



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



FRACKING is BANNED in FRANCE, BULGARIA, NEW YORK STATE, VERMONT, SOUTH AFRICA and PARTS of GERMANY - FRACKING is BANNED in FRANCE, BULGARIA, NEW YORK STATE, VERMONT, SOUTH AFRICA and PARTS of GERMANY -

Fracking involves drilling thousands of feet deep into the earth using millions of gallons of water, sand and a variety of toxic chemicals to extract gas from shale rock...

Resulting in irreversible environmental disaster, poisoning our water, wells, rivers and lakes.

Agriculture and all associated food production will be seriously threatened, affecting our export market.

Contaminated air, water and food will cause serious illness in humans, animals and all life...

Killing our clean green image, and causing major damage to tourism and fishing.

Industrialised landscape with huge concrete well-pads the size of soccer pitches will appear.

Noise, heavy traffic on narrow roads, machinery, drilling rigs, generators, release of toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, well-pads operating 24/7 will arise.

Gas companies (multinationals) will become the owners of our gas and make huge profits, we will have to buy back at world market prices.

Your Message Here



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Postcards by a group from North Clare and Kinvara, Co. Galway, 'Perhaps other groups might like to use it.'

Contact: Martina martinaodea@yahoo.co.uk

Download:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/postcard-keep-ireland-fracking-free.jpg>

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/postcard-keep-ireland-fracking-free-back1.jpg>

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Fracking-Postcard-Final-opt1.pdf>

EVENTS and other small **CAMPAIGN** news

GLOBAL FRACK DOWN DAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2012

<http://www.globalfrackdown.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/137678913040126/>

If anyone knows of anyone traveling up for Saturday from Limerick/Clare could you please get in touch to help people with car share etc...

Thanks
Leah

BLOCKADE ON RIVER SHANNON SAT 22nd 1pm - GLOBAL FRACKDOWN

On Sept 22, 2012, The Global Frackdown will unite concerned citizens everywhere for a day of action against fracking, gathering at the Tourist Office, the Quay Carrick on Shannon.

Together we will send a message to elected officials in our communities and across the globe, that we want a future fueled by clean, renewable energy, not dirty, polluting fossil fuels.

We want our land, air, rivers and lakes clean and our drinking water left fit for human and animal consumption.

WATER - A flotilla of river craft of all types will converge and remain at the bridge in Carrick-on-Shannon for 1 hour. Anyone who owns a boat, kayak, canoe, windsurfing board etc etc is encouraged to come along and join in. This blockade is to raise awareness of the threat from fracking to our waterways; lakes, rivers and aquifers throughout the Shannon Basin Region.

AIR - Musicians will play along the quayside, sending music into the air that is threatened by this industry. Along the banks of the Shannon we will celebrate all that is good in our tradition and culture. We welcome positive, growth and diversity, while being mindful of what we must protect in this country, what is not for sale, but must be protected and developed sustainably for the benefit of generations to come. (More details to follow)

LAND - Over looking the Shannon people are invited to gather along the bridge and on the quayside with banners and placards etc etc expressing their contempt for this extensive industry which will cover hundred's of thousands of acres and at the same time we wish to celebrate our love for all that is good in our environment, landscape and culture.

*We ask that people on boats/with banners for the bridge etc etc arrive an hour beforehand at 12noon.

On this day of global action against this destructive industry, we have very clear demands of our national and local government

1. We want an **immediate ban on fracking** (shale gas extraction in Ireland) the evidence is already there to support this call.
2. While we wait for the government to act on behalf and in the interest of the people and the environment, **we demand that the three licenses issued to Lough Allen Natural Gas Company, Tamboran Resources Ltd and Enegi Oil be immediately revoked.** The next phase in the licensing process will permit these companies to frack, we understand this may happen in late 2012 or early 2013.
3. This Saturday we will be submitting a letter to **Leitrim County Council demanding that they insert a clause into the county development plan, stating clearly, that under the plan, fracking will not be permitted in county Leitrim,** we will also be sending the same demand to each of the twelve counties under threat from this industry.

*stay posted for more info/updates and please help advertise this event.

*We would like to thank all the business's who have rowed in behind us to make this demonstration possible.

If you are not in this area please support another anti-fracking event, or even better still, create/organise an event in your area.

'**Love Leitrim**' are hosting an event for Global Frackdown on Saturday 22nd in Manorhamilton.

Young Friends of the Earth are also doing an action in **Dublin**. There will also be people gathering in **Galway** and **Cork** on Sat. For more details on these events and other anti-fracking info you can go to www.frackingfreeireland.org and you can join us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/146055765467930/>

Carrick On Shannon
View map · Get directions

087-7409102
071-9667360

Actions overview:

Cork

There will also be anti-fracking flyering on Grand Parade in **Cork** the afternoon of Saturday 22nd September. contact: sian youngfoe@foe.ie

Galway

People in Galway who run the EcoSoc in the college, might also be planning something for frackdown day. Icontact: Paul Jigs – ecosoc@socs.nuigalway.ie

We have planned to be in Shop Street in **Galway** on 22nd with three or four others. We will do flyers etc .
Contact: martinaodea@yahoo.co.uk

Dublin

There are plans for an action in Dublin for the Global frackdown day contactyoungfoe@foe.ie

Here is an **update about the Dublin event** from the Young Friends of the Earth facebook event page:

We are organising an Action in Dublin for the Global Frackdown. We are kick-starting an Anti Fracking Movement in Dublin, to raise awareness of Fracking and its effects on the environment, health and communities. Events will be held all over Ireland including Carrick on Shannon, Clare, Limerick, Trim, Galway and Cork.

During this Action we will be starting at The Spire, O'Connell St. Dublin, travelling down Henry St., stopping at the Liffey, Central Bank, the Dublin Tourism office, Grafton St and finishing at the Dept. of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources.

Throughout this Action, we will have people dressed up in Hazard-suits, while others will be talking to people and informing people about fracking. We will be giving out leaflets and also asking people to sign letters which will be posted to their TD's. All while having fun!

So if you're interested in getting involved and having fun while making a difference, come along!

Please write a letter to your TD asking them to support a Ban on Fracking or email them using

[http://www.foe.ie/takeaction/ban-fracking/?](http://www.foe.ie/takeaction/ban-fracking/)

Manorhamilton

LOVE LEITRIM Manorhamilton street party Global Frackdown Action

On September 22, 2012 people all around the world will be hosting events to ban fracking. Manorhamilton, Leitrim, street party – join local & international musicians, dancers & performers & voice your opposition to the proposed fracking of Leitrim & Fermanagh, family fun, badge-making, balloon-twisting, tea & buns!

Ireland West Airport Knock

We are intending to flyer and collect signatures to Keep Ireland Fracking Free at Ireland West Airport Knock ineke@frackingfreeireland.org

Please could you also share this Global Frackdown event The page is getting some great images so far but if anyone has contacts with anti fracking campaigns outside of Ireland it would be good to create a truly global image of the issue.

Thanks http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/salsa/event/common/public/index.sjs?event_KEY=76077

Northern Ireland

Stormont March

Global Frackdown/Anti Frack Day 22nd Sept March to Stormont. Meet at cityhall Belfast 11am. (i will be at gates wearing a Hi-Viz jacket) Bring banners, signage and material to hand out. We will be giving out info on way to Stormont to members of the public. Once at Stormont we will be letting the politicians know we are there by unfurling a large anti-Frack banner at the front gates on the main road. Come along and meet other like minded people who are concerned about Fracking coming to N.Ireland/Ireland and who want to take action against it. Fight the Frack

GLOBAL FRACK DOWN IN FRANCE

This message to let you know that 4 big actions / demonstrations will be held in France in 4 regions : North, South, East and West (<http://www.nongazdeschiste.fr/> for more information).

Fracking is forbidden in France and the French president just announced **fracking will stay forbidden for the next five years**. This is good news, but fracking is still not juridically defined and a lot of permits that should have been canceled because of the law are still pending. Many companies are not saying they will use fracking, but only they will stimulate the bedrock or other circumlocutions.

Meanwhile, corporations, such as Total, are stepping up their initiatives and communications operations to regain political momentum, backed by some very helpful experts and media pundits. Pro-fracking articles are flooding the media, etc.. That's why we stay mobilised and we urged our government to decide to let shale oil and shale gas in the soil / under the grass, because we think the French fracking ban is not enough.

Please find here ([Global frackdown on fracking companies](#)) a longer article in English on the French situation, explaining why our local groups are still mobilised and involved on a broader issue of a real energy transition towards low-carbon energy patterns. Please feel free to disseminate it.

Cheers

Maxime

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Maxime COMBES

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Alter-Echos (www.alter-echos.org)

[La nature n'a pas de prix, les méprises de l'économie verte](#), en librairie.

MORE GLOBAL FRACK DOWN:

1. For social media promotion today, for ideas on tweets, video to share, and images to post on facebook, you can find them here: <http://www.globalfrackdown.org/social-media/>

Other good sharable images include:

Argentina poster: [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151029141987676&set=oa.225536707568672&type=1&theater)

[fbid=10151029141987676&set=oa.225536707568672&type=1&theater](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151029141987676&set=oa.225536707568672&type=1&theater)

Ireland poster: [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151269288571874&set=p.10151269288571874&type=1&theater)

[fbid=10151269288571874&set=p.10151269288571874&type=1&theater](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151269288571874&set=p.10151269288571874&type=1&theater)

France poster: [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151084353028031&set=a.92879533030.86045.50982313030&type=1&theater)

[fbid=10151084353028031&set=a.92879533030.86045.50982313030&type=1&theater](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151084353028031&set=a.92879533030.86045.50982313030&type=1&theater)

More sample tweets:

Stand up for safe, healthy communities and truly green energy. Fight to ban #fracking with the #globalfrackdown: <http://bit.ly/SFshr4>

4 days until the #globalfrackdown. Where will you be? We'll be fighting for clean energy and healthy communities: <http://bit.ly/SFshr4>

#Fracking threatens communities around the world. Check out some of our actions in the EU with the #globalfrackdown <http://bit.ly/SFshr4>

Flaming tap water has no place in anyone's homes. Fight for safe water and healthy communities w/ the #globalfrackdown: <http://bit.ly/SFshr4>

Also, in all communication on twitter and facebook about fracking, please try to use #globalfrackdown as much as possible through the 22nd.

If you are in the North East of the United States, please continue to promote the Sept 20 #ShaleGasOutrage in Philadelphia hosted by Protecting our

Waters. <http://shalegasoutrage.org/>

Information on buses: http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=75732

2. Some early actions are starting this week leading up to the 22nd. Reminder about photos - please tweet them at #globalfrackdown and post on event page. We will compile into an album for the webpage and on facebook.

3. Some exciting updates. New actions added in Germany, Romania, and Australia. And this update on recent exciting developments in Europe from Geert deCock from Food & Water Europe:

The shale gas industry in Europe has had a tough couple of weeks behind them. First, there

was the publication of reports, which were requested by the European Commission. One report on the environmental risks of large-scale fracking showed that the risks for water, air, land, etc. are high. Recently, more countries have imposed a moratorium. The Czech republic now has a moratorium in place, until the environmental and health risks are better understood. The government of the German state of North Rhine Westfalia also decided in favour of a moratorium. And after weeks of speculation that France might reconsider its ban on fracking, newly elected president Francois Hollande said 'non, merci' to the shale gas industry and promised an energy policy, focused on renewables and green jobs. To top a successful fortnight, Austrian gas company announced that it is shelving its drilling plans, as protests from local groups, opposed to fracking, got more intense.

4. For events, of course we need to remain focused on good turnout (emails, calls, etc.), but now is the time to also be pitching press about actions happening on the 22nd. We need to get good coverage for all the powerful actions being planned across the world to amplify our message that fracking is a treat to our water, air, health, and communities and must be banned.

5. Finally, a few folks have asked for a list of all the countries/states that this is happening in and a total number of actions. This is virtually impossible to compile because events keep being added (good thing!) and the map is crowd sourced. Best is to check the map. I'll send a list out of what I know about on Thursday.

Four days till the Global Frackdown.

Onward!

Mark mschlosberg@fwwatch.org

Mark Schlosberg
Organizing Director
Food & Water Watch

Hi everyone,

Hope all your planning for the Global Frackdown is going well!! We had an **event in front of the European Parliament today which went really well, we had 6 MEPs present!**

Food & Water Watch has produced this **18 second video clip** which **can be used to promote the global frackdown or integrated into your actions.**

Feel free to spread it round as much as possible before the big day!

Here's the link - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-ztsujyc1o>

In Solidarity,

Gabriella

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Ban Fracking and shale gas in Europe before it is too late!

Shale gas and fracking pose a direct and immediate threat to our drinking water, air, health, local communities and our climate. While the oil and gas industry try to convince the public and policy makers that the risks can be managed, we - the [Greens/EFA group](#), the [European Green Party](#), [Friends of the Earth Europe](#), [Food and Water Europe](#) and [HEAL](#) - have decided to support the citizens in putting an end to this pro-fracking propaganda and make their voice heard even louder. It is now time to reveal the real truth about shale gas and fracking! **We must stop investing in shale gas that would lock ourselves in another dirty fossil fuel cycle, and urgently promote and heavily invest in renewables and energy efficiency.**

A few days before the international day to stop fracking - the Greens and the three environmental groups are launching their own information campaign, calling for a [global frackdown](#), in Europe and beyond. On Tuesday 18th September at 2 pm in Rue Wiertz, they will organise an action against shale gas and explain why this energy source is clearly neither a short-term nor a long-term solution.

Watch their **animated movie on shale gas and fracking** [here](#) (this video is also available in [French](#), [Swedish](#) and [Polish](#))

Download **the leaflet** in [EN](#), [DE](#), [FR](#), [BG](#), [CZ](#), [PL](#), [RO](#), [SV](#)

Geert Decock

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Website: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/europe/>

OTHER IRISH CAMPAIGN NEWS

Farmers protest

Hi all,

I found the farmers' event - front page of the Farmer's Journal - 'Farmers plan day of action', - **Farmers plan to take to the streets of Dublin on Tuesday October 9th** as part of a major "day of action" to demand Government support for farming and the rural economy. The aim of the event is to highlight the escalating cost/price squeeze on farm incomes and send a clear message to the Government on the need to defend the full CAP Budget in Europe and retain national funding for farm schemes. The Irish Farmers Association (IFA) is expecting to mobilise thousands of farmers for the event, and is seeking support from agri-business. Farmers will be asked to refrain from selling produce for one day in order to demonstrate the importance of farming to the rural economy."

A person in Leitrim said: Any Marching farmer is a farmer with an open ear. This would be a good opportunity to hand out information straight into the hands of the active within the IFA.....

Sian

Public Meeting & Information Session in Enniskillen - Tuesday 25 September

FFAN are hosting a public meeting and information session on Tuesday 25th September at 8pm at the Kilyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen. Guest speaker for the evening will be Dr Aedin McLaughlin and there will be a panel of local people with opportunity for discussion and to ask questions. Please do attend and spread the word to everyone you know, especially those who are still unaware of the impacts of fracking.

At the meeting FFAN will also be launching their new research website which will support its

sister site www.frackaware.com. The new website www.frackaware.info will bring together credible and peer reviewed research in a format which will enable the general public ease of access.

FFAN meet with Minister for Environment

A delegation led by FFAN [Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network] chairperson, Dr Carroll O'Dolan, had a positive meeting with the Environment Minister, Alex Attwood on Wednesday 5 September to discuss the issue of unconventional gas exploration and extraction in Fermanagh. The delegation also included Dr Patrick McGurn [Ph.D. in Ecology], Davide Gallazzi [Geologist], Dr Aedin McLoughlin [Ph.D in Biochemical Pharmacology] and Lady Katherine Hamilton [Chairperson of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland].

The delegation raised several areas of concerns with Mr Attwood including; the risk of water contamination both in the long and short term, the risk of air & soil contamination, public health risks secondary to water, soil and air contamination, and the lack of genuine engagement by the exploration company [Tamboran] with the people most affected by the development of shale gas 'fracking' in County Fermanagh.

Communities support FFAN

FFAN does not exist in isolation and is closely connected to the wider community in Co Fermanagh from whom it receives on-going support and encouragement. Three locals groups who were established with support from FFAN have been particularly active over recent months – Cashel Frack Aware, Boho Aware and Belcoo Concerned have all been doing sterling work in their own communities raising awareness, getting petitions signed. They have also organised a number of events some fun and some more serious.

Cashel have hosted a public presentation with guest speaker Eddie Mitchell along with other local initiatives. This group has a particular interest in the impact fracking will have on fishing. Boho have undertaken a community awareness raising programme which has included individual and group dialogue as well as taking part in a fancy dress parade and the producing car stickers. Belcoo used their annual festival to launch their work and had a fun day with many anti-fracking entrants in the fancy dress parade and a brisk day at their information stand. They are now working on a programme of community engagement.

All three groups have noted that they have received very strong community support and a very clear message that there is 'no backing for fracking' in the local community, the groups have also been very proactive in supporting each other and FFAN.

There are also many groups and individuals not networked to FFAN who are raising their own concerns through lobbying local politicians, communications with NGO's, letters to the papers etc. This escalating community concern is becoming more visible as is evidenced by the increased number of placards and posters that local residences are displaying.

Bridie Sweeney, Community Co-ordinator

DID YOU KNOW?

Ban- Moratorium

Reporter: Antoine Simon, Friends of the Earth Europe.

The **ban** legally forbids one activity while the **moratorium** basically puts on hold one activity

temporarily.

In the case of the shale gas activities:

- France voted a year ago a law that prohibited the use of the fracking technique. So no fracking anymore in France, unless (of course) a new law is voted to change that.
- the government of North Rhine Westphalia put a moratorium on shale gas activities almost a year ago as well: They decided to suspend all the shale gas activities until a set of commissioned studies would be released: But no law was voted, and if the studies are satisfactory, then the government is likely to accept that shale gas activities can start again (de facto, the studies confirmed the high risks related to shale gas operations and the government decided to extend the moratorium until the publication of more detailed studies)

Calling for a ban is not enough!

Received from a campaigner

There is a new process with patent pending that does not rely on hydraulic fracturing.

Expansion energy have developed a new non hydraulic fracturing technique http://expansion-energy.com/vrge_non-hydraulic_fracturing_technology using cryogenics it sounds much better than hydraulic fracturing but I think we will all agree that we do not want Ireland to exploit its unconventional gas using this or any other new method.

CORRESPONDENCE – LETTERS

Dear Minister Rabbitte

I am writing to you on behalf of the Environmental Pillar, one of the five national Social Partners, regarding the granting of exploration licences for shale gas extraction, and the pending EPA research into the potential impacts of same. The Environmental Pillar urges you not to issue any consent for exploration licences at least until the 2 year research process is completed.

The EPA research outcomes must not be pre-empted by the granting of licences, no matter what the findings of the exploration companies show. These decisions can only be made when all the salient facts are known, and when there is clarity about the European and Irish legislation pertinent to this very risky process.

Further, and in the light of the requirements of the Aarhus Convention, the scoping of the EPA research project should be a public one, to ensure that all the concerns of civil society and in particular those likely to be most impacted upon, are included in the terms of reference and the research objectives.

The 40,000 members of the Environmental Pillar member organisations look forward to your response. Please see attached their policy on this matter.

Kind regards

Michael Ewing
Coordinator

The Environmental Pillar

Knockvicar

Boyle

Co Roscommon

email: michael@environmentalpillar.ie

web: www.environmentalpillar.ie

Environmental Pillar members: An Taisce. Bat Conservation Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland. CELT - Centre for Ecological Living and Training. Coast Watch. Coomhola Salmon Trust. Crann. ECO UNESCO. Feasta. Forest Friends. Friends of the Earth. Global Action Plan Ireland, Gluaiseacht. Grian. Hedge Laying Association of Ireland. Irish Doctors Environment Association. Irish Natural Forestry Foundation. Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Irish Seal Sanctuary. Irish Seed Saver Association. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Irish Wildlife Trust. The Organic Centre. Sonairte. Sustainable Ireland Cooperative. VOICE. Zero Waste Alliance Ireland

Environmental Pillar Policy on Fracking

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Environmental-Pillar-Policy-on-Shale-Gas.pdf>

55 5. 5 OR...

One of our campaigners wrote to the Irish times and asked to correct the figure 55 into 5.5.

(see newsletter 42 -12 (77))

Leitrim has \$55bn gas reserves, firm claims

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2012/0201/1224311046794.ht>

To quote your article of 16th September re shale gas in Leitrim

"Tamboran s findings suggest that production there could ultimately reach 2.2 trillion cubic feet of gas, worth \$55 billion at yesterday s prices, which were around \$2.50 per 1,000 cubic feet in New York."

Simple arithmetic shows that 2.2 trillion feet of gas at \$2.50 per 1,000 cubic feet gives a value of \$5.5 billion, not \$55 billion. This article overstates the potential value by an order of magnitude.

Is this an editorial error, or are Tamboran unable to do sums?

Given that this industry is notorious for overstating gas reserves in the US, one wonders what the actual value of gas might be.

I hope that you will correct this error asap.

Regards

Val

From a campaigner

The Irish Times used a new calculation so got the correction wrong. The corrected figure should read \$5.5 billion, not \$17-\$20 billion as they state in their correction. This has been going on for months now.

Originally the IT said the figure quoted was from Tamboran, but a campaigner received an email from Tamboran saying the opposite. Who to believe?
Most people around the country - and the government - **still think this is a big find when it's not.**



THOUGHTS – OPINION



Global Frack Down Day

We're locked in fossil fuels

Isn't it up to us to render fossil fuels obsolete by not consuming them? That is always the question mark that comes up in me and that I find very difficult to reconcile when we are, and rightfully so, against fracking. We have to leave the cosy comfort zone that these fuels have given us now that its conventional sources are being depleted. Fossil fuels are everywhere. They power our cars, our homes, the internet. Plastics are made of them, even the printing inks of our flyers or the candlesticks that we light in our churches are made of them. They have invaded every nook and cranny of our modern society, our lifestyle is built on it. Escaping them is hard, very hard *and the oil companies know this and will happily keep on fuelling our lifestyle that we have come accustomed to and that we take for granted.* It is now more than ever time to turn down our fossil fuel consumption to give fracking less incentive to happen. We won't stop it by saying no and consuming yes or carrying on as usual anticipating that renewables will soon free us from our fossil fuel dependence...

Try going in the dark, going in the cold, walking and cycling through hail, sleet and rain. Try it for one day...

Just one day...

One global frackdown day.

Benjamin van de Wetering

MOVIES- SONGS

18 seconds video for the Global Frack Down Day

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-ztsujyc1o>

The Global Frackdown will unite communities on five continents in over 100 events on September 22 to call for a ban on fracking and to advocate for the development of clean, sustainable energy solutions. Initiated by Food & Water Watch, over 150 consumer, environmental and public health organizations including CREDO Action, Environment America, Democracy for America, Friends of the Earth, and 350.org are taking part in the Global Frackdown.

Visit www.globalfrackdown.org
to get involved.

Ban fracking before it is too late

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

IRISH NEWS

Here is a link to company who hold 13 prospecting licences in NW Ireland
http://www.fastnetoilandgas.com/go/operations/ireland/coal_licences.

This is a good interactive map resource

<http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie/ExplorationAndMining/SpatialViewer/index.html>.

Time for firm cost controlling in areas of gas and electricity



PADDY O'KEEFFE

Costs are edging upwards once again. The past week has seen a spurt in the price of electricity and natural gas. Our government has influence in both areas of power supply. Impact will be felt in factory costs and in household budgets.

State policy must be firm on cost control! What can be done?

On the home front, let us tackle extravagance in electricity supply and generation. The old ESB was a big spender. Salaries were far above the national norm. In plants, the lavish found favour. We brought ourselves to the high level in the European cost leagues. Old habits die hard and today we should

question the need for higher cost, be it a consequence of renewable or of peat energy. Higher costs are a direct burden on all export effort

Increasing gas prices are a European phenomenon. Today, the US enjoys an abundance of natural gas. Industry and domestic consumers enjoy decreasing prices. This is a consequence of fracking – a new exploration system that releases natural gas embedded in shale. Fracking is now in

widespread use through the US and into Canada. The system was not received with open arms by environmentalists. Yet, with proper control there has been no negative consequences through America. The cost benefit is universal.

In Europe the environment lobby carries far more weight and we are left with high dependence for natural gas on Russia and on Russian dominated pipelines. Europe must encourage the exploration and development of alternate oil and gas resources. Short term objections of the type seen in Co Mayo must be eliminated. Oil and gas exploration must operate under the rule of law. Licences to explore and develop are within the power and competence of Government. That power is unquestionable. The Irish blind eye prevailed during the Mayo protests. The Irish Times found the activists to be delightful peasants not national saboteurs.

Exploration is a national service and must be encouraged.

Oil and gas exploration must operate under the rule of law.

Licences to explore and develop are within the power and competence of Government.

Online petition

Here's a link to an article in today's IT about the new petition system:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/0914/1224324010654.html>

And full info:

Online petitions: http://petitions.oireachtas.ie/online_petitions.nsf/PetitionForm?openform&type=intro+to+petitions&lang=EN&r=0.9753784463684588
[online petition](#)

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/online-petition1.pdf>

I heard on the radio (that was RTE Radio 1 News at One, Thursday Sept. 13, around the 1:36 mark) that the person who submitted the petition could make a presentation before the committee, and invite people in to make presentations, and the relevant government departments and public bodies could also be called in to answer questions.

Implementation of environmental legislation

[Antoinette Long at the June 2012 EPA seminar on infringement proceedings.](#)[

From <http://www.epa-pictaural.com/media/soe12/transcript/aLong.pdf>

NI

Stormont, 17th Sept

Reporter: mcairns@notforshale.com

i just watched UTV live and Basil McCrea was on talking about the Fracking debate. He did try to sound on the fence but his more pro-frack side did sort of give his position away a little.

Was a bit disappointed though cuz earlier in the day after the shambles of the UUP presentation, an angry Richard Ireson collared a UTV camera crew out the front of Stormont and Tom White, Richard Ireson did a short report on what had just happened inside Stormont.

So we felt that even though the presentation was a flop.. (well done Tome White regardless) we did feel at least we could hit back at the UUP with our short blast on UTV later tonight.

Of course when UTV live came on at 10.30 pm all we got was Basil McCrea appearing or trying to be impartial.. and failing.

Nevertheless, was a good debate and we hit them with lots of good points and i feel the anti-frack party came out on top. Was always going to be one winner ... specially after meeting Terri Jackson that is.

Thanks to all who came along.

Well done to M McEvoy for getting presentation up and running..

Was good meeting others for the first time too.

Fight the Frack

Gold Mining Compony in Omagh

gold mining aint Fracking but it seems that basic regualtions are not being kept in check.

Gold Mining Compony in Omagh had to pay local residents in the area of mining due to a failure to enforce planning regulations. Locals are critical of company due to the mining company stating that the money given to residents should be donated to local investment and damage done to a local School.

(This highlights the failure to regulate basic mining/Excavating activities in Northern Ireland. How can this happen and at the sametime be assured that Fracking will be without similar failures? Fracking of course is a more technically complex industry im guessing with much more logistics and haulage)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-17931871>

EU -NEWS

Here is a brief update of the ban/moratorium update in Europe:

- Bans in France, Bulgaria and Czech Republic
- Moratoria in Romania, Denmark, in regions in the Netherlands, Austria, Germany (North Rhine Westphalia)

Antoine Simon
Friends of the Earth Europe

Disappointing result in ITRE committee

Today in the European Parliament Mrs Tzavela's shale gas INI report in the industry and energy (ITRE) committee was adopted, 32/23/1 a disappointing result for the Greens. Only a couple of our amendments were carried, the majority fell, and the text is pro-industry, repeating the notion that shale gas is a necessary fuel for energy security. Worse still the report says that shale gas 'has in the short to medium term a role to play in the EU, helping achieve the EU's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050', and it states that existing EU legislation framework is adequate for licensing, early exploration and production.

Fingers crossed for a better result for the environment (ENVI) report tomorrow!

Grace
Greens energy trainee on ITRE

AUSTRIA

shale gas in Austria - no drillings! - victory

Dear friends in Europe,

today there was a press meeting of the OMV, the oil and gas drilling company in Austria.

Due to the fact that a compulsory environment check was implemented into the legislation in Austria the OMV announced that there will be no development of shale gas in Austria due to economical reasons.

Online news paper report:

<http://noe.orf.at/news/stories/2550375/>

Background information for you:

The compulsory environment check was implemented due to the fact that next year there will be elections and the people around my home are very against the planned shale gas project. This could have a high influence on the outcome of the elections because at the moment there are a lot of corruption cases have been brought to light recently. Shale gas is so far now not very likely in Austria!

There is no ban at the moment for shale gas and we will track the situation but so far after cancelling the test drillings this is a next victory for us.

All the best

Andreas Czezatke

www.weinviertelstattgasviertel.at

FRANCE

Hollande rejects shale gas fracking

By Hugh Carnegy in Paris

François Hollande has slammed the door on the exploitation of France's big oil and shale gas deposits using "hydraulic fracking", risking further tensions with business leaders anxious not to lose access to what they see as a potentially vital energy asset.

Mr Hollande said he had ordered the rejection of seven applications to open up the country's shale deposits, citing "the heavy risk to health and the environment" of fracking, which injects water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into rock to release oil and gas.

Recent indications of a more open stance by Jean-Marc Ayrault, the prime minister, had led to speculation that the socialist government might review a fracking ban imposed by the government of former president Nicolas Sarkozy.

But, opening a national conference on the environment on Friday, Mr Hollande said: "As far as the exploration and exploitation of non-conventional hydrocarbons is concerned, this will be my policy throughout my [five-year] term of office."

The president also reaffirmed his election commitment to lower France's heavy reliance on nuclear power from 75 per cent of electricity generation to 50 per cent by 2025, announcing that the country's oldest nuclear plant, at Fessenheim, in north-east France, would be closed at the end of 2016.

Mr Hollande's stance on both shale deposits and nuclear power has provoked concern within industry that he is putting at risk France's relatively low energy costs, one of its prime economic assets, at a time when the economy has stalled and its competitiveness is in severe decline.

Laurence Parisot, head of Medef, the employers' federation, said she feared that Mr Hollande had closed the debate on shale deposits, saying such a step "would be very dangerous for the economy and for the country". She said no plan had been outlined on how to reach the nuclear target.

Estimates from the US energy department suggest France could possess as much as 5tn cubic metres of shale gas, one of the biggest reserves in Europe or about a fifth of US reserves.

Medef argues that exploitation of the reserves could offer a big boost to the French economy, as it has in the US. It says there should be deeper investigation of the effects of fracking and the development of other technologies for shale exploitation.

Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, chief executive of Solvay, the Franco-Belgian chemical group, and a Medef delegate at the conference, said shale had produced a "competitive shock" for the US

which France could emulate. "Plus we have an industrial sector in which France could be a global leader," he said.

But there has been fierce opposition from environmental groups to the opening up of shale deposits mainly centred on worries about pollution of the water table.

Mr Hollande told the conference he wanted France to become a country of "environmental excellence", saying he would push for the EU to adopt a target of reducing carbon emissions by 40 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030, and by 60 per cent by 2040, extending current targets of 20 per cent by 2020.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Financial Times, September 18, 2012 1:01 am

US poll's limited effect on energy policy

By Javier Blas in Dubai

With the US airwaves full of [energy-related political ads](#) at the moment, anyone in the oil and gas industry will be watching the [presidential election](#) and pondering the policy implications.

What is at stake? In theory, quite a lot. The US is the world's largest oil consumer with a booming natural gas industry as well as being a large emitter of greenhouse gases.

Yet, two Washington-based consultants – Robert McNally, of The Rapidan Group, and David Goldwyn, of Goldwyn Global Strategies – have just released a detailed report on the presidential elections, concluding that the event may have less impact on US energy policy than many believe.

Although the authors are from the opposite sides of the political spectrum – Mr McNally is a Republican and Mr Goldwyn, a Democrat – they share a common background: both have worked at senior levels in the US government, including the White House and the State Department.

The report, *The 2012 US elections: implications for energy policy and oil and gas markets*, states that both candidates' room for manoeuvre would be limited due to "unprecedented, massive and sustained budgetary and fiscal challenges". For energy policy, this means that whoever is in the White House, "there will be little room for new tax incentives, spending policies, or mandates".

Moreover, "in any post-election scenario, resource nationalism and protectionist impulses are going to strengthen in both parties", putting pressure to bottle up hydrocarbon resources in the US to keep prices lower and improve national energy security.

The fiscal handicap does not mean, however, that nothing will change, say Messrs McNally and Goldwyn. The two presidential candidates have opposing views on greenhouse gas regulation, hydraulic fracturing – commonly known as fracking –

and access to federal land and offshore water for oil and natural gas drilling. Of those, the most important for the energy market is likely to be [Mitt Romney's opposition to federal regulation of fracking](#).

But other key policies are unlikely to be impacted by the outcome of the presidential race. Both candidates have similar views about the renewable fuel standards legislation that supports corn-made ethanol; both are in favour of LNG exports, although with limits. The consultants also say that both are likely to support the Keystone XL pipeline bringing crude oil from Canada, even though the project is expected to be delayed or even end in failure no matter who is elected.

The authors say there are two big unknowns: whether or not a second Obama administration would adhere to its relatively pro-oil and gas development stance, and whether a Romney administration can govern along the lines of its campaign policy plans and rhetoric.

Either way, the race for the White House could have less of an impact on US, and thus, global, crude oil and natural gas markets than the political ads suggest.

The Commodities Note is a daily online commentary on the industry from the Financial Times

Financial Times, September 17, 2012 8:10 pm

Shell's Arctic ambitions dented by mishaps

By Guy Chazan and Ed Crooks



Shell, Europe's largest oil company by production, had hoped its Arctic campaign would be a showcase for its technological prowess, highlighting its ability to operate at the frontiers of oil exploration.

But the programme has so far failed to take off. Shell originally planned to drill five Arctic wells this summer but cut that down to two in July: now it will not complete any.

"Shell has had seven years to get this far, and they're still palpably not ready," said Ben Ayliffe, an Arctic [expert at Greenpeace](#). "The Arctic is clearly not the promised land the oil companies have led us to believe it is."

But some investors took a more benign view, saying that Shell is right to take so cautious a line. "In a way, this only enhances its credibility," says Christopher Wheaton, an energy fund manager at RCM/Allianz. "Shell wants to get it right first time. They realise that up there, you don't get a second chance."

Marvin Odum, president of Shell's US operations, said there was "disappointment", but the latest setback did not change Shell's view of its Arctic programme. "Yes, we'd like to be drilling into hydrocarbons this year," he said. "But in the scheme of things, it's not that significant a change. And it doesn't change the potential of the resources that are out

there.”

The latest setback concerns the containment dome, equipment that is designed to catch any oil leaking on to the seabed and this is seen as a last line of defence in the event of a spill.

It is mounted on a barge, the Arctic Challenger, which has been converted into an oil spill containment vessel and which is still in port in Washington state, undergoing tests for seaworthiness by the US Coast Guard.

Shell says that the containment dome was damaged during a final test, and will take several days to repair, forcing the company to revise its plans for the 2012-2013 exploration programme and forgo drilling into oil-bearing rocks this year.

Shell says it will, however, begin a series of “top holes” for wells, which it will then cap and abandon until next year.

“We are disappointed that the dome has not yet met our stringent acceptance standards,” the company says. “But as we have said all along, we will not conduct any operation until we are satisfied that we are fully prepared to do it safely.”

Among the supermajors, Shell has long been one of the most enthusiastic advocates of Arctic oil. In the 1980s, it drilled exploration wells in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, an area it now believes contains some 25bn barrels of crude. But at the time, oil prices were too low to justify developing fields in such remote, hostile locations. So in 1991, Shell focused on the Gulf of Mexico instead.

It returned to Alaska in the past decade, spending billions of dollars on leases in the northern seas.

But from the start it faced fierce opposition from environmental groups and indigenous peoples living along the north coast of Alaska, who fear oil exploration will scare away the whales they hunt.

Shell finally agreed to pull its drilling rig out of the Beaufort Sea during the summer whale hunt.

Campaigners, however, continued to argue that the oil industry should not be operating in what is in effect a pristine wilderness, and questioned Shell’s ability to mount an effective oil-spill response in Arctic waters. Their cause was helped by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, which triggered a moratorium on new offshore drilling, including in the Arctic.

After fighting off a flurry of legal challenges, Shell finally announced that it would [start drilling in July](#). However, problems arose with the Arctic Challenger after the US Coast Guard, which certifies ships for seaworthiness, raised concerns about its firefighting system and did not allow it to leave port. There were other setbacks: in July, Shell’s drillship, the Noble Discoverer, slipped its mooring and drifted toward shore in Alaska’s Dutch Harbor.

Drilling finally began in the Chukchi earlier this month, [but Shell had to](#)

[suspend operations a day later](#) and move its rig to avoid encroaching sea ice. That left the company very little time to start drilling before regulators' deadline of September 24 for the Chukchi Sea.

Some people have questioned whether drilling in the cold, dark, remote waters of the far north, where sea ice is an ever-present danger, will ever make economic sense. That's especially true of the US, where tough regulations – such as the requirement to have an additional rig on standby to drill a relief well in the event of a Macondo-like blowout – can significantly drive up costs.

However, Shell continues to be upbeat about its Arctic exploration programme, which it says "remains critically important to America's energy needs, to the economy and jobs in Alaska and to Shell".

Investors, too, are keeping the faith. Even utter failure in the Arctic will not be too damaging to a company of Shell's size, says Errol Keyner, deputy director of VEB, the Dutch shareholders' association. "As a big oil company, they have to invest in uncharted territory, and some of their investments won't pay off," he says. "It's the cost of doing business."

REPORTS - RESEARCH

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=246561.0

Sierra Club Releases New Report Highlighting Attack on Clean Energy

"Clean Energy Under Siege" Study Follows Money Trail Behind Campaign Against Renewable Energy

WASHINGTON D.C. – Over the past decade, the fossil fuel industry has mounted a coordinated campaign to discredit renewable energy and hinder its growth, according to a new report released today by the Sierra Club.

The report, [Clean Energy Under Siege](#), reveals how the fossil fuel industry is using tactics such as financial contributions to political campaigns, faux "think tanks," phony intellectuals, and astroturf groups to shift public opinion and discredit renewable energy.

This misinformation campaign is currently evident in the struggle to renew the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy. The PTC helps support the more than 75,000 jobs in the wind industry, but if the tax credit is not renewed before the end of this year, as many as half those jobs could be lost.

"From California to Pennsylvania, clean energy jobs are under attack by fossil fuel interest groups – yet many in Congress are sitting on their hands while tens of thousands of American jobs hang in the balance," said **Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club**. "It seems these members of Congress prefer serving the interests of the big polluters that bankrolled their campaigns over the interests of working families. That needs to end now. Congress must stand up for the tens of thousands of Americans whose jobs are on the line and renew the Production Tax Credit."

The Sierra Club's report follows the trail of money from big polluters to politicians and non-profit front groups. For example, the oil and gas industry spent more than \$146 million on lobbying alone in 2011, while Big Oil tycoons David and Charles Koch gave at least \$85 million to 85 right-wing "think tanks" and advocacy groups over the past decade and a half.

Meanwhile, organizations like the Manhattan Institute and the Heartland Institute that defend oil subsidies while attacking renewable energy have received upwards of \$600,000 each since 1998 from the oil company Exxon.

Wind power is a clean, competitive energy source that has seen strong momentum over the past few years. Already, states like Iowa and South Dakota generate 20 percent of their electricity from wind power, and the wind industry is on track to produce 20 percent of America's electricity by 2030. More than 400 American manufacturing plants build wind components, keeping jobs close to home.

To read the report *Clean Energy Under Siege* visit

<http://www.sierraclub.org/pressroom/downloads/SierraClub-CleanEnergyUnderSiege.pdf>

NON FRACKING RELATED NEWS – but might be of interest

[This exodus of our women is a disturbing new trend](#)

September 13, 2012

Posted in [Articles](#) | [Irish Independent](#) | [People](#) by [David McWilliams](#)
[196 Comments](#)

Port Hedland in the Pilbara mining region of Western Australia is a godforsaken place. Beside the pool tables in the local bar there are mug-shots pasted, like in an American Western, of locals who are barred from the pub for fighting. They are mainly Aboriginals but there are a few who look like they wouldn't be out of place here and the surnames suggest this is where they came from way back.

Today, the next wave of Irish — the new emigrants — work in the open cast mines of the Pilbara, driving the enormous diggers that gouge out the iron ore. The ore is then sent to the Chinese port of Ningbo, where it is smelted into steel for China's once-booming export industry.

The Irish lads working there now are but a small part of the enormous Irish community in Australia. If you find yourself, as I did two years ago, on Bondi Beach, you hear the accent of the Irish exodus. The beach area and Bondi Junction a little further inland were full of young Irish workers. The stories were typical: young professionals, who had been working in Ireland and had been laid off in the boom, were starting over in Australia. They worked in the waterfront bars and cafes of Bondi, getting back on their feet in the hope of rebuilding careers Down Under. Since then the numbers have swelled.

It's obviously not just Australia: London, Toronto and New York are full of our brothers, cousins, sons and daughters.

With all this renewed talk of turning corners, the IMF telling us that we are fabulous, Mario Draghi stating that we are a model of compliance, we should not forget that on the streets it doesn't feel like that. Some 76,000 people left this country last year, that's 1,460 a week or just over 208 people a day. The drain has continued apace this year as the real economy — the one we all work and live in — continues to scrape along the bottom.

Recently, I spoke to the younger brother of a friend and he told me that many of his mates in Dublin were single, not for the want of trying. Initially this puzzled me.

Now I know why. It is because the complexion of emigration has changed dramatically in the recent past. These days you are much more likely to see young women at the airport. At the beginning, the recession was what we could call a "mancession" as the numbers of men laid off on the sites spiked sharply.

Today, we are seeing the feminisation of the downturn. As the recession has broadened, particularly into retail, the number of women on the dole has skyrocketed. Many thousands are heading off.

According to the CSO: "The number of women emigrating increased by 51.8pc in 2011 from

2010, the number of men emigrating fell by 4.4pc in the same period.”

And the women are leaving at younger and younger ages. For example, take the midlands of Ireland, the heartland of the country that has been badly hit by the collapse in house prices and house building.

The number of women between the ages of 20 and 24 fell by 8.7pc between 2010 and 2011. While this is a startling figure, it doesn't compare to the fall in the young female population of Dublin.

The fall in the population of young people in Dublin is quite shocking. Overall, between 2010 and 2011, the population between 20 and 24 in Dublin has fallen by 11.9pc but the disappearance of young women is startling. The young female population in Dublin fell by 15.1pc last year.

In absolute numbers, the amount of young women in Dublin between the ages of 20-24 fell from 42,000 to 35,400.

Obviously, changes in the birth rate 20-odd years ago have had an impact on this figure, but emigration is playing a huge part.

These trends have enormous implications for the nature of the city in the years ahead. If young Irish women continue to leave in such huge numbers, the country will find itself with a slew of Irish bachelors like we had in the 1960s.

What if they had stayed? What would the country look like and what would the headline economic numbers look like?

Clearly these people — women and men — headed abroad because of unemployment and the collapse in demand in the local economy which provides the lion's share of our jobs.

When you consider what the rate of unemployment would be if they had stayed while the local economy remained paralysed, it is easy to see that the bullish statements from the Government this week ring hollow.

For example, the unemployment rate for young women aged between 15 and 24 right now is 22.8pc. Had their friends not headed to the likes of Bondi Junction in the past year, this unemployment rate figure would be 35pc. This is at Great Depression levels.

For young men, the figures are more worrying because the level of unemployment among young men in the 15 to 24-year age group is so high already.

Today, the rate of unemployment for young men is 36.8pc. This figure would leap to 45.4pc had the 15,000 young lads in this group not emigrated and stayed out of work here last year.

For the older age group, between 25 and 44, female unemployment would go from 11pc to 14pc had there been no emigration. For men in the same age cohort, the rate of unemployment would go up from 18pc now to 20.3pc.

This is what is happening on the ground in Ireland: people are leaving in droves.

But the gradual arrival of a slowdown in the global economy may cut off the traditional exit route from a stricken Ireland.

When this happens, it will take more than an IMF-inspired 'think-in' to come up with ideas for real change to get us out of this mess.