



**BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!**

contact: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

visit: [www.frackingfreeireland.org](http://www.frackingfreeireland.org)

facebook: [NO FRACKING IRELAND](#)  
[No Fracking Northern Ireland](#)  
Twitter: @BANfrackingNI

[fracking ireland google groups](#), apply for membership: [charlie2williams@gmail.com](mailto:charlie2williams@gmail.com)

For an overview of all groups, websites and contact details visit:

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-local-groups/>

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saved!**

**€ 468.71**

**thanks to your generous donations!**



**I wish to thank you all for your contributions. This is really a great result to keep the website online for the upcoming 1 1/2 year with a package that allows a lot of hits and downloads.**

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](https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=7U37LDU5SAH94)

Thank you so much for your support,

Ineke Scholte



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## EVENTS and other **CAMPAIGN** news

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### CLARE

#### Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> February - sign-making workshop

The newly formed West Clare group, part of Clare Fracking Concerned but based in West Clare, are called the **West Clare Anti-Fracking Campaign** and they are organising a sign-making workshop (*Farming not Fracking* - that kind of thing) on Saturday 2nd February at 10.30am in the dome at Purecamping, Querrin, Co. Clare - see [www.purecamping.ie](http://www.purecamping.ie) for directions.

Please spread the word and please bring along any left over paint or materials that you might have lying around as there is no budget for this - think of it as a recycled materials art workshop!

There is the possibility of putting up the signs the same afternoon - please let the group know if you have a good location that you would like to offer in terms of hosting a sign.

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#### Presentation – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

**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>

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**Helmut Fehr** will visit the Leitrim area on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Febr and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. He will meet campaigners in Nuala's lodge on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. He has a lot of info that could be useful for the EPA submissions. (see below)

**Public Meeting**

Leitrim Farmers Network and Leitrim Organic Farmers cordially invite you to attend a presentation by Helmut Fehr, German geoscientist and well-respected authority on hydraulic fracturing, **on Monday, 4th February, at 9:00 pm** in Berry's Tavern, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim.

The main topics to be covered in the presentation will be as follows:

**"How fracking might affect rural areas and economies."** and

**"Latest reports and findings on Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction (UGEE) in Germany"**  
(SEE ALSO REPORTS)

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**John Murray, RTE Radio 1 will be coming to Glenfarne on Sunday, 17th February 2013!**

See <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/the-john-murray-show/category/walking-club/> for more details.

John Murray's next walk will take place on Sunday, 17th February 2013. Gather for the walk in Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim outside the Ballroom of Romance at 12 noon. The walk will take about 90 minutes – and there will also be a break for entertainment and music. The walk will go through a forest, so sturdy walking shoes are advised. Raingear and warm clothes are also recommended. We will return to the Ballroom of Romance afterwards for refreshments and some craic!

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**All campaigners meeting, Sat 2nd March, 11 a.m. Ballinagleragh Hall**

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# BEROUN CALL TO ACTION

International conference of Coalition STOP HF  
to support

ban on shale gas extraction  
and other rocks by "fracking" in EU

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Hotel "Na Ostrově"

BEROUN

CZECH REPUBLIC



You are kindly invited

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE in CZECH REPUBLIC –**

### **INTERNATIONAL call for a BAN ON FRACKING**

(Eu/worldwide) and to establish an EU anti frack organization. **WHO WILL ATTEND????**

As you might know I (Ineke) went to a meeting in Brussels (Oct 2012) where we met international campaigners to inform each other about fracking in your own country, how we

'fight the frack' and how we can work together to BAN fracking in Europe/worldwide.

Now a follow up is planned for **6- 8 March 2013** (very soon!!) I am [invited](#) again and another representative of Ireland. Unfortunately I am not able to take part. It should be nice if Ireland could be represented by two persons!

If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with me. I have all the info about the last meeting, this group, '[the napkin action](#)' the EU campaigners, and the EU situation.

contact: [ineke@frackingfreeireland.org](mailto:ineke@frackingfreeireland.org)

**programme:** <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/berounsk%C3%A1-v%C3%BDzva-konecn%C3%A1-verze-anglicky.pdf>

Dear friends,

I would like to invite you, with open arms and heart, into the heart of Europe - in the Czech Republic, near Prague, to the ancient castle Karlstejn (photo), at the international conference organized by our Coalition STOP HF Czech rep. and Beroun town, under the auspices of the Members of the European Parliament RNDr. Pavel Poc, mayer of town Beroun Ing. Sarka Endrlova and governon of land Central Bohemia.

It will be very strong and important. It is necessary to interconnect not only in Europe, but the rest of the world. For better communication, better sharing knowledge, better help those in need to prevent the annexation of the territory of other industries. (Ukraine must not be repeated.)

We want to establish EU antifrack organization – the beginning was in Brusell (napkin Coalition STOP HF:-)and start (call to action) World antifrack Coalition with us!

We invite Yoko Ono and Josh Fox, fracking groupes from South Africa, Canada and we tray join action with America Against Fracking and others important personalities and groupes.

It will be very nice concert, nice castle.

Maybe we put base stone for world action! We join tens NGOs from all the world and they want to work together in this Coalition.

To confirm your participation, please use the registration form:  
<http://stophf.cz/beroun-call-to-action>

There are movie with invitations, too have a look for nice landscape. Form sign in, please, as soon as possible please

With open heart for you and Mother Earth

Coalition STOP HF Czech rep.  
Jiri Malik  
+420720552887

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## **EPA PUBLIC CONSULTATION (see also REPORTS)**

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**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/6SehYpIG1F84JIMWR06RNZ>

**Deadline 8 March 2013**

**SUBMIT to the EPA YES/NO .....HOW**

**Some views (see also Irish news articles)**

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**Excerpt from the Minutes from 27 Oct. 2012 meeting in the Bush hotel**

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

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

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

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**Statement/opinion by Des Guckian**

It is my personal opinion that we must insist on a total ban on fracking and all of the associated processes throughout the island of Ireland.

Please, publish the following comment.

We have certain rights to our property , environment and good health. **The EPA is not trustworthy. Neither can it found guilty in court for any of its decisions. If anyone submits anything to the EPA re fracking, we are thereby giving them some right to interfere with our rights.** We are badly enough off without a fifth column among us urging that we submit anything to the EPA. **Just tell them to stop interfering with our rights and tell the politicians that fracking can never be allowed.** "Come into my parlour" said the spider to the fly -- is the scenario we are faced with.

Des Guckian.

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**Will the government listen to the scientists - lough allen basin too shallow to frack**

**This EPA study is funded by the Irish and Northern Irish government. Seismic monitoring and baseline studies for the lough Allen basin are included.**

<http://thegasmancometh.wordpress.com/2013/01/21/will-the-government-listen-to-the-scientists-lough-allen-basin-too-shallow-to-frack/>

**All about EPA public consultation and a discussion forum you will find on the GEAI website** <http://goodenergiesalliance.com/>

## **EPA Public Consultation**

### **Proposed Terms of Reference for Research Programme on Environmental Impacts of Unconventional Gas Exploration & Extraction (UGEE)**

#### **DISCUSSION FORUM re Proposed Terms of Reference**

Discussion Topics [[click here](#)]

Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction is an emerging issue in Ireland, in particular with regard to the use of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") technology (EPA press release). The EPA initially commissioned [preliminary desk research](#) which was published in May 2012. A Steering Committee has developed proposed Terms of Reference for a more extensive programme of research and the EPA has now launched a public consultation on the draft Terms of Reference document on behalf of the steering committee.

Submissions invited, deadline 8th March.

#### **GEAI respects the right of people and groups to engage or not to engage in the EPA Public Consultation process.**

Proposed Terms of Reference document (complete) [[pdf](#)]

Proposed Terms of Reference document (summary) [[pdf](#)]

About Submissions [[docx](#)]

#### **Received from Helmut Fehr**

**Federal study:** <http://ubuntuone.com/6SehYpIG1F84JIMWR06RNZ>  
(and see REPORTS)

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Charlie received this reply from [Lou Allstadt](#) after calling his attention to the EPA Public Consultation process:

Charlie,

Based on what we have learned in the US, I believe the the proposed terms of reference miss a few important points. This is based on the summary of the terms of reference.

First, it specifically covers water pollution impacts, but does not specifically cover air pollution impacts. Air pollution in and near drilling areas is a serious problem that needs as much attention as water.

Second, you need a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment conducted by health professionals. This is now being demanded by the public in many parts of the US but there has yet to be an unbiased comprehensive assessment conducted here.

Third, it is important to have a cumulative impact study that includes not just the drilling activity but all of the ancillary activities such as gas treating plants, waste disposal, compression plants, pipelines, trucking, socioeconomic impacts, etc. This needs to be done for the entire projects and consider that some of the impacts will recur if wells are refractured.

These comments are based on 31 years in the industry including being in charge of western hemisphere drilling for a major international oil and gas company.

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## MAKE-YOU-HAPPY-NEWS

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### Fracking Free Ireland in the Washington times -

(...) Following in the footsteps of similar American groups, Irish environmentalist opponents of fracking have started "Fracking Free Ireland." The group's motto: "Keep the frogs in and the frackers out." (...)



[http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/24/frackings-rise-in-us-inspires-the-world/?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/24/frackings-rise-in-us-inspires-the-world/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS)

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## MAKE-YOU-CRY-NEWS

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**"I lost my home, my health and my husband. I want hydraulic fracturing stopped."**

*Fracking taps a mile-deep danger* by Rachel Morgan, January 28, 2013, *Timesonline*

Judy Armstrong Stiles had no idea what she was signing away when she and her husband Carl agreed to let Chesapeake Energy operate natural gas wells on their Bradford County land. That was three years ago. For Carl, it was a lifetime. Soon after the company started using hydraulic fracturing to develop the horizontally drilled wells, both she and her husband began suffering severe rashes. They also complained of stomach aches, dizziness, fatigue, aching joints and forgetfulness, Stiles told Shalefield Stories in November 2012. "We saw doctors who tried to figure out what was wrong with us," she said. "Our symptoms mirrored so many other diseases and disorders. The doctors could not figure out what the problem was, and our health kept deteriorating."

(...)A few months later, a large hole that gave off a terrible smell and leaked a foam-like substance opened in their front yard. Then their daughter moved in and soon she, too, was sick. (...)

Carl, his health rapidly deteriorating, killed himself. "I don't blame him — he was in too much pain, and his doctors could not help him," Stiles said. **"I lost my home, my health and my husband. I want hydraulic fracturing stopped."**

(...)Ivan White, a career scientist for the National Council on Radiation Protection, authored a report for the New York-based Grassroots Environmental Education that says fracking can produce waste much higher in radiation than previously thought. His report states that "radioactivity in the environment, especially the presence of the known carcinogen radium, poses potentially significant threat to human health." [Emphasis added] (...)

Full story: [http://www.timesonline.com/news/local\\_news/fracking-taps-a-mile-deep-danger/article\\_ce6580ec-ec1d-57ad-b6e8-25f06a542dca.html](http://www.timesonline.com/news/local_news/fracking-taps-a-mile-deep-danger/article_ce6580ec-ec1d-57ad-b6e8-25f06a542dca.html)

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## CORRESPONDENCE – LETTERS- PRESS RELEASE- OPINION

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**"Cannot afford complacency" says anti-fracking group. PRO Love Leitrim.**

When gauging the feeling on the ground from the man on the street about hydraulic fracturing,

it's one of quiet optimism. The mood music has been sounding good from Dublin. A public consultation on its way to inform 'decision making' on the process and a promise that no fracking would be used in exploration licenses. Of course, anyone could be excused in thinking that government is finally listening to national and international concerns on the controversial issue. Not so, says Love Leitrim.

Central to this Love Leitrim says is that any results from research as it stands will not be comprehensive enough to guide any type of informed decision. The research is limited in its remit focusing on baseline environmental indices, and on seismic/earthquake risks associated to the industry. The research will also investigate ways to regulate any negative impacts associated with the industry. A glaring omission is that research as it stands will not consider the public health risk associated with the cumulative impacts of up to 9,000 gas wells in the north west and no one with public health expertise sits on the steering group. It will not consider the damage to Agriculture or tourism or our clean manufacturing industries.

On Feb 28th men with brief cases will once again be walking towards Merrion Street. This time it will be the gas and oil industry representatives who wish to pursue this controversial industry who need to have their paperwork in for the deadline. Many commentators believe that an exploration license albeit without actual test fracking could be given at this stage alongside any research. Granting of an exploration license a name in itself that often sounds harmless, opens the gates for the industries. The exploration license ties the Irish state into a contract of which is near impossible to retract.

Who holds the power on this? The existing options license states that the minister will be prepared to consider granting an exploration license. Therefore the options license gives the government the right to refuse on behalf of its people.

Eddie Mitchell spokesperson with "Love Leitrim" says.

"There is an impression that the previous administration gave away the family silver. Ironically although they failed to consult with the public they actually gave very little away. They merely started the ball rolling for this industry. If our present government grants exploration licenses and the companies form a basis for commerciality through exploration then it will be they who have given away our future."

Neither the planning process, the consent process nor the regulatory framework, by all accounts, will protect us any more that it has protected people in America or Canada"

**"Love Leitrim" says that the Irish people cannot afford to be complacent on this issue. They need to tell local and national representatives to listen, and call for a halt. This is a political decision.**

'Will Fine Gael and Labour Frack Ireland or not? '

End



## WHAT YOU CAN/MUST DO



**Submissions to:**

**EPA (see below) deadline 8 March**

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**EU - Dead line 20 March 2013**

**The European Commission** has launched a public consultation on shale gas and hydraulic fracturing and are accepting submissions from all interested parties. Submissions can be made through the link below and I would encourage people to make a submission in order to have their voices heard –

**Link for submissions:** [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/uff\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/uff_en.htm)

**Sample and more info** - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/fracking-free-europe/>

**Sign petition to ban fracking:**

**Sign the AVAAZ online petition:**

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Ban\\_Fracking\\_Ireland/?tta](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Ban_Fracking_Ireland/?tta)

**hard copy:** <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Petition-to-Ban-Hydraulic-Fracturing-for-Shale-Gas-in-Irel1.pdf>

**Online GO petition can be signed:**

**Republic of Ireland** - <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/ban-hydraulic-fracturing-for-natural-gas-in-ireland/sign.html>

**Northern Ireland** - <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/northern-ireland-no-fracking-required-here/sign.html>

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## MOVIES- SONGS

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### [Video on Climate Change Lines of Evidence by the National Academy of Science](#)

*Posted on 26 January 2013 by John Cook*

The U.S. National Academy of Science have produced a series of videos providing a basic overview of climate science - the series is called [Climate Change: Lines of Evidence](#). The 7 chapters covered are:

[Chapter 1: What is Climate?](#)

[Chapter 2: Is Earth Warming?](#)

[Chapter 3: Greenhouse Gases](#)

[Chapter 4: Increased Emissions](#)

[Chapter 5: How Much Warming?](#)

[Chapter 6: Solar Influence](#)

[Chapter 7: Natural Cycles](#)

You can also watch the entire series in a single YouTube video.

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## IRISH NEWS

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**Senior medic give Fermanagh talk on fracking impact -**

**A medical expert from Canada has warned about the impact of shale gas exploration on people's health in County Fermanagh.**

Dr Eilish Cleary, chief medical officer of New Brunswick, addressed several hundred people in Enniskillen on Monday evening.

The issue of fracking has divided the community in Fermanagh in recent years.

Dr Cleary had been invited by a group in Fermanagh concerned about the implications of fracking in their area.

Hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, involves drilling down and creating tiny explosions to crack the hard shale rocks to release the gas inside.

Critics say it can pollute water and cause minor earthquakes. But the Australian-based exploration company Tamboran insists the process is safe.

Read full story: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-21240618> (28 January 2013)

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### **Will the government listen to the scientists - lough allen basin too shallow to frack**

Posted on January 21, 2013 by thegasmancommeth

<http://thegasmancometh.wordpress.com/2013/01/21/will-the-government-listen-to-the-scientists-lough-allen-basin-too-shallow-to-frack/>

The terms of reference for the EPA report into hydraulic fracturing were recently released in draft format for comment by the public. The Lough Allen Basin underlying Fermanagh and Leitrim is cited as a major area for initial study.

**This EPA study is funded by the Irish and Northern Irish government. Seismic monitoring and baseline studies for the lough Allen basin are included.** The cost of the report will be substantial, as will the cost of the baseline studies and the cost of establishing other monitoring; all before even a drill bit will cut the ground.

The media and Governments seem oblivious to the fact that **Professor Peter Styles**, co-author of the Preese Hall Report into the fracking induced earthquakes in Blackpool, is already on record as saying – do not frack the Lough Allen Basin. A study by **Professor Richard Davies** has concluded that there should be a gap of 1200M between aquifers and the fracking zone. The Shale underlying Fermanagh and Leitrim is too shallow to accommodate this safety gap.

Isn't it time for our Governments to stop this cod-ology and spend the money on other services? **Why when a number of the UK's chief scientists have said it is unsafe to do so, is the Northern Ireland assembly about to embark on spending millions of pounds on this project? The Media, local politicians, and ultimately the electorate must question and hold Ministers to account over these wasteful decisions.**

**Richard Moorman former CEO of Tamboran, has said Tamboran will use best practice. He has also been very vocal in bringing Science into the debate. Well the scientific advice is not to frack the Lough Allen basin. QED.**

<http://thegasmancometh.wordpress.com/2013/01/21/will-the-government-listen-to-the-scientists-lough-allen-basin-too-shallow-to-frack/>

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### **Major oil discovery off Rathlin**

<http://www.u.tv/News/Major-oil-discovery-off-Rathlin/7e45e8f1-f29f-4053-9e66-1f60e84f86ca>

(...) "We believe that our application of new technologies such as Full Tensor Gradiometry should allow for a complete re-assessment of this frontier basin. We have now commenced planning for a future drilling programme in 2014, which includes necessary site investigations, local permitting requirements together with regulatory and local stakeholder liaison," he said.

**(...) Reacting to the announcement, James Orr, Friends of the Earth's NI director, said: "We would be supportive of anyone in that community who would be opposed to this retrograde step."**

**Mr Orr said Northern Ireland should use the sea near Rathlin to become a major producer of tidal energy rather than relying on fossil fuels.**

**"It is an area with some of the best tidal energy resources and some of the best wind energy resources, not just in Ireland but in Europe," he said.**

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**An Taisce calls on Government to resist the Canadian Tar Sands Lobby -**

<http://www.antaisce.ie/Press/AnTaisceRelatedNewsReleases/tabid/1024/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/253/An-Taisce-calls-on-Government-to-resist-the-Canadian-Tar-Sands-Lobby.aspx>

## **Ireland to export green energy to UK [Financial Times]**

The technology is out there to solve the storage problem.

On a smaller scale here is a piece about a new development by Irish company Glen Dimplex.

Manufacturing group Glen Dimplex is investing €10 million in a new product that it says could knock €650 million a year off Irish consumers' heating bills.

The group, one of Ireland's biggest companies, has also pledged to put a total of €10 million into two investment funds that the Government intends operating jointly with the private sector.

Glen Dimplex yesterday launched a new domestic storage heating system that will feed off cheap surplus green electricity.

Chairman and chief executive Sean O'Driscoll said the company intended spending €10 million on developing the product, which is known as the Quantum system.

"That is the largest amount we have ever spent on one technology," Mr O'Driscoll said.

"It's being developed in Dunleer, Portadown and Newry and it is going to be produced in Portadown and we will be investing fairly significantly across the three sites."

The heaters work by storing surplus energy generated at off-peak times by wind farms and then releasing it as heat when it is needed.

They are equipped with technology that communicates with the national grid or individual electricity suppliers, which triggers the storage system once the surplus power becomes available.

Mr O'Driscoll said the system had the potential to save consumers significant amounts on their heating bills.

He pointed out that Ireland imported €6 billion worth of fossil fuels every year, and over a third of this was spent on home-heating oil.

Mr O'Driscoll said the Quantum system could reduce the spending on home-heating oil by up to 30 per cent, a total saving of €650 million for consumers.

The system is already being used on a pilot basis in 140 houses in the Dublin suburbs of Cabra and Mulhuddart, in partnership with the clean technology research organisation Greenway. That has indicated that the system could save each home €274 a year.

The company is not looking only at the Irish market and plans to export the new product. It has orders from as far away as Korea and Australia for schemes similar to that operated in Dublin.



**EU -NEWS**



## **MEPs want stronger regulation on chemicals affecting hormones**

(...) 'While question marks remain, the committee says preventive action should be taken to protect human health, especially vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and infants.

"Even if we do not have all the answers, we do know enough to regulate these substances in accordance with the precautionary principle," Westlund stated.

The MEPs also want endocrine disruptors treated as "substances of very high concern" under the EU's REACH rules, which regulate chemicals.' (...)

[http://www.euractiv.com/health/meps-want-stronger-regulation-ch-news-517296?utm\\_source=EurActiv+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=4e21c70714-newsletter\\_daily\\_update&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.euractiv.com/health/meps-want-stronger-regulation-ch-news-517296?utm_source=EurActiv+Newsletter&utm_campaign=4e21c70714-newsletter_daily_update&utm_medium=email)

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## **Texts adopted - Wednesday, 21 November 2012 - Industrial, energy and other aspects of shale gas and oil - P7\_TA-PROV(2012)0444**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2012-0444+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

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## **UKRAINE**

### **UKRAINE AND SHELL SIGN '\$10BN' SHALE GAS DEAL- [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21191164](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21191164)**

[Ukraine has signed a major shale gas deal with Royal Dutch Shell - a move seen as an attempt by Kiev to reduce its dependency on Russian gas imports.](#)

The contract - reportedly worth \$10bn (£6bn) - was agreed on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

Ukraine is believed to have some of the largest shale gas reserves in Europe.

New technology means they are more easily recoverable, but opponents warn of a high risk of pollution.

The deal between Ukraine's state company Nadra Yuzivska and Shell was signed by the energy giant's CEO Peter Voser and Ukrainian Energy Minister Eduard Stavytsky on Thursday.

"We have witnessed a great event today. I believe we have become almost relatives," said Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who was present at the ceremony.

Ukraine's reliance on Russian gas is a particularly thorny issue in bilateral ties

The 50-year production sharing deal is believed to be the biggest contract in Europe to extract natural gas trapped underground in shale rock.

However, experts say that production in Ukraine is several years away and much will depend on results from test wells.

Kiev is hoping that the deal would help it escape dependence on Russian natural gas.

Ukraine "might even go into surplus," Mr Stavytsky said. Kiev's gas imports from Russia have long been a thorny issue.

In 2006 and 2009, rows over the gas price led to Russia halting gas supplies to Ukraine during a bitter winter, causing temporary gas shortages in a number of EU countries.

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## **POLAND**

### **Poland stumbles as shale gas industry fails to take off**

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/01/27/5143907/poland-stumbles-as-shale-gas-industry.html>

**This piece also discusses new Polish law:** <http://energy.korea.com/archives/42385>

'A preliminary draft of the new law, which was demanded by the European Union, calls for a combination of taxes totaling about 40 percent on financial gains made by shale gas producers. But companies say it's the details in the new law that matter. Without its finalization, they cannot plan ahead.

"Companies are slowing down work and waiting to see whether the new law, especially the tax, will leave enough commercial space," said Pawel Poprawa, an expert on shale gas with The Energy Studies Institute in Warsaw.

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## ROMANIA

**New project in Romania** - reporter: Georgeta Ionescu

### **Not encouraging news from ROMANIA, Bihor county:**

**Bihoreanul daily** reported since March 2012, that authorities were silently granting licenses while environmentalists (including me) revealed further perimeters targeted for shale gas exploitation, of which four are in Bihor in Felix, Voivozi, Tria and Tulca. All these blocks were under operating agreements, development and exploration between the National Agency for Mineral Resources (NAMR) and foreign companies. At Voivozi, Mol Hungarian the agreement was obtained Expert Petroleum, a company registered in Medias (Romania) and owned by an offshore registered in Jordan, behind which seems to be a former KGB officer. Felix and Tria perimeters are under a Canadian company., =East West Petroleum Corp. While for Tulca agreement was obtained Clara Petroleum Ltd, a British firm.

For those agreements to be implemented they needed approval given by Government Decision. And regulations were issued last month, quietly, for two of the four blocks: Tria and Tulca. Thus, East West Petroleum and Petroleum Clara can begin to exploit **any oil resources, including shale gas in two blocks**. Under what conditions, remains a secret for two HG's annexes are classified!

Govern Decisions (HG) published in the Official Gazette on 12th December were received with joy by Canadian Comp., who announced on their website that they are going to quickly go to work. "**East West Petroleum Corp.**'s Happy to announce that it has received final approval from the Romanian Government to start operations on lease of 1,000 square kilometers EX-2 Tria in western Romania," says Canadians. The company will conduct "a comprehensive program for two years, including the acquisition of 3D seismic data and 120 square kilometers of 2D seismic data on 200 kilometers, plus drilling of three wells" .....

At the request of the newspaper, Greg Renwick chief executive, said that "*the acquisition of seismic data*" means sound waves to identify the best locations for well. "*This technique is used worldwide and has been used in Tria. Population will not be affected,*" said Renwick. The technique was used to explore the potential Bihor villages area that Canadians already did, once signed at the agreement with NAMR, which means they already know what hidden potential of this land area and are eager to proceed, announcing that work will start from the first quarter of 2013 ...

<http://www.ebihoreanul.ro/stiri/ultima-or-31-6/liber-la-gaze-pe-tacute-guvernul-a-dat-liber-la-exploatarea-gazelor-de-sist-in-bihor-105934.html>

These are not the only blocks in Romania, as other government decisions were given in December for another 4 areas.

And Prime Minister Victor Ponta had public statements in early January, in favor of shale gas exploitation

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## GLOBAL NEWS

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### CANADA

#### MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 25, 2013

#### **Fracking review flawed, relies on industry information: Council of Canadians**

The Council of Canadians recently obtained a copy of Environment Canada's work plan on shale gas development under an [access to information request](#). The heavily redacted documents, "Activities Related to Shale Gas Development" and "Shale Gas Action Plan," outline the department's work on shale gas including researching emissions, gathering information on chemicals and provincial regulatory requirements, and reviewing existing literature on fracking. The Council of Canadian Academies, which is conducting a second independent review, will examine the potential environmental impacts and technical mitigation options.

"We support getting a better understanding of greenhouse gases, provincial regulatory requirements and activities across the country," says Maude Barlow, National Chairperson for the Council of Canadians. "But Environment Canada's review relies on industry organizations for information on fracking chemicals and fails to commit to any consultation with Indigenous communities or municipalities on what their experiences with fracking have been. The federal government's review should be independent of industry. And communities hold invaluable information on the impacts of fracking."

The reviews rely on the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers for information on fracking chemicals and commit to engaging other "industry stakeholders on ongoing Environment Canada initiatives." The documents do not specify consultation with any Indigenous communities or municipalities who have experienced fracking in their region.

"There are a couple of encouraging points in the documents like conducting baseline surface water quality monitoring, setting up monitoring stations in northeastern British Columbia, and considering changing the National Pollutant Release Inventory to include shale gas drilling, which currently exempts oil and gas wells," says Emma Lui, Water Campaigner for the Council of Canadians. "But the fact that they sent us an unsigned and heavily redacted document raises questions of how committed the federal government is to these actions."

"The documents also reveal that Environment Canada hopes that 'emissions from the shale gas sector are managed/minimized, consistent with Canada's climate change objectives,' but can this really be genuine when the biggest fracking operations in Canada go to fuel the tar sands?" asks Maryam Adrangi, Energy Campaigner for the Council of Canadians. "Fracked gas, with huge emissions and impacts on our water, is going to fuel oil extraction with even more climate and water impacts."

"We would support monitoring of existing fracking operations," adds Lui. "But ultimately fracking needs to be stopped. In no way should a commitment to monitoring be construed as a way to expand fracking operations, which would still contribute to climate emissions and destroy water and land."

Neither the Activities nor the Action Plan are signed by Environment Canada's Deputy Minister Paul Boothe or other Environment Canada officials. The Council is raising questions about whether these documents were ever finalized and whether this represents a genuine commitment from the federal government to review fracking. A large number of sections of the Shale Gas Action Plan have been redacted including the purpose and summary.

The Council of Canadians is calling for a ban, or at the very least a moratorium, on fracking.

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Financial Times, January 27, 2013 9:30 pm

### **Shale gas boom now visible from space**

By Ajay Makan in London and Ed Crooks in New York

Oil companies [at the heart of the US shale oil boom](#) are burning off enough gas to power all the homes in Chicago and Washington combined in a practice causing growing concern about the waste of resources and damage to the environment.

The volume of unwanted gas being flared off in North Dakota, the state leading the shale revolution [transforming the outlook for US energy](#), rose about 50 per cent last year. The surge at the state's Bakken formation is being replicated in other shale regions with the Texas state regulator issuing 1,963 permits to flare in 2012, more than six times the number of 306 in 2010.

The rapid increase has made the US one of the world's worst countries for gas flaring. The volume of gas flared in the US has tripled in just five years, according to World Bank estimates and is now fifth highest in the world, behind Russia, Nigeria, Iran and Iraq.

The flaring is a result, in large part, of the low price of natural gas in North America, which can make it uneconomic to build pipelines and tanks to handle the gas released by oil production. Flaring is often the safest way to dispose of it.

The lights of the flares burning in the Bakken and Texas' Eagle Ford shale fields can clearly be seen in night-time satellite photography.

Flaring has been attracting attention from investors and environmental campaigners because of the waste of gas and its consequences for greenhouse gas emissions, local air pollution and disturbance to nearby communities.

Flaring in North Dakota increases by about 20 per cent the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the state's oil production, refining and transport, compared with the US average, according to Financial Times analysis of official data.

Investors managing a total of \$500bn last year wrote to oil companies including [ExxonMobil](#), [Chevron](#), [Statoil](#) and US independents urging them to do more to cut their flaring. They warned that "excessive flaring, because of its impact on air

quality and climate change, poses significant risks for the companies involved.”

Since then, flaring in the US and concerns over it have only increased.

Mercy Investment Services, which manages the investments of the Sisters of Mercy order of nuns, filed a shareholder resolution this month calling on [Continental Resources](#), the leading oil producer in the Bakken, to adopt clear goals for cutting or eliminating flaring.

Continental said it already flared proportionately less gas than the industry average, was making progress on more reductions and agreed to report on its progress in 2013.

The North Dakota legislature is considering a bill to encourage flaring reduction through tax breaks. The state is also pushing producers to use gas to power drilling rigs.

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## REPORTS - RESEARCH

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### EPA RELATED

#### **Useful for EPA submissions: EEA publication on precautionary principle**

From our Eu campaigner

Hi all,

This is a timely report from the EEA, launched yesterday, on the precautionary principle and how costly it can be if not adhered to.

Some news coverage here: Policymakers urged to use 'precautionary principle':

<http://www.theparliament.com/latest-news/article/newsarticle/eu-policymakers-urged-to-use-precautionary-principle/#.UQEUKB1rjTo>

I see there is no specific section discussing fracking (they could have included it in emerging issues surely), but there are sections on:

- beryllium (which is used in radioactive tracers) Remember this story:

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2012/09/19/where-is-the-radioactive-rod-how-halliburton-lost-a-tiny-fracking-tool/>

& the Schlumberger container found on the Austrian/Czech border

- climate change

I'm attaching the summary which can also be accessed here:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/late-lessons-2>

but I'm going to try and get hard copies of the report, as there's an awful lot to wade through.

**REPORT:** <http://ubuntuone.com/20fm7YaOrSFPcLvnQHEW6Y>

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### **Received from Helmut Fehr**

**Federal study:** <http://ubuntuone.com/6SehYpIG1F84JIMWR06RNZ>

Recent (Dec. 2012) legislative initiative (resolution on introduction of legislation/draft bill) by the Northrhine Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein Länder governments:

**"Bundesrat (Federal Council) Resolution on dealing with the use of fracking technologies employing environmentally toxic chemicals in the exploration for and the extraction of natural gas from unconventional deposits"**

[http://www.bundesrat.de/clin\\_330/nn\\_8336/SharedDocs/Drucksachen/2012/0701-800/754-12.templateId=raw,property=publicationFile.pdf/754-12.pdf](http://www.bundesrat.de/clin_330/nn_8336/SharedDocs/Drucksachen/2012/0701-800/754-12.templateId=raw,property=publicationFile.pdf/754-12.pdf) (in German only)

Minutes of the Bundesrat meeting of 14/12/2012 including statements by Johannes Remmel (Minister for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of Northrhine-Westphalia) and (soon resigning) David McAllister (Premier of Lower Saxony) on hydraulic fracturing:

[http://www.bundesrat.de/clin\\_236/nn\\_1935004/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Plenarprotokolle/2012/Plenarprotokoll-904.templateId=raw,property=publicationFile.pdf/Plenarprotokoll-904.pdf](http://www.bundesrat.de/clin_236/nn_1935004/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Plenarprotokolle/2012/Plenarprotokoll-904.templateId=raw,property=publicationFile.pdf/Plenarprotokoll-904.pdf) (in German only)

Environmental Research Plan (Umweltforschungsplan) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU):

**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**

SHORT VERSION (in English), November 2012

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien/4346.html>

[http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-presse-e/2012/pe12-028\\_tight\\_restrictions\\_on\\_hydraulic\\_fracturing\\_required.htm](http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-presse-e/2012/pe12-028_tight_restrictions_on_hydraulic_fracturing_required.htm)

**"Fracking in unconventional natural gas deposit in NRW"** (06 September 2012)

Report with risk study on the exploration and extraction of natural gas from unconventional deposits in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) and their impact on the natural environment in particular the public drinking water supply

[http://www.umwelt.nrw.de/umwelt/wasser/trinkwasser/erdgas\\_fracking/index.php](http://www.umwelt.nrw.de/umwelt/wasser/trinkwasser/erdgas_fracking/index.php) (in German only)

**Panel of experts: Hydrofracking Risk Assessment**

Executive Summary

**Study concerning the safety and environmental compatibility of hydrofracking for natural gas production from unconventional reservoirs**, April 2012

(The study was carried out by a panel of experts in conjunction with ExxonMobil's hydrofracking dialogue and information dissemination process. [Nevertheless worth to be taken into account!])

[http://dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/sites/dialog-](http://dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/sites/dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/files/Ex_Risikostudie_Fracking_120518_webansicht.pdf)

[erdgasundfrac.de/files/Ex\\_Risikostudie\\_Fracking\\_120518\\_webansicht.pdf](http://dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/sites/dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/files/Ex_Risikostudie_Fracking_120518_webansicht.pdf)

[http://dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/sites/dialog-](http://dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/sites/dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/files/Ex_HydrofrackingRiskAssessment_120611.pdf)

[erdgasundfrac.de/files/Ex\\_HydrofrackingRiskAssessment\\_120611.pdf](http://dialog-erdgasundfrac.de/files/Ex_HydrofrackingRiskAssessment_120611.pdf) (in English)

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