



BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!

contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org
facebook: [NO FRACKING IRELAND](#)
[fracking ireland google groups](#), apply for membership: charlie2williams@gmail.com
For an overview of all groups and contact details visit:
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-local-groups/>

**Jessica Ernst
lawsuit 18 Jan 2013**



these ice candles i made w love and hauled water (mold from lee valley). to celebrate my writing this summary of my stand. they are lit now, on my front deck.

Stand, together, respectfully, firmly, and use your imagination.

jessica

**WEBSITE FRACKING FREE IRELAND
back ONLINE
thanks to your generous donations!**



Thanks to all (individual) contributions and for your heartwarming response after my call in the [newsletter](#) last week for a small contribution to upgrade my hosting package to keep the website FFI online!

If the e - traffic and downloading stay within the limits of the upgraded package, **the website is 'safe' for the upcoming 10 months!** (over € 200 was donated!)

If you did not contribute yet and still wish to do so, please click on the button or use this link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=7U37LDU5SAH94

Thank you very much for your support,

Ineke Scholte



EVENTS and other small CAMPAIGN news

JESSICA ERNST is coming to Ireland soon! (early March ?!)

PRESS RELEASE

Clare Fracking Concerned announce details of a unique fracking seminar - The Truth about Clare Shale - the geological perspective on fracking in Clare.

Venue: Stella Maris Hotel, Kilkee, Co. Clare

Date: Sunday February 3rd 2013

Time: 7.30pm to 9.30pm

The Clare Fracking Concerned group was set up by some Clare locals on hearing of the licensing option taken out by Enegi Oil Plc in relation to potentially exploiting the Clare Shales in the Loop Head area. In January 2012, after doing some research in the Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) and meeting with other concerned groups from Leitrim, we presented our findings to a meeting of Clare County Council. At that meeting a motion was carried by Clare County Council to effectively ban fracking in County Clare.

We've organised a number of public meetings in Kilkee and Ennis over the last year in an attempt to highlight the issue within County Clare.

There is a lot of information available generally in relation to the potential health hazards and harmful chemicals currently associated with fracking, but specific questions in relation to the geological make up of the target area have arisen. We would welcome the opportunity for some of these questions to be clarified professionally and have organised this particular seminar with that in mind.

This once-off seminar is a unique opportunity for anyone interested in the whole area of fracking, for or against - to explore it, dissect it and deconstruct it with the help of 3 highly esteemed Geologists - Professor Pat Shannon & Dr. Peter Haughtan (UCD) and Professor Geoff Clayton (Trinity).

The aim of the seminar is to understand in layman's terms the structure of the Clare Shales (as well as the layers above and below them), the potential for natural gas being present and its suitability for gas extraction by fracking.

On November 30th, Enegi Oil Plc issued a press release indicating that it intended to proceed and apply for an exploration license for the areas covered by the Option. Enegi made the following statement:

"The Company is pleased to announce that results of the work programme indicate that given the maturity, thickness and buried depth of the shale, the whole area under the Option remains prospective for shale gas." (PR is attached)

Topics for the Seminar (also see suggested questions attached):

Professor Geoff Clayton:

'Thermal History of the Clare Basin', possibly combined with 'Fractures and their contents in the Clare Basin'.

Dr. Peter Haughton:

Sediments of the Clare Basin and their suitability for fracking'.

Professor Pat Shannon:

A Summary of data on the availability of hydrocarbons in the Clare Basin'.

Contact:

Kevin Heapes

West Clare Anti Fracking campaign

Clare Fracking Concerned

Tel. 086 8202 181 / kevin.heapes@gmail.com

Clare basin update (Enegi Oil) - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/clare-basin-update-30-november-2012-final.pdf>

Suggested topics for questions - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Suggested-topics-for-questions-at-the-Fracking-Seminar-on.pdf>

FFAN have arranged for **Dr Eilish Cleary, Chief Medical Officer of Health in New Brunswick, Canada** to present a talk entitled 'Public Health Issues concerning Shale Gas Extraction & Fracking' at the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen on **Monday 28. Jan 2013** at 8.00pm.

Although all are welcome we are aiming specifically at Doctors & other Health Care Professional, NHS & HSE managers as well as politicians. I also attach my synopsis of her report. The full report is available at www.gnb.ca

Please spread the word to your local GP & Hospital Consultant and Managers.

Thanks.

Carroll.- chair of Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network
visit: <http://www.frackaware.com/wordpress/>

Brunswick report: [new-brunswick-health-officers-recommendations](#)
Synopsis: [synopsis-of-cmoh-new-brunswick-report-into-public-health1](#)

HELMUT Fehr will visit Ireland again.

He reports:

Hi Ineke,

From Sunday 3 Feb 13 (noon) to Tuesday 5 Feb 13 (morning) we will be in Leitrim again.

As usual B. will take care of us. But I would like to let you know we are there in case anybody is interested in being informed about how things proceed in Germany.

So if there are people interested in being informed about the German studies (Federal, Northrhine-Westfalia) we would be glad to meet them, if it fits in with B's and (Love Leitrim) arrangements.

We will have a car, so even the Black Mountains would not be out of reach. We will be staying at Nuala´s Lodge near Manorhamilton.

I have attached again the Federal Study:

Environmental Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing Related to Exploration and Exploitation of Unconventional Natural Gas Deposits – Risk Assessment, Recommendations for Action and Evaluation of Relevant Existing Legal Provisions and Administrative Structures

Maybe this study could be used by you as an input to the public consultation performed by the EPA?

Contact Helmut: helmutfehr@t-online.de



Read the Federal study: <http://ubuntuone.com/6SehYplG1F84JIMWR06RNZ>

For your diary

GLOBAL FRACK DOWN DAY

We can now officially confirm the date: **OCTOBER 19, 2013**. It would be great if you can take this into account in planning future events.

I understand that this date might be perfect for everybody, but feedback from groups across Europe, the US and other fracking hot spots around the world showed that this date works for most people, who participated in last year's Global Frackdown.

Food & Water Watch in the US will again build a joint website, where partners will be able to advertise events. The 2012 website will be updated, but the URL will remain the same: <http://www.globalfrackdown.org/>

In addition, a new logo and social media tools that local groups can adapt as they please will be available by the end of March.

Do not hesitate to send me any further comments that you might have.

Regards,

Geert

Geert Decock

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



Statement from Aedín McLoughlin, Good Energies Alliance Ireland (GEAI)

In response to misinformation that has been spread about GEAI and about me personally, I am making this public statement in an effort to correct such falsehoods and to reassure people about the integrity of all involved.

About GEAI

- GEAI is made up of representatives of many anti-fracking organisations North and South. The main criterion for committee members is a willingness to work hard and to cooperate with each other in the common aim of initially stopping the process of licencing for shale gas exploration; leading to the overall aim of achieving a national Ban on Fracking.
- GEAI is set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is a non-profit organisation and no Director can be paid. All Directors and members are voluntary.
- GEAI is not funded at present by any person or organisation other than members out of their own pockets. We have applied for and were successful in getting agreement for Agenda21 funding of €1,700 to put on a Conference this year. We will not get this money until we can prove that the Conference took place and we have spent the money.
- GEAI has applied for Patagonia funding and is waiting for confirmation that we have got this.
- GEAI has strong links with MARDI (Meg and Lucy are members of both), an organisation that is an accredited Sending and Hosting organisation for European Voluntary Service (EVS) as part of the EU Youth in Action initiative. Through MARDI, a French volunteer has come to Ballinaglera for six months and works with local voluntary organisations, including GEAI.

About me personally

- No approach has been made to me by the Environmental Pillar to join or to recruit campaign members for the EPA consultation Steering Group.
- Neither was any approach made to me by any oil or gas company at any time.
- Neither am I being funded by anyone.
- The rumours/statements linking me to the fracking industry, statutory agencies, government bodies or EU agencies are FALSE! Also, I have no political ambitions.
- I have worked in the area of Community Development and Peace for 20 years, North and South. At present I am employed by Rural Community Network in Cookstown as Rural Enabler for County Leitrim, working for the EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme, facilitating small community groups, young people and church-based groups to move towards integration, tolerance and appreciation of the richness provided by diversity.
- I am a member of Ballinaglera Hall Management Committee and a Director of Ballinaglera Development Company on a voluntary, unpaid basis.
- I fund myself, work hard, and have contributed a lot of money OUT OF MY OWN POCKET to the anti-fracking campaign. I do this because I can, because I have a valuable contribution to make, because on a voluntary basis I have worked all my life in service to the communities in which I live, and because I love this country that my forefathers served and fought for.

I hope that this statement clarifies matters for all campaigners. Whereas we cannot all agree on campaign methodologies, surely we can respect each other and work in cooperation to achieve our common aim – to achieve a Ban on Fracking in Ireland.

MOVIES- SONGS

Received from Terry

Anti fracking song from the US

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PSVO0e0ing&feature=youtu.be> good lyrics, good video.
The Burns Sisters - Gas Man, from the 2013 album The Hills of Ithica.

near Montrose Pennsylvania, Gas Man's had his way,
it's where I spent my childhood, those summers of yesterday,
the hills I once thought heaven, are now a living hell,
and you can't drink the water from the well.

IRISH NEWS

EPA SUBMISSION

EPA

Public Consultation on proposed Terms of Reference for a Programme of Research on Environmental Impacts of Unconventional Gas Exploration & Extraction

**full text: Contact/Submissions - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/submissions/>
http://www.epa.ie/news/pr/2012/name_40762_en.html**

Useful study for this submission: Read the study:

<http://ubuntuone.com/6SehYplG1F84JIMWR06RNZ>

EU open consultation process on SG - <http://www.longfordleader.ie/news/business/eu-open-consultation-process-on-shale-gas-and-fracking-1-4694290>

EU open consultation process on shale gas and fracking

Published on Sunday 20 January 2013 14:00

The recent launch of a public consultation on shale gas and hydraulic fracturing by the European Commission asks Irish citizens to make "full, detailed and targeted submissions", in respect of the matter.

Local MEP, Marian Harkin (Ind), said that the move by the Commission was "the right thing to do" and pointed to the fact that greater powers of enforcement were required at national and European level for "all shale gas

TOP STORIES

[Irish lamb enters UAE market](#)

[Calls for more meaningful RDP](#)

[Is your community building its ark?](#)

[Chainsaw safety and](#)

EU -NEWS

EU – PARLIAMENT

Workshop on shale gas - <http://ubuntuone.com/6hPyBshzJHBHZrAaZ45r75>

EU SUBMISSION -TAKE ACTION!!

Please fill in the form online and find below a sample, by the Friends of the Earth Europe. And read why it is so important to take that little time to fight the frack!

Sample: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Example.pdf>

Dear all,

Unconventional hydrocarbon exploration – and soon extraction as well – are making headway in Europe. The fossil fuel industry has been successful in downplaying the risks involved in the widespread use of hydraulic fracturing and hyping its potential as an abundant and cleaner-burning fossil fuel, particularly for Member States that heavily rely on coal.

Before Christmas, you may have already heard about an EU-wide public [consultation about shale gas](#). This consultation of the European Commission is part of an EU initiative to assess whether or not the EU has an appropriate regulatory framework that delivers "full consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and management of climate and environmental risks in line with public expectations" ([annex to 2013 work programme](#)). This work will serve two main goals: On the one hand, to make sure that the achievements of the European Union's environmental rules in a wide range of areas like climate change, water, air, noise, etc. are not put at risk by the arrival of the shale gas industry. However, the work is also very much intended to remove possible obstacles in the EU's environmental rules for the shale gas industry to start its work. This work by the European Commission is by no means intended to regulate unconventional hydrocarbons out of existence, rather to try and avoid the worst

impacts of large-scale fracking and manage the many risks involved.

This consultation will not lead the European Commission to simply ban the unconventional gas industry, even if an overwhelming majority of participants would support a ban. However, consultations about other controversial topics (e.g. GMOs) typically only contain questions about how to manage the risks. This consultation about unconventional gas offers at least an opportunity to call for a ban, namely under section 2. "Overall perception": "I believe unconventional fossil fuels extraction (e.g. shale gas) should not be developed in Europe at all". If we can mobilize our groups and supporters to submit their views, this will send a clear message to policy-makers about the limited public acceptability of unconventional hydrocarbons in Europe.

This is why we need you to **spread this message as widely as possible and encourage each individual of your respective network to take part to this consultation** and to answer as much as possible in a coordinated and consistent way. **The more coordinated and consistent, the more powerful the message will be.** If possible, let's try to get as many organisations as possible to participate in this effort!

Here is the link to EC website where you can take part to the public consultation either as an individual or as an organization: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/uff_en.htm

You can find enclosed a pdf version of our suggestions. In addition, you can also find below our suggestions for the sections of the consultation that offer the opportunity for an open reply. Given the limited space available, it is impossible to address all of our concerns or go into great detail. These suggestions – i.e. just some of our ideas, which you are free to adapt or ignore – can help you and your respective organization respond to this questionnaire.

From experience, we know that we would maximize our chance of being heard and taken in consideration if the questionnaire is filled out in English.

And, as usual, if you have any question or comment regarding this email or the consultation, feel free to contact me (antoine.simon@foeeurope.org) or Geert (gdecock@fweurope.org).

!! DEADLINE: March 23, 2012 !!

Antoine Simon
Economic Justice Programme
Extractive Industries Campaigner

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www.facebook.com/FoEEurope
www.twitter.com/foeeurope

Unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas) in Europe

Your profile	
Whom do you represent? -single choice reply- (compulsory)	I am answering on behalf of a company or organisation
Please enter the name of your company or organisation -open reply- (compulsory)	Friends of the Earth Europe
Please enter your e-mail address -open reply- (compulsory)	info@foeeurope.org
Are you answering on behalf of an EU-wide organisation? -single choice reply- (compulsory)	Yes
Please select the option which best describes your organisation -single choice reply- (compulsory)	Environmental or social non-governmental organisation
Unless you specify otherwise, your contribution will be published on the Commission's website. Please indicate here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous. -single choice reply- (compulsory)	You can publish this contribution as it is.
Overall perception of unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas)	
Which of the following statements reflects your overall opinion about unconventional fossil fuels (e.g. shale gas) best? -single choice reply- (compulsory)	I believe unconventional fossil fuels extraction (e.g. shale gas) should not be developed in Europe at all
Main potential opportunities and challenges	
It could help diversify the EU energy mix -single choice reply- (compulsory)	No benefit
It could avoid increasing the EU's energy import dependency (e.g. imports of oil and gas from outside Europe) -single choice reply- (compulsory)	No benefit

Sample: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Example.pdf>

Comment by a campaigner:

Can we make sure as many businesses also take part? I know there is another agenda going on here with regard to re-industrialisation so we will have the steel industry, plastics manufacturers, and even some wind energy companies, making submissions too. Please get the word out to our agrifood and tourism industries to counter their voice.

PETITIONS

(received from campaigner in Brussels)

This petition will be discussed in a while at the PETI committee in the Parliament. Petition 0013/2008 by **Mr. John McElligott (Irish)**, on behalf of Kilcolgan Residents Association, on alleged breaches of the EC Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment in connection with the approval and planning of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in the proximity of Shannon Estuary (Ireland)

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/peti/cm/907/907437/907437en.pdf

From our campaign reporter in Brussels:

This is Roger Helmer's blog post. Struan Stevenson is very much in favour of fracking. Plus there are other vested interests behind this ECI. See CEO's Foot on the Gas report. Only the tip of the iceberg really

PETI committee was interesting this morning.

I don't think many of you have any idea yet exactly how what is going on here in Brussels impacts on how decisions are taken in Ireland **and the very sneaky sort of lobbying going on to promote our reliance on gas.**

From Roger Helmer's blog. (MEP)

Public appeal calls for suspension of the EU's hugely expensive Climate & Energy Package

www.affordable-energy.eu

Concerned citizens from across the European Union **are calling for lower energy prices**, and for the suspension of the EU's Climate and Energy Package, which mandates aggressive targets for expensive renewables. They are using a mechanism called the "European Citizens' Initiative", created under the Lisbon Treaty, to set out their demands. This requires a million signatures across the EU by November 2013 -- including 54,000 from the UK. Members of the public can [sign on-line](#). If successful, the European Commission will have to respond to the initiative, and hearings will be conducted in the European parliament. The initiative will not force the EU Commission to comply, but it will hugely raise the profile of the issue, and put pressure on the EU institutions for a rational and affordable energy policy.

In the UK, EU targets will require 30% of energy generation from renewables, mainly wind, by 2020, potentially adding £150 to £200 a year to household bills. Other countries face even bigger problems. The idea for this initiative started out in Poland, which is 90% dependant on coal for electricity, and is impacted even more severely than the UK by the EU's ultra-high-cost approach.

The huge costs of the programme in the UK are largely the result of dependence on wind farms. These are expensive to start with. Then they require conventional back-up, greatly increasing costs. And they also require massive new investment in the Grid to cope with distributed and intermittent generation.

The initiative has the support of a number of MEPs, including Scottish Conservative Struan Stevenson and Polish MEP Jacek Kurski of Solidarna Polska. Jacek Kurski says: **"Most of us understand how important it is to stop the harmful EU climate policy wasting billions of Euros on ineffective unilateral climate policy in the middle of a worldwide economic crisis. This petition allows citizens a voice to demand the EU stop its harmful policies and demand cheaper energy. Please sign up now."**

The fact is that the EU's Climate & Energy package, with its very aggressive targets for renewable energy, is driving up energy costs. It is forcing millions of households and pensioners into fuel poverty. It is undermining industrial competitiveness in the UK and Europe, and driving energy-intensive businesses, with their jobs and investment, out of the EU altogether. But it will have little or no effect on the environment, since the EU accounts for only around 13% of CO₂ emissions. Meantime around the world there are some 1200 new coal-fired power stations in the pipeline.

Now's your chance to make your voice heard on this vital issue: please sign up today. And circulate details to your friends and contacts.

The UK's representative for the project is Leicestershire-based Paul

Oakden, who can be contacted at mail (at) affordable-energy.eu

In the US the energy prices are decreasing! And new lease conditions.

(From a friend in America)

(...) The news in Frack-land is that the high production and glut of natural gas has indeed lowered the cost of the fuel here. The fracking companies are now getting more stringent in what they are offering to those who own the land they are drilling under. Where as before, they would most commonly give lump-sum and then royalty payments. **Now, they are starting a trend of paying only if 'the land' produces.** I hope it leads to fewer land owners giving permission to drill. Most likely this won't be the case though. At least I can dare to dream. Regardless, I don't think the drilling itself is going to decrease anytime soon . **I was just reading how the Pittsburgh International Airport is going to get \$40 million for allowing Consol Energy to frack on the airport property (that's before royalties also).**

Wind energy is making Irish electricity already cheaper

Compare wind energy to peat- <http://www.politics.ie/forum/environment/137025-kevin-myers-wind-power-todays-sindo-31-08-2010-a-269.html#post4706668>

and more: <http://skepticalscience.com/putting-an-end-to-renewable-energy-too-expensive-myth.html>

FRANCE

New report from French scientists at the 'Académie des sciences' who've come out in favour of exploring shale gas with the goal of evaluating the potential.

<http://www.usinenouvelle.com/article/les-scientifiques-favorables-a-l-exploration-des-gaz-de-schiste.N189486>

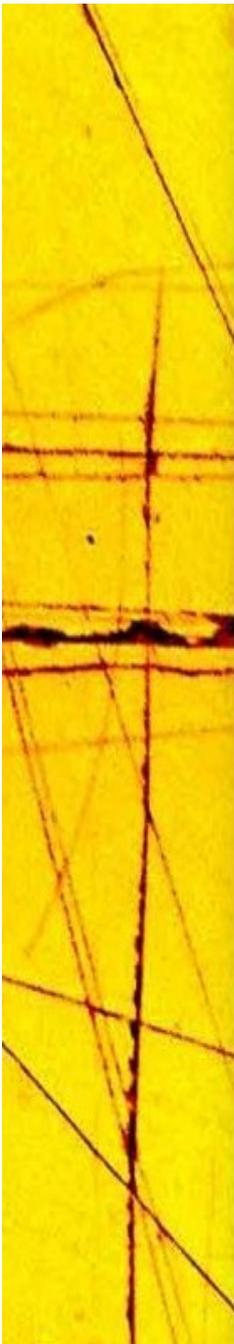
UK

Newsletter frack off – scroll down to the end of the newsletter. Full of info!

SPAIN

In newsletter 3-13 I reported about two other fracking free area's in Spain
The decision-makers of La Rioja, a region in the North-Center of Spain, are finalising their decision to declare their region fracking-free, which would be the second region after Cantabria.)

But that does not mean that the threat of fracking is gone!



Estos son los permisos solicitados por la empresa Montero Energy Corporation S.L.

PERMISO	DESCRIPCIÓN	ESTADO	Fecha de Solicitud
1 Galileo	Superficie: 77.737,5 hectáreas. Solicitado el 27/12/2011 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la Admón. Central	27.12.2011
2 Edison	Superficie: 77.052 hectáreas Solicitado el 27/12/2011 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la Admón. Central	27.12.2011
3 Tesla	Superficie: 77.052 hectáreas, afectando a los términos municipales de Abejar, Almarza, Cebrejas del Pinar, Calatañazor, Covalada, El Royo, Garray, Golmayo, Los Rábanos, Molinos de Duero, Quintana Redonda, Rebollar, Rollamienta, Salduero, Soria, Sotillo del Rincón, Villaciervos, Villar del Ala y...	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	17.02.2012
4 Kepler	Superficie: 64.210 hectáreas Solicitado el 21/02/2012 por Montero Energy Corporation, S.L.	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	21.02.2012
5 Copérnico	Superficie: 64.210 hectáreas Solicitado el 21/02/2012 por Montero Energy Corporation, S.L.	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	21.02.2012
6 Arquímedes	Superficie: 94.525 hectáreas. Solicitado el 13/07/2012 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	13.07.2012
7 Aristóteles	Superficie: 42.373,5 hectáreas Solicitado el 13/07/2012 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	13.07.2012
8 Pitágoras	Superficie: 58.671 hectáreas. Solicitado el 13/07/2012 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	13.07.2012
9 Platón	Superficie: 55.411,5 hectáreas. Solicitado el 21/08/2012 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	21.08.2012
10 Darwin	Superficie: 89.683 hectáreas. Solicitado el 7/10/2012 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	04.10.2012
11 Leonardo	Superficie: 76.641 hectáreas. Solicitado el 4/10/2012 por Montero Energy	Permiso Solicitado a la C.A.	04.10.2012

GLOBAL NEWS

JESSICA ERNST – LAWSUIT 18 JAN 2013

thank you, for the incredible support.

ive been trying to figure out how to explain why i boycotted the calgary court on friday. i did not boycott the hearing or my case; i just attended in a different location - where the case needs to be heard - rurally, in drumheller court house.

standing for what we believe in, has power, lots and lots of power. and the power grows, when one stands firm, respectfully. i was scared and uncomfortable most of the day, but i wouldnt take the day back for a second, or the months of stress knowing what i was about to do.

official statement about my stand that was read into the court transcript - re Judge Veldhuis and Alberta's Chief Justice moving my lawsuit to Calgary for the convenience of the defendants' lawyers: <http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/the-lawsuit>

stephen ewart, calgary herald, asked me for a photo at the calgary court house, of course that was impossible! wonder woman, i am not. so, i asked my witness to take photo of me at the drumheller court house, and i sent it to him saturday morning, apologizing for not responding sooner. he thanked me within minutes, and went into the office on a saturday, to update his story:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Critic+boycotts+Encana+hearing+crusade+against+fracking+from/7842205/story.html>

summation of press on friday's hearing in calgary:

<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/how-alberta-will-fight-fracking-folk-hero-jessica-ernst-in-famous-flaming-water-case-regulator-to-argue-no-duty-of-care-to-landowners-or-groundwater>

note, this afternoon, i recd an amazing email from bill houston, NY, transcribing part of one of the capturemefilms interviewing me in michigan last year - included at this link. bill had just discovered the clip.

this is amazing - i've been trying to get action from Wheatland County, for years, w zip success. the more citizens around the world begin to speak out, loudly, respectfully, firmly, without backing down, the more positive action all will see:

<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/wheatland-county-alberta-councillors-call-for-fracking-halt-until-protective-methods-are-developed>

wonderfully courageous, wheatland county! an alberta county! bravo! brava! thank you! and many thanks to the many courageous albertans speaking out.

quote in my affirmations book, for date of the hearing, jan 18:

**"most people fail because they do not wake up and see when they stand at the fork in the road and have to decide."
erich fromm**

fork in my road, after so many betrayals i could never count them if i tried, and so many months of grieving after magic's brother bandit was killed, i thought i was going to die:

run away
or stay and fight

the defendants have no life end (they're not human)
i do.

they are many,
i am one.

they have big weapons, infinite funds, all the power.
i have meager savings, imagination, beloved alberta sky, walks w magic,
bird song, a river through my land, wind and heart.

heart wins every war
i chose war.

best war song ever: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LE66xz1K40s>

i would never have made it through friday without this song (i kept singing it in my head). thank you phil for sending it to me, summer 2012, and thank you emmylou.

i apologize, that i was not able to tell you about my stand ahead of time. it is good that i was not in the calgary court room and you were. my case belongs to the world, it is not mine. it has a life of its own. it is not about me, it is about you and your children and theirs. you courageously chose to attend and came from as far as vancouver (huge thank you!). the youngest attending was 8 yrs old (all day). when i heard at 4 PM from one of my lawyers (i knew nothing of the proceedings until all was over) that the court room was packed all day, i surged w delight that so many canadians chose to stand with me (by traveling at great cost and inconvenience, and sitting for hours on hard benches) to protect our rights and water and children. bravo! brava!

my stand was much more powerful w you there.

some asked in fall, if they should write letters to the court to complain about the case being moved to calgary. i had already decided that i had to take this stand, and asked that people not write letters then. NOW, is the time, if anyone wants, to write Alberta's Chief Justice and request, respectfully, that the ernstvsencana case is heard where it belongs, rurally, in drumheller court house. every letter, even just one sentence, is powerful.

most amazing thing happened as i attended the ernstvsencana hearing by taking a stand in drumheller court house:

a young RCMP officer came in, and stood in line. my witness and i were sitting in the waiting area, where the lines ups are to wait and see the court clerks. he stared and stared, i didnt look at him, because i thought, oh oh, here they come to arrest me.

finally, he asked: "are you jessica ernst?"

"yes," i said, smiling, because he was so excited.

"OH! i saw you on the news last night," he excitedly bubbled out. "My parents live south of xx (to protect his privacy, and that of his mum and dad), their water well went bad after frac;ing nearby in 2002." ... paraphrasing - The company gave them 800 dollars to get a water softner. we know that wont fix the contaminants in the water. my parents tried, but got nowhere w the regulators. bathing in their water makes your skin feel strange, and the water smells. ... what are you doing here, shouldnt you be in Calgary? ... i laughed, and explained. i stood and shook his hand, introduced myself properly, and offered to his parents that they contact me via the contact button on the website, if they want, and i will try to give them some ideas/information

this christmas, i gave the gift of water, using - yes - hauled water. imagine the explosions if i used my contaminated well water.

Salt miner sees risk in gas storage plan

By Michael Kavanagh

©John Super

At the rock face: tunnels at Winsford, the UK's biggest salt mine, cover an area the size of 700 football pitches

Deep inside Britain's biggest salt mine, remote-controlled mechanised grinders toil to loosen rock that provides about half the grit needed to keep the UK's roads and pavements clear from snow and ice.

As [heavy snowfall](#) at Winsford rock salt mine in Cheshire threatened to make many local roads impassible last Friday, lorries queued to collect its crushed rock salt to replenish stockpiles for road gritters.

But inside the offices of Salt Union, which operates the mine, and on a tour of the works, senior staff were keen to discuss a potential threat. It was not the weather that concerned them, but plans for a nearby gas storage facility that they say is a threat to the future of Britain's oldest working mine.

Harold James, managing director of Salt Union, owned by US-based Compass Minerals, is challenging plans by French energy group [GDF Suez](#) to build an underground gas storage facility less than a kilometre away from Winsford.

Work by Storengy, a subsidiary of [GDF Suez](#), continues apace to exploit the local salt-rich geology. The plan is to create 20 salt caverns – formed by dissolving salt with fresh water – to store up to 400m cubic meters of highly pressurised gas. With two caverns scheduled to be in operation by next winter, Storengy aims to provide one of the main [gas storage facilities](#) in the country, commanding 10 per cent of the UK gas storage market.

The notion of storing gas in pressurised underground sites is not new. Storengy itself already operates more than 20 projects based on salt caverns, aquifers and depleted gasfields across Europe.

However, Mr James says that Storengy's Stublach project – unlike other underground facilities operating or planned in the UK – could have potentially catastrophic consequences for his nearby mine.

"Underground gas storage is fine but the issue is how close it's planned to an operating mine. They [Storengy] won't share anything with us in their discussions with the HSE [the government's Health and Safety Executive]," he says.

If gas were to migrate into the mine, the result could be disastrous. When human life is at stake, this lack of transparency cannot be tolerated

- Harold James, managing director, Salt Union

According to Mr James, Storengy has denied repeated requests for geological and testing data that will reassure Salt Union that there is zero risk of gas migrating from the Stublach facility into the Winsford mine.

"The current regulations did not anticipate the present situation, which will allow the storage of highly pressurised gas next to an operating mine, despite the inconsistent geological conditions between the two sites," he says. "If gas were to

migrate into the mine, the result could be disastrous. When human life is at stake, this lack of transparency cannot be tolerated.”

Storengy, meanwhile, insists it is committed to adhering to GDF’s core commitment to the safe operation of businesses and to compliance with the UK’s health and safety requirements.

Recent minutes from a liaison committee point to the local council having received no complaints about the Stublach project. Meanwhile, Storengy – which has recently helped finance the costs of dugouts and changing rooms at a local football club and the refurbishment of public toilets – has resolved a complaint over headlights shining into a local farmhouse by planning to install hoardings to block out the light.

In spite of these mundane issues, Stephen O’Brien, the local Conservative MP and a junior minister in the Department for International Development, last week raised parliamentary questions querying the HSE’s approach to assessing the Stublach project.

Mark Hoban, minister for employment, replied that, although the integrity of the caverns will be assured by the HSE, technical assessments that have previously been excluded from publication on security grounds will still be “subject to any necessary security redactions”.

As Salt Union continues to seek political support to gain full access to Storengy’s geological data, work continues at Winsford, where mining began in 1844.

The boring of seams measuring 20m wide by 9m high has created a criss-cross of tunnels the size of 700 football pitches. About a quarter of the rock is left in place to provide enough mechanical support to prevent subsidence of ground that sits on average 200m above the mine’s seams.

Extraction is carried out using continuous mining machines developed for the US coal industry, a method that replaced drilling and blasting about a decade ago. These days, WiFi is used to monitor the drilling, conveying and crushing of salt rock.

Salt Union’s UK operations account for 8 per cent of group sales of \$1.1bn.

With low humidity and a constant 14C temperature, part of the mine has also been developed as a storage facility for documents.

Customers include the National Archive, which stores official documents from the first world war and census records at the site. The record’s held by the government body takes up 32km of shelf space at Winsford’s DeepStore business, which accounts for about half the 175 staff employed across Salt Union’s two businesses based around the Winsford mine.

Shale gas: Veolia and Suez vying for a giant contract in Australia (and Poland)

Original article in french below (quick translation in english) -

Shale gas: Veolia and Suez vying for a giant contract in Australia (and Poland)

By Myriam Chauvot | 23/01

Both groups were selected in the "short list" of a tender for more than a billion euros for coal

gas in Queensland. They find themselves in competition here as elsewhere.

Both on the lookout for growth opportunities, as Suez Environnement and Veolia try to position themselves on new markets. But here as elsewhere, the two heavyweights of water treatment are competing. It is now the case on shale gas and coal. According to our information, Veolia Environnement and Suez Environnement, with General Electric, are three of the four candidates shortlisted for a tender of an exceptional size, more than a billion euros in coal gas.

They are currently offering a discount and the Queensland Gas Company (QGC) is expected to finalize the contract in the second quarter with the selected operator. The latter will operate for twenty four years the water treatment facilities of this massive project "Queensland Curtis LNG," estimated at \$ 20 billion (15 billion euros). This subsidiary of BG Group (formerly British Gas) in Queensland (northern Australia), developed the first project in the world that liquefies on Curtis Island coal gas produced in the interior and supplied by 540 kilometers of pipeline, before selling throughout Asia from 2014.

Integrated water de-pollution

Australia, along with the United States and Canada, is one of the three major producers of shale gas and coal. But this is also where the pollution it causes, especially related to highly toxic fracturing fluids injected into the ground sparked the most controversy. Queensland legislation has been tightened and "Queensland Curtis LNG" is required to fully decontaminate water recovery wells for it to be reused, only the solid residue being buried after toxic concentration and evaporation. The project includes a complete cycle of water treatment (if we forget the polluted water left in the soil), unlike many others, including the United States, where polluted water is simply rejected. Veolia and Suez Environnement therefore clearly felt able to be involved without damaging its image.

It is difficult to quantify the amount of global water treatment in non-conventional energy because it will only grow under pressure from environmentalists. In the United States, it is not uncommon to reject polluted water or semi-processed water directly into tributaries.

Complete cycle of water treatment

This emerging market, which by coincidence, Veolia will this Thursday present its "new business" to the press, is the most advanced of the two French companies. He built this business on the acquisition in 2005 of an offshoot of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) specializes in membrane treatment of water in the unconventional. "We are one of only two players in the world to be able to handle the effects on water through the exploitation of shale gas," said its CEO Antoine Frérot last November in an interview with "Echoes". Translation: it is the only one together with General Electric to ensure the full cycle of water treatment, and not only parts of this cycle.

He won a first contract of this type in 2011 in the United States with U.S. energy group PXP (construction and operation) and has ongoing bids. In Canada, it still works only on parts of the cycle. With its subsidiary HPD who specializes in crystallization, Veolia also wants to position itself on the complex treatment, which he believes holds a third of the market, against a third for General Electric, the historic leader and another one third for consortium groups. The construction of such facilities grows by 20% per year. Exploitation is left to be obtained, oil companies rarely outsource.

Projects in Poland

Suez Environnement, does not have active contracts yet but grows in strength: it has experimental sites operating in Australia and has built this year an offer for a full course of treatment in anticipation of the eventual opening of the Polish market. Poland is the country in mainland Europe with the most advanced projects to develop shale gas and coal and beyond the "Queensland Curtis LNG" project, it will be the priority of the group of Jean-Louis Chaussade (Suez). Who do we find there already? ... Veolia.

Gaz de schiste : Veolia et Suez en lice pour un contrat géant en Australie

Par **Myriam Chauvot** | 23/01

<http://www.lesechos.fr/entreprises-secteurs/service-distribution/actu/0202521419696-gaz-de-schiste-veolia-et-suez-en-lice-pour-un-contrat-geant-en-australie-531472.php>

Les deux groupes ont été retenus dans la « short list » d'un appel d'offre supérieur au milliard d'euros dans le gaz de charbon dans le Queensland. Ils se retrouvent là comme ailleurs en concurrence.

Tous deux à l'affût de relais de croissance, [Suez Environnement](#) comme Veolia se positionnent sur les nouveaux marchés porteurs. Mais là comme ailleurs, les deux poids lourds tricolores du traitement de l'eau se retrouvent en concurrence. C'est aujourd'hui le cas sur les gaz de schiste et de charbon (le fameux grisou). Selon nos informations, [Veolia Environnement](#) et Suez Environnement sont, avec General Electric, trois des quatre candidats présélectionnés pour un appel d'offre d'une taille exceptionnelle, supérieur au milliard d'euros, dans le gaz de charbon.

Ils sont en cours de remise d'offre et Queensland Gas Company (QGC) devrait finaliser au deuxième trimestre le contrat avec l'opérateur retenu. Ce dernier exploitera durant vingt ans les quatre installations de traitement d'eau du titanesque projet « Queensland Curtis LNG », estimé à 20 milliards de dollars (15 milliards d'euros). Cette filiale de BG Group (ex-British Gas) développe dans le Queensland (nord de l'Australie) le premier projet au monde qui liquéfiera sur l'île de Curtis le gaz de charbon produit à l'intérieur des terres et acheminé par 540 kilomètres de pipelines, avant de le vendre dans l'ensemble de l'Asie à partir de 2014.

Dépollution intégrale de l'eau

L'Australie est, avec les Etats-Unis et le Canada, l'un des trois grands pays producteurs de gaz de schiste et de charbon. Mais c'est aussi celui où la pollution que cela entraîne, en particulier celle liée aux fluides de fracturation très toxiques injectés dans le sous-sol, a suscité les plus vives controverses. La législation du Queensland a été durcie et « Queensland Curtis LNG » est astreint à dépolluer intégralement l'eau remontée des puits pour qu'elle soit réutilisée, seul étant enfoui le résidu solide toxique après concentration et évaporation. Ce projet comprend un cycle complet de traitement de l'eau (si l'on oublie l'eau polluée restée dans le sol), contrairement à nombre d'autres, notamment aux Etats-Unis, où l'eau polluée est simplement rejetée. Veolia et Suez Environnement ont donc visiblement estimé pouvoir y être associés sans dommage pour leur image.

Difficile de chiffrer le marché mondial du traitement de l'eau dans les énergies non conventionnelles car ce dernier ne se développera que sous la pression des écologistes. Aux Etats-Unis, il n'est pas rare de rejeter l'eau polluée ou semi-traitée dans les affluents.

Cycle complet de traitement de l'eau

Sur ce marché émergent, Veolia qui, hasard du calendrier, présente ce jeudi à la presse ses « nouveaux métiers », est le plus avancé des deux Français. Il a bâti cette activité sur l'acquisition en 2005 d'une émanation du Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) spécialisée dans le traitement par membranes de l'eau dans le non conventionnel. « Nous sommes un des deux seuls acteurs au monde à savoir traiter les effets sur l'eau de l'exploitation du gaz de schiste », [avait souligné son PDG Antoine Frérot en novembre dernier dans un entretien aux « Echos »](#). Traduction : il est le seul avec General Electric à assurer le cycle complet de traitement de l'eau, et pas des parties de ce cycle.

Il a remporté un premier contrat de ce type en 2011 aux Etats-Unis avec le groupe d'énergie américain PXP (pour la construction et l'exploitation) et a des appels d'offre en cours. Au Canada, il n'intervient encore que sur des parties de cycle. Avec sa filiale HPD, spécialiste de la cristallisation, Veolia veut aussi se positionner sur la partie complexe des traitements, dont il estime détenir un tiers du marché, contre un tiers pour General Electric, le leader historique et un tiers pour les groupes en consortium. La construction de ce type d'installations croit de 20 % par an. Reste à en obtenir également l'exploitation : les pétroliers l'externalisent encore rarement.

Des projets en Pologne

Suez Environnement, lui, n'a pas encore de contrats actifs mais monte en puissance : il a des sites expérimentaux opérationnels en Australie et vient de structurer cette année une offre de cycle complet de traitement en prévision de l'éventuelle ouverture du marché polonais. La Pologne constitue le pays d'Europe continentale le plus avancé pour développer des projets de gaz de schiste et de charbon et au-delà de « Queensland Curtis LNG », ce sera la priorité du groupe de Jean-Louis Chaussade. Qui y retrouvera... Veolia.

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UK -Frack off newsletter Frack Off [<info@frack-off.org>](mailto:info@frack-off.org)

Hi Folks, We are trying to restart these weekly newsletters with news, events etc. Do send anything that you think should be included to info@frack-off.org.

News

- **Frack Free February in Somerset** – Whole month of anti-fracking events including 6 public meetings, 5 film showings, 2 benefit gigs and many other events, organised by Frack Free Somerset Coalition www.frackfreesomerset.org/frack-free-february/frack-free-february-overview
- **Two new UCG licenses sold in Dee and Loughor Estuaries** – Coal Authority (DECC) has sold two UCG (frack-off.org.uk/underground-coal-gasification-hellfire-and-damnation) licences to Cluff Natural Resources www.energy-pedia.com/news/united-kingdom/new-153070
- **Cuadrilla planning application for horizontal well** – Permission sought for a horizontal shale gas well (would be first in UK) for Anna's Rd site in Lancashire where presently drilling a vertical well www.lythamstannesexpress.co.uk/community/fracking-exploratory-drilling-to-resume-1-5332454
- **Swansea (Penllergaer) well given permission** – UK Methane application for CBM well on the grounds of a RSPCA rescue centre! www.thisissouthwales.co.uk/Plans-test-drilling-methane-Llys-Nini-Animal/story-17938599-detail/story.html
- **Ongoing blockades in Australia** Communities in both Glenugie and Doubtful Creek, New South Wales fighting Coal Bed Methane drilling by Metgasco. Numerous arrests. See coalseamgasnews.org and www.csqfreenorthernrivers.org for more info.

Actions

- **Cuadrilla targets Barrow with propaganda lecture** 7.30pm, Weds, 23rd Jan, Forum 28, Barrow-in-Furness stopfyldfracking.org.uk/events/cuadrilla-targets-barrow-with-propaganda-lecture
- **Cuadrilla – Get the Frack Off Our Campus!** 2pm (stall from 12pm), Thurs 24th Jan, Alexandra Square, Lancaster Uni www.facebook.com/events/457027917684591
- **HSBC Fracking Demo** 12pm, Sat 26th Jan, North Street, Brighton

www.facebook.com/events/592563074102485

- **Frack Free Devon – Activism Day** 10-2pm, Sat 26th Jan, Exeter High Street (Outside Boots) www.facebook.com/events/279821688810765

Events

- **Fracking Film Screening** 7:30pm, Wed 23rd Jan, Cornerstone Community Centre, Church Road, Hove www.facebook.com/events/226281417507373
- **Meeting to Discuss Dart Energy's Proposals to Extract Coal Bed Methane** 7:30pm, Mon 28th Jan, Methodist Church, Queen Street, Stirling www.facebook.com/events/198998200238568
- **Benefit Gig** 8pm til late, Kebele, 14 Robertson Rd, Bristol www.frackfreesomerset.org/frack-free-february/frack-free-february-overview
- **RAFF Information Point** 12-2pm, every Thursday, 29 Woodlands Road, Ansdell, Lancashire stopfyldefracking.org.uk/events/weekly-information-events-rip

Live Planning Applications

- **Falkirk (Airth)** P/12/0521/FUL Coal Bed Methane, Production, Dart Energy Ltd
- **Stirling (Airth)** 12/00576/FUL Coal Bed Methane, 14 Sites, 22 Wells, 20 km Pipelines, Dart Energy Ltd
- **Lancashire (Singleton)** 05/12/0003 Shale Gas, Time Extension, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd
- **Lancashire (Weeton)** 05/11/0431 Shale Gas, Time Extension, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd
- **Lancashire (Westby)** 05/13/0018 Shale Gas, Horizontal Well, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd
- **Lancashire (Westby)** 05/12/0729 Shale Gas, Time Extension, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd
- **Lancashire (Banks)** 08/12/1032 Shale Gas, Time Extension, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd
- **Nottinghamshire (Eaton)** 1/12/01716/FUL Coal Bed Methane, Time Extension, Dart Energy Ltd
- **Rhondda Cynon Taf (Pantybrad Rd)** 12/1253/10 Coal Bed Methane, New Application, Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd

Groups

- **Frack Free Devon** Exeter www.facebook.com/groups/frackfreedevon
- **Frack Free Dorset** Dorchester www.facebook.com/FrackFreeDorset
- **Frack Free Forth Valley** Airth www.facebook.com/Actionforairth
- **Frack Free Somerset (Coalition)** Somerset www.frackfreesomerset.org
- **Frack Free Wales** Cardiff www.facebook.com/pages/Frack-Free-Wales/399311250153926
- **Frack Off London** London www.facebook.com/FrackOffLondon
- **Frome Anti-Fracking** Frome fromeantifracking.blogspot.co.uk
- **Mendip Fracking Action** Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet www.facebook.com/pages/Get-the-frack-out-of-the-Mendips/117744804979573
- **Lewes Against Fracking** Lewes www.facebook.com/groups/166526800133807
- **Residents Action on Fylde Fracking** Fylde Peninsular stopfyldefracking.org.uk
- **Ribble Estuary Against Fracking** West Lancashire www.reaf.org.uk
- **Safe Energy Wales** Swansea www.facebook.com/FrackedSwansea
- **Sussex Extreme Energy Resistance** Brighton www.facebook.com/extremeenergyresistancesussex

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