

Fracking Matters Newsletter 06-13 (96) – 3 February 2013



BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!

contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org

visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org

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

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

For an overview of all groups, websites and contact details visit:
<http://frackingfreeireland.org/contact/contact-local-groups/>



Check out Christy Moore's facebook page. He has over 1077 likes for a photo of himself and his mate wearing a farming not fracking t-shirt.

If we share it, we might cause it to go viral.

<http://www.facebook.com/officialchristymoore?fref=ts>

T shirts available from Love Leitrim.
Contact: Nuala loveleitrim@gmail.com

EVENTS and other CAMPAIGN news



Shale Gas Bulletin Ireland

Welcome

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Welcome

Issue No. 1 February 1, 2013

Welcome to the [Shale Gas Bulletin Ireland](#), a twice-monthly email bulletin designed to help Irish decision-makers and journalists stay informed about shale gas extraction. It is simply a selection of good links to information on shale gas extraction and its effects.

The SGBI is issued by [Keep Ireland Fracking Free](#), a network of people who feel that Ireland's current **guaranteed fracking free** status is something to be celebrated and protected. This bulletin is in response to requests we have received for regular and easy-to-digest information.

We hope it is useful.



Shale gas Bulletin Ireland -

<https://sites.google.com/site/shalegasbulletinireland/home>

A beautiful, very informative bulletin is issued 1st February 2013.

A huge thanks to Sarah and Charlie Williams.

This is a great contribution to our campaign and another initiative to make clear that there is no place for fracking in Ireland!

Sarah is a co-developer of the guaranteed fracking free /keep ireland fracking free logo and Charlie runs the fracking Ireland google groups and the website fracking ireland.

Well done!

Ineke,

**Jessica Ernst is coming to Ireland and the UK: 1-12 March 2013
she will visit: clare, belfast, blackpool, sussex, dublin**

This is her schedule:

4 march clare

6 march belfast

7 march blackpool

8 march sussex

9 and 10 march free
11 march dublin
12 march canada
Contact: youthmardingo@gmail.com

Presentation Helmut Fehr: Monday, 4th February at 9:00 pm in Berry's Tavern, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim

full details and poster on: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/upcoming-events/>

Clare Fracking Concerned announce details of an 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

full details and poster on: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/upcoming-events/>



Some advice from a campaigner: I would advise some of us to go along and put some questions on unconventional gas development to those present.

Visit: www.ogra.ie



THOUGHTS – OPINION



This is for real. **Please keep up the fight to keep hydraulic fracturing out of Ireland.**

<http://beavercountyblue.org/2013/01/24/western-pa-cows-in-trouble-too/>

Your friends,

Mark and Bonnie

Terry shared his thoughts with the fracking ireland google group.

I (Ineke) asked him to share it with a wider audience.

Personally I think the big danger now is all the guff about regulation, getting the right laws amended etc. That'll make it safe. Like the law against burglary, which has of course put an end to burglary. And we all live happily ever after.

I think Al Appleton puts it very well on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGTrRQAEPs4> - you can't regulate this industry! That's Frackonomics part 3, for anyone who hasn't seen it yet. I

found it inspiring, the other parts too. If there are still people who think an inspector will go to a E6million well in Ireland and tell them it's defective, start again, we need to let them know what happens in the real world. I think that "regulation" area needs to form a major plank of our public awareness work. (It certainly does for the other side!)

I've read Dr. Eilish Cleary's report and recommendations (including some links she gives – see Simona Perry's video re social impacts on a Pennsylvania community, very scary). I am very grateful to Dr. Cleary and her staff for having done this. It's not her job to call for a ban, just to outline the dangers and give recommendations. The report has copper-fastened my view that this industry cannot and will not be regulated. If only 10% of the report's recommendations were enforced here then fracking could not go ahead. Read the report and use it to back up arguments.

At one time I thought we could call for a long moratorium, giving time for the negative consequences and sicknesses to be manifest in fracked regions, then the project would presumably lose it's appeal to the governments here. But now I'm more inclined to think they'd just use that, a phony moratorium.

But I'm also wary of calls for a simple ban without doing all the research and public education which would expose the lies about shale gas. Even a ban could be phony, and carry the same weight as an election promise. A ban could be overturned when it suits them, and we need to have a strong well-informed core of people ready to carry on the task. Look at France, where the frackers are still trying to overturn the ban.

So I think we need to call for a ban, giving good reasoned arguments to educate the public. But if we get one, to stay active and informed and informing.

Terry, Impact Research Group: impactresearchgroup2012@gmail.com
<http://shalegasresearchireland.wordpress.com/>

The Australian gas fields; personal insights into the health impacts and limitations of regulation

Dr Geralyn McCarron Bachelor of Medicine , Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of the Art of Obstetrics, Fellow of the Australian College of General Practitioners, Member of the National Toxics Networks, Member of Doctors for the Environment Australia

January 26th 2013

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/The-Australian-gas-fields_-personal-insights-into-the-health-impacts-and-limitations-of-regulation.pdf

IRISH NEWS

Continues call for complete ban on fracking-

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/local/continued-call-for-complete-ban-fracking-1-4735526>

Fermanagh meeting hears of fracking health risk -

<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/roundup/articles/2013/02/01/399725-fermanagh-meeting-hears-of-fracking-health-risk/>

Minutes of the meeting thanks to Ron and Brigit Beemster

This article will appear on our website www.frackingresearch.org within the next few days.

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Public-health-and-shale-gas.pdf>

Call for fracking to be banned - http://www.build.ie/construction_news.asp?newsid=157593

SDLP call for ban on fracking in Fermanagh backed

SDLP Fermanagh District Councillor Brendan Gallagher has had his call for a ban on hydraulic fracturing in the county passed by council.

Wed 18th January

Cllr Gallagher also proposed that the Enterprise Minister, Arlene Foster, place a moratorium on the fracking licence granted to Tamboran resources.

Speaking after the SDLP motion was backed, Cllr Gallagher said: **"The fact that the SDLP motion against fracking has been passed shows the extent of the concern within the county about this process.**

"People are fearful about the impact hydraulic fracturing may have on our environment and our health with worries about noise and air pollution, water contamination, irreversible damage to our landscape and the link between fracking and seismic activity.

"With our local economy heavily reliant on agriculture and tourism, we are very concerned that these sectors may be put in jeopardy should something go wrong.

"From the outset Tamboran Resources said that fracking had the potential to create 700 jobs but there has been no guarantee that these jobs will be sourced locally or that harmful chemicals will not be used in this process.

"It is now vital that the DETI Minister, Arlene Foster, listens to the concerns of the Fermanagh people and places a moratorium on the licence granted by her department to Tamboran Resources."

Councillor Brendan Gallagher
Email galla...@fermanagh.gov.uk
Tel 07709 856 112

Press Office
Tel 028 90 52 1837
http://www.sdlp.ie/en/index.php/newsroom_media/newsArticle/sdlp_call_for_ban_on_fracking_in_fermanagh_backed

Fracking must be banned - www.fermanaghsouthtyronesf.com/news/23616

Fermanagh South Tyrone Sinn Féin
Sinn Féin's spokespersons on Energy in the Oireachtas, Michael Colreavy TD (Sligo/North Leitrim) & in the Assembly Phil Flanagan MLA (Fermanagh & South Tyrone) have stated that fracking must be banned across Ireland and that simply attempting to mitigate against its most negative impacts will not suffice.

Speaking after they both attended an event in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen organised by Fermanagh Fracking Awareness Network, which was addressed by Dr Eilish Cleary, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of New Brunswick, on the impacts of fracking, they said:

"We were delighted to attend this event and welcome Dr Eilish Cleary back to Fermanagh to hear from her experience in New Brunswick.

"However, having studied her report and the recommendations it contains, it is abundantly clear that simply attempting to mitigate against the worst aspects of fracking will not suffice on the island of Ireland.

"We should not be attempting to deal with the cleanup and damage that will inevitably come if fracking goes ahead.

"Fracking needs to be banned in Ireland and Sinn Féin will continue to stand with those opposed to this dangerous method of gas exploration across the country."

Comment by a campaigner:

It's overdue that SF are coming out of their hideout...

Next target: Labour (and possibly FF)

At EU level Labour voted for the strictest regulations!

EU -NEWS

Gas-Fieber

Was ist Schiefergas und welche Folgen hat seine Förderung? Diese Fragen will Lech Kowalski in seinem Dokumentarfilm klären.

An den Beispielen von Bradford County, Pennsylvania, einer Region, in der die Förderung schon relativ lange betrieben wird, und der Region um die ostpolnische Stadt Zamosc, in der die Anwohner sich bisher erfolgreich gegen die Förderung von Schiefergas wehren konnten, veranschaulicht er die Kluft zwischen der Realität der Schiefergasförderung und dem Idealbild, mit dem die Energiekonzerne den Europäern das sogenannte unkonventionelle Erdgas schmackhaft machen wollen.

<http://www.arte.tv/de/schiefergas-segen-oder-fluch/7258938.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

Reporter: Ko van Huissteden

Here's interesting news from the Netherlands. A public discussion has started on earthquakes

and soil subsidence generated by the rapid depletion of the Groningen gas field. This also may influence the discussion on shale gas.

Gas extraction started in the 70's, and in the 80's a series of small earthquakes occurred in this area, which was previously seismically inactive. Also subsidence occurred in this area, largely located at or below sea level and protected by dykes. The subsidence was foreseen and taken as a calculated risk, but the a relation between the earthquakes and gas extraction was denied at first. Later, after a seismic study it was admitted that the quakes were related to gas extraction, but the quakes were said to remain below a magnitude of approximately 3.

Last summer several shocks occurred, the largest had a magnitude of 3.4, causing over a thousand damage reports in the area. Damage compensations is not generous and very bureaucratic.

This week a report was published by the State Mining Inspection, saying that the frequency and magnitude of the shocks will increase if the rate of gas extraction continues as it does at present. The Inspection advised to reduce the rate of gas extraction. The Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Kamp, decided not to follow the advice of his own mining inspection, saying that reduction of gas extraction would decrease state revenues substantially. Interestingly, when it comes to protests against shale gas, it is always said by the government that our top level mining inspection will prevent fracking companies from doing any harm to the environment.

Today the head of the local polder board warned in a radio interview that, with an increasing earthquake risk, also the dykes in the area are severely at risk. He painted a bleak scenario, with high water and water-saturated dykes, which would readily break when a quake of the predicted magnitude would occur. This would cause widespread flooding, including the area with gas wells, and the cities of Groningen and Delfzijl, the latter with large chemical industry complexes.

http://www.bnr.nl/nieuws/politiek/972292-1301/gaswinning-kan-leiden-tot-eeen-nationale-ramp?s_cid=blogitems

FRANCE

Black Thursday in the French Parliament

Reporter: Vincent Espagne

This Thursday, January 31, french MPs, members of the Committee for Evaluation of Scientific and Technical choices, began their dirty job :

preparing a report on the alternative process to the hydraulic fracking.

The two MPs, authors of the introduction, propose to think about "unconventional hydrocarbon": shale gaz and oil, and coal gaz.

They are attracted by propane fracking, used in US and they cote other process: "thermal fracking" or "fracking with CO2".

Mr Christian Bataille (Socialist MP) said "*It's important to find companies who want to venture into it*".

The mining code reform, that will come soon, will open the door to these adventurers !

GLOBAL NEWS

Canada

From Jessica Ernst

"My faith in the government as an oil and gas regulator is zero right now."

Rosebud fracking lawsuit takes next step by Peter Lauridsen, January 23, 2013,
Front Page *The Drumheller Mail*

Rimbey area dairy farmer and National Farmers Union co-ordinator Jan Slomp has been following Ernst's case closely. "I think Jessica's case is so interesting. I'm very curious

how it develops.” Noting the mountain of evidence she has gathered in her journey thus far, he adds: “**She has a perfect case to win.**”

Scarcely a moment later, he admits, “My faith in the government as an oil and gas regulator is zero right now. We’re pushed into not trusting anything. I’m desperate. How do I defend my land for the use of future generations?”

Shale Gas: The View from Russia

The official shale gas story goes something like this: recent technological breakthroughs by US energy companies have made it possible to tap an abundant but previously inaccessible source of clean, environmentally friendly natural gas. This has enabled the US to become the world leader in natural gas production, overtaking Russia, and getting ready to end of Russia's gas monopoly in Europe. Moreover, this new shale gas is found in many parts of the world, and will, in due course, enable the majority of the world's countries to achieve independence from traditional gas producers. Consequently, the ability of those countries with the largest natural gas reserves—Russia and Iran—to control the market for natural gas will be reduced, along with their overall geopolitical influence. If this were the case, then we should expect the Kremlin, along with Gazprom, to be quaking in their boots. But are they?

Here is what Gazprom's chairman, Alexei Miller, recently told Süddeutsche Zeitung: “Shale gas is a well-organized global PR-campaign. There are many of them: global cooling, biofuels.” He pointed out that the technology for producing gas from shale is many decades old, and suggested the US turned to it out of desperation. He dismissed it as an energy alternative for Europe. Is this just the other's sides propaganda, or could Miller be simply stating the obvious? Let's explore

Full article - <http://www.cluborlov.blogspot.ie/2012/05/shale-gas-view-from-russia.html>

REPORTS - RESEARCH

Fracking and Food

<http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2013/01/foodfracking-connection-youve-never-thought-about>