network**

against Fracking Contact: Meg rybicki
youthmardingo@gmail.com

We will have the stand up again in Sligo town towards the end of January, its a busy shopping street, and good catchment area. lots of people walking round with black shamrock ban fracking badges now, its great, they are very prominent.

LOCAL MEETINGS - in general: scroll to the end

Belfast – 9 Feb

The next Anti Fracking meeting will be on Thursday 9th Feb' at 6.30pm in the Friends of the earth offices as before.

Contact: Michael Mc Evoy
mickeymcevoy@yahoo.com


On 22/01/2012 04:14, Charlie Williams wrote:

Dear friends,

I just wrote following letter to Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources. I will also forward this mail to all major (and minor) media in Ireland. Let's see whether I'll get a reply.

Cheers,

Charlie

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Open letter to Minister Pat Rabbitte concerning hydraulic gas fracturing ("fracking") in Ireland

Date: Sun, 22 Jan 2012 04:10:49 +0000

From: Charlie Williams <charlie2williams@gmail.com>

To: minister.rabbitte@dcenr.gov.ie, pat.rabbitte@oireachtas.ie, Charlie Williams <charlie2williams@gmail.com>

Dear Minister Pat Rabbitte,

Unfortunately we had to read that you granted an onshore Licensing Option for hydraulic gas fracturing to Tamboran Resources PTY Ltd over parts of Cavan Leitrim and Sligo last year.

Hydraulic gas fracturing, known as "fracking" has not only a [worse carbon footprint than coal](#), it poses several severe risks to human health and environment. I will cite a few of the overwhelming amount of expertise done on this subject:

[TEDX](#) (The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, Inc.) has found out that far more than 500 different chemicals are used in the fracking procedure. Many of them very toxic and carcinogenic. The "associated pollution has reached the stage where it is contaminating essential life support systems - water, air, and soil - and causing harm to the health of humans, wildlife, domestic animals, and vegetation".

Many health professionals in the US have recently sent an [open letter](#) to the Governor of the State of New York addressing long-term health effects as a result of hydraulic fracturing (also => [NY DEC Takes on Fracking](#) and [Industry Issues: Putting the Heat on Gas](#)).

But fracking is also causing earthquakes, up to level 4 on the Richter Scale.

- => [Fracking DID cause ELEVEN earthquakes in Ohio last year](#)
- => [Ohio magnitude 4.0 earthquake linked to fracking](#)
- => [Fracking company blamed for earthquakes comes to the Home Counties](#) (UK)
- => [UK Fracking Firm Admits They Are Causing Earthquakes](#)

The gas industry can no more deny that.

We also had to read that you announced that *Aberdeen* University will carry out an EIA for the EPA which in my view is unacceptable as *Aberdeen* University is showing a conflict of interest due to ties with and sponsorship by the oil and gas industry (=> [Aberdeen website](#), [Students benefit from Shell support](#), <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~wox004/release.php?id=757>).

The Councils of the involved counties, Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Fermanagh, Clare and Donegal are all unanimously passing a motion to ban fracking in their counties. I am questioning why you are seemingly ignoring the will of the vast majority of the people there.

The study, [Impacts of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction](#), featured by the EU Parliament comes to the following conclusion:

"Even an aggressive development of gas shales in Europe could only contribute to the European gas supplies at one-digit percentage share at best. It will not reverse the continuing trend of declining domestic production and rising import dependency. Its influence on the European greenhouse gas emissions will remain small if not negligible, or could even be negative if other more promising projects are skipped due to wrong incentives and signals."

Keeping all that in mind, the only decent consequence should be that Ireland is following France and our government is deciding to **ban hydraulic fracturing in Ireland**.

I hope you will listen to the science and to the people who will have to face the consequences of such a risky technology which achieves a short term profit for a few, but does not take account of the medium and long-term consequences. Fracking is counter-productive in terms of solutions for our future energy politics.

For the vital future of our country, I hope you will do everything in your power to **ban fracking in Ireland**.

Kindest regards,

Charlie Williams

Co. Donegal



Just sent out this letter. Thanks to Caroline for some of the wording. Feel free to copy, add... and send it to the Senator.

Cheers,

Charlie

Subject:Fracking in Ireland

Date: Fri, 20 Jan 2012 22:07:25 +0000

From: Charlie Williams <charlie2williams@gmail.com>

To: feargal.quinn@oireachtas.ie, Charlie Williams
<charlie2williams@gmail.com>

Dear Senator Quinn,

I read with dismay your suggestion to allow fracking in Ireland as a possible way to create jobs.

I fully appreciate that you have the welfare of both the Irish people and the land at heart, and so do I.

The problem about fracking is that it is such a harmful, dangerous process with a disastrous track record wherever it has been allowed to proceed.

The facts about water & air contamination, damage to human and animal health, setting off earthquakes, release of chemicals, lack of disclosure of the facts by the industry etc. are well documented and known, but if you would like me to provide you with independent respected research data please do not hesitate to ask!

The one area Ireland in the present dire economic circumstances remains successful in is food export, any contamination of water, grass, crops, animal feed etc., thus entering into the food chain would be disastrous and have a long term negative impact. Another area considered promising for growth is tourism, it is in those areas that jobs can be created, marketing healthy food and tourism, particularly the kind of tourism that makes use of our beautiful unspoilt landscape, walking, birdwatching etc. this would be totally undermined by any fracking development

The era of fossil fuels is coming to an end, this is acknowledged globally by every expert in the field, and this is an opportunity for Ireland to lead the way in switching to promoting and using/developing sustainable and renewable energy technology now, instead of causing harm by fracking that will be felt for many generations in the short-sighted view of creating a few jobs now, but sacrificing & harming so much more in the process, and in the knowledge that this is only postponing the inevitable - the depletion of fossil fuel is an inescapable reality.

i would like to keep this island in as good health as is possible, for my children and grandchildren and for all children of today and the future, and I urge you to carefully consider all the negative implications any fracking development would have.

This is a time to think big, be bold, promote innovative solutions for our country, not be used by a corrupt, dishonest industry that in its search for global profits has left a legacy of ruined, contaminated scarred landscapes, & countless dead and sick people and animals.

The study, "[Impacts of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction](#)" from the EU Parliament (which I'm attaching) comes to the following conclusions:

KEY FINDINGS

- + Unavoidable impacts are area consumption due to drilling pads, parking and manouvering areas for trucks, equipment, gas processing and transporting facilities as well as access roads.
- + Major possible impacts are air emissions of pollutants, groundwater contamination due to uncontrolled gas or fluid flows due to blowouts or spills, leaking fracturing fluid, and uncontrolled waste water discharge.
- + Fracturing fluids contain hazardous substances, and flow-back in addition

contains heavy metals and radioactive materials from the deposit.

- + Experience from the USA shows that many accidents happen, which can be harmful to the environment and to human health. The recorded violations of legal requirements amount to about 1-2 percent of all drilling permits. Many of these accidents are due to improper handling or leaking equipments.
- + Groundwater contamination by methane, in extreme cases leading to explosion of residential buildings, and potassium chloride leading to salinization of drinking water is reported in the vicinity of gas wells.
- + The impacts add up as shale formations are developed with a high well density (up to six wells per km²).

And

RECOMMENDATIONS

- + There is no comprehensive directive providing for a European mining law. A publicly available, comprehensive and detailed analysis of the European regulatory framework concerning shale gas and tight oil extraction is not available and should be developed.
- + The current EU regulatory framework concerning hydraulic fracturing, which is the core element in shale gas and tight oil extraction, has a number of gaps. Most importantly, the threshold for Environmental Impact Assessments to be carried out on hydraulic fracturing activities in hydrocarbon extraction is set far above any potential industrial activities of this kind, and thus should be lowered substantially.
- + The coverage of the water framework Directive should be re-assessed with special focus on fracturing activities and their possible impacts on surface water.
- + In the framework of a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA), a thorough cost/benefit analysis could be a tool to assess the overall benefits for society and its citizens. A harmonized approach to be applied throughout EU27 should be developed, based on which responsible authorities can perform their LCA assessments and discuss them with the public.
- + It should be assessed whether the use of toxic chemicals for injection should be banned in general. At least, all chemicals to be used should be disclosed publicly, the number of allowed chemicals should be restricted and its use should be monitored. Statistics about the injected quantities and number of projects should be collected at European level.
- + Regional authorities should be strengthened to take decisions on the permission of projects which involve hydraulic fracturing. Public participation and LCA assessments should be mandatory in finding these decisions.
- + Where project permits are granted, the monitoring of surface water flows and air emissions should be mandatory.
- + Statistics on accidents and complaints should be collected and analysed at European level. Where projects are permitted, an independent authority should collect and review complaints.
- + Because of the complex nature of possible impacts and risks to the environment and to human health of hydraulic fracturing consideration should be given to developing a new directive at European level regulating all issues in this area comprehensively.

The study finally explains that

Even an aggressive development of gas shales in Europe could only contribute to the European gas supplies at one-digit percentage share at best. It will not reverse the continuing trend of declining domestic production and rising import dependency. Its influence on the European greenhouse gas emissions will remain small if not negligible, or could even be negative if other more promising projects are skipped due to wrong incentives and signals.

This technology is way too risky that we can afford to put at stake the entire future of our country.

Thank you very much for your time, I'm looking forward to hearing from you ,

Yours sincerely,

Charlie Williams, County Donegal



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

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

West Cavan: Shannon-Erne Protection-Alliance

Contact: Tom Hyde toseitheachain1@eircom.net

Ardcarne Against Fracking

Meetings every Monday in a pub in Cootehall

Contact: Leah Doherty (doherty.lea@gmail.com) 087

7409102 / 071 966 7360

Love Leitrim - Manorhamilton -

Weekly meetings on a Thursday at the Bee Park,

Manorhamilton, 8pm.

chair: Bernie Meehan berniemeehan77@gmail.com

Contact: Dervilla Keegan (dervybird@hotmail.com)

086 165 7424

Kiltibrid Antifracking Action Group -

julieanngale@eircom.net

Sligo/Glean

Contact: Kate Wilson tulipsandoysters@eircom.net

North West Network against Fracking

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

by Meg Rybicki youthmardingo@gmail.com

0863840254

Ursula Schweiger islandview12@yahoo.ie

Magdalena Jozwiak gajesia@gmail.com

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

contact: Meg Rybicki youthmardingo@gmail.com 0863840254

DULBIN CONTACT

Dame Street Outreach coordinator:

-Lee Page leepage100@gmail.com

Tommy Foster

tommy.j.foster@gmail.com

Talamh task group - research/legal group

contact: talamhactiongroup@gmail.com

Telephone information/tree service is available.

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

bailey.john45@gmail.com

contact Brigit Beemster: **071-9163669**

brigitbeemster@hotmail.com

Kinlough, co.Leitrim

Meetings Wed at 8 pm Community Centre/ local Pub?

kinloughnofracking@gmail.com

Paul Soffe psoffe@yahoo.co.uk

Brian Sweeney sweeneymusic@yahoo.com

Lucy Cooke lucyman123@googlemail.com

Ballinagleragh

Gearoid lynch.gearoid@gmail.com

Bawnboy Glen

Keadue Cara Crewdson caracrewdson@hotmail.co.uk

Ballinamore Joan, Tracey

Joan Walsh joanw2006@eircom.net

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

Geevahn

Tiffany Budd tiffanybudd79@gmail.com

julieanngale@eircom.net

Ballyshannon

Sonya andraiocht@hotmail.com

conservation/tamboran/south fermanagh/Donegal

COUNTY CLARE

County Clare contact details:

West and East Clare:

clarefrack@gmail.com

Veronica Miriam Quilligan:

90035950@umail.ucc.ie;

East Clare alisrob@eircom.net

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/No-Fracking-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/No-Fracking-ClareLimerick/241082045932097)

[ClareLimerick/241082045932097](http://www.facebook.com/pages/No-Fracking-ClareLimerick/241082045932097)

Blogs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Groups

fracking-ireland@googlegroups.com apply for membership to Charlie Williams
charlie2williams@gmail.com