

Fracking Matters Newsletter (16) – 3 November 2011



Information letter for whom fracking does matter and (some) updates on the website www.frackingfreeireland.org, with links to other (Irish) fracking websites

Reminder Upcoming events

Fringe Festival 11, 12 November– organiser

Tracy Murray: freefringefest@gmail.com

Fracking Awareness Week 14- 17 November

– (sole) organiser Brian Rooney

brianroon@eircom.net

Cliffoney Hall 14 November 8 pm contact:

Meg youthmardingo@gmail.com / **086**

3840245

Local meeting

Carrick Against Fracking will be holding their meeting @ 7pm in Burkes Bar Bridge st. Carrick on Shannon on Thurs. 3rd Nov

Make-you-happy-news

Environment Shale gas

Fracking protesters storm shale gas exploration site

Frack Off group brings work at Merseyside rig to halt as activists in separate protest attempt to disrupt industry summit in London

James Melkie and Steve Malik
guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 2 November 2011 09:37 GMT
Krisde Bailey



Protesters scale a shale gas rig at Banks, Merseyside. As an angry mob it was probable that fracking caused two small quakes in Lancashire. Photograph: Peter Symonds

Fracking Protesters storm shale gas exploration site

Four members of the environmental campaign group Frack Off unfurled banners after climbing a rig at the Cuadrilla site at Banks, near Southport,

at around 5.30am on Wednesday. Others remained on the ground.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/02/fracking-protesters-storm-shale-gas-site> (Web FFI: Irish Press/UK)

Statement of Cuadrilla about the Protesters

For immediate release

2 November 2011

Statement on Preese Hall site

Cuadrilla understands that there are five protestors on site, four of whom are attached to the machinery. The Police are present on site and we are working with them to bring the protest to a peaceful end. Our priority is the safety of both the protestors and our own staff on site.

Throughout our time working at the Banks site, and the others in Lancashire, we have been very open, inviting local people, stakeholders and the media around the site. Over 50 local people and their elected representatives have been shown round the Banks site and we would have been delighted to show these protestors around rather than them need to carry out this potentially dangerous occupation of the drilling rig.

<http://www.cuadrillaresources.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Preese-Hall-Statement-02-11-11.pdf> (Web FFI: Irish Press/UK)

Make-you-cry-news

"Fracking Likely cause of tremors" – BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-15550458> (Web FFI: Irish Press/UK)

Report from Cuadrilla- Website Cuadrilla

This report is commissioned and payed by Cuadrilla and concludes that the tremors are very likely caused by test drillings and fracking. They say it was a worst-case scenario, the risks

of shale gas extraction came up just now !

Comment

In fact we have to turn it into the other way. We are lucky that these test drillings proof the risks of hydraulic fracturing. Test drilling is not only to prove the existence of shale gas but you have to proof that you can extract it in a safely manner. Well, if you are unlucky to cause 2 tremors by only 2 test drillings, what will be the chance of causing tremors by 200 wells? Oh, by the way: Cuadrilla says it will not happen again! The executive summary of the report starts with a commercial about the benefits of shale gas ! (the Geological Survey made up a report as well) The Cuadrilla report says that the tremors were caused by unusual combination of circumstances, inclusive specific geology of the well site. Nonsense! The tremors were caused due to leaking of fracking water in a fault and faults are not unusual.

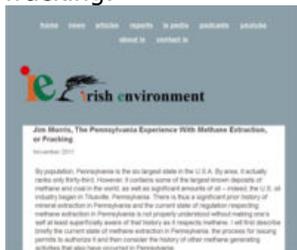
<http://www.cuadrillaresources.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Cuadrilla-Resources-Press-Release-02-11-11.pdf> (Web FFI: Irish Press/UK)

Articles about fracking in Irish Environment e- magazine - Robert Emmet Hernan, Publisher

Just to let you know that in the current (Nov.) issue of irish environment electronic magazine - www.irishenvironment.com - I've just published an article by Jim Morris on "The Pennsylvania Experience With Methane Extraction, or Fracking."

http://www.irishenvironment.com/irishenvironment/articles/Entries/2011/11/1_Jim_Morris%2C_The_Pennsylvania_Experience_With_Methane_Extraction%2C_or_Fracking.html

Jim worked for the PA Dept of Environmental Protection and is very critical of their failures to adequately regulate fracking. Jim cites a useful website by Robert Myers on particular instances of environmental problems associated with fracking.



In the same issue there is an entry in the iePEDIA section on "Methane,"

http://www.irishenvironment.com/irishenvironment/ie_pedia/Entries/2011/11/1_METHANE.html

and an entry in the YouTube section on "The Fracking Song." There is also an earlier entry in the iePEDIA section of the magazine on "Hydraulic Fracturing."

http://www.irishenvironment.com/irishenvironment/ie_pedia/Entries/2010/8/4_HYDRAULIC_FRAC_TURING.html

(Web FFI: official reports/research)

I hope to publish more on fracking in the next (Dec) issue.

(Web FFI: official reports/research)

Article Irish times – comments Michael Cairns: Any Ulster Farmers Union members may question the reasoning why the UFU does not back a national park area(s).

To back a national park motion i would guess would make fracking a much more difficult action?

Wouldn't it?

UFU reiterates opposition to national parks

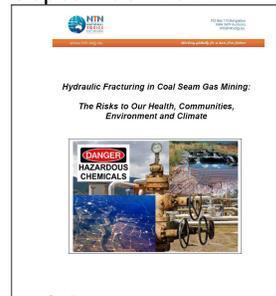


<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Irishnews1.jpg> (Web FFI: Irish Press/Local press NI)

Questions to the Parliament- Finian McGrath. and answer by Pat Rabbite (26 October 2011)

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Microsoft-Word-PARLIAMENTARY-QUESTION-Nos-73-74-75.pdf> (Web FFI Political issues)

National Toxics Network – Australia, September 2011



<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/NTN-CSG-Report-Sep-2011.pdf> (Web FFI Political issues/research)

Shale Gas Canada- Shale gas committee to be 'transparent' BY MICHELLE LALONDE, THE GAZETTE OCTOBER 29, 2011

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/shale%20committee%20transparent/5626077/stor/index.html>; (Web FFI Irish Press/Global Press)

'Old' news - with useful links (special for our newcomers)

Rabbite orders review of fracking In response to concerns. (6 October 2011)

<http://www.thejournal.ie/rabbite-orders-review-of-fracking-in-response-to-concerns-246987-Oct2011/> (Web FFI Irish press)

Contribution from Natalie Descheres
n.descheres@socratconsulting.com;

I am fairly new to the whole issue but did some research on the world-wide situation. Clearly there are many groups around the world that are also rebelling against it.

- Fracking map world wide

<http://twitpic.com/3o5xq2>; (Web FFI Global fracking) which is a map of fracking worldwide.

- Also the **British green party** has a very long list of extractivists worldwide
<http://bridgendgreens.wordpress.com/2011/06/13/directory-of-anti-fracking-groups-worldwide/>; ; (Web FFI Fracking webs/Europe/world)

- The **French** have postponed fracking but the arm wrestling is still pretty strong. Their website is very comprehensive but is in French:
<http://www.stopaugazdeschiste07.org/spip.php?article91>; (Web FFI Fracking webs/Europe/world)
They are very organized and can be credited with having successfully albeit very temporarily suspended the license. The web is comprehensive in terms of press review worldwide, their legal action and documenting their discussion with the government. Unfortunately some activists are now sued by Total and the web also describe individual rights and action to protect those brave soul. **I cannot translate everything right now but should someone be interested I can provide weekly update on what is on this very dense site.**

- The group in **South Africa** is now challenging the high court in Pretoria in its bid to gain information on prospective gas mining in Karoo by Shell
<http://www.news24.com/SciTech/News/Group-takes-DMR-to-court-over-fracking-20111024>
(Web FFI Global resistance)

- Ardeche and Amazone



What does the region of Ardeche, known for its bucolic medieval villages in southern France, have to do with the Bolivian Amazon? Not the wine, that's for sure. Not much, in fact, except that both places are mobilising against extractive industries. Since the French government decided

to authorise drilling for natural gas, local communities are organising a new form of *resistance*. From the forests of the Amazon to the vineyards of France, people besieged by extractive industries are mobilising to protect their lands and livelihoods.

The article is interesting is describing the issue for citizen to deal with government transient character and the power of corporations.
<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/09/2011926162439549434.htm>

It keeps up on this struggle and highlights the undermining of democracy. It also offers link to the type of retaliation some extractivists are subjected to.
http://www.hotdocs.ca/film/title/the_devil_operation .(Web FFI Global resistance)

Based on the above I wondered whether we should not try to position the opposition into a broader context than just "little locals" fighting "big corps" on a local basis. It clearly is a worldwide issue and seen at a worldwide level it became apparent how the practices of the industry are undermining fundamental human rights and democracy. This would allow to enrol the support of some social justice/anti-corp/human rights/pro-democracy/sustainability groups and raise the clamour.

http://www.wethecitizens.ie/news/article/two_we_the_citizens_events_in_dublin (Web FFI useful links)

<http://www.feasta.org/about/> (Web FFI useful links)

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