



BAN FRACKING IN IRELAND!

contact: ineke@frackingfreeireland.org

visit: www.frackingfreeireland.org

facebook: [NO FRACKING IRELAND](https://www.facebook.com/groups/146055765467930/)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/146055765467930/>

[No Fracking Northern Ireland](#)

Twitter: @BANfrackingNI

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

[fracking ireland website](#): <https://sites.google.com/site/frackingireland/>

[GEAI](http://goodenergiesalliance.com/): <http://goodenergiesalliance.com/>

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

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

EVENTS and CAMPAIGN news

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/upcoming-events/>

APRIL

PROMISED LAND released 19th April (watch this movie!!)

DEVELOPMENT DAY – 27 April -

A National campaigners day - If they start drilling at your rear, you cannot say: I didn't know!

Proposed Development Day Draft outline.

Invite for National Development Day: Saturday April 27th.

Venue: Bee Park Manorhamilton, Leitrim (Directions attached)

Time: 10.30am -3.30 pm

Facilitators: Peter Kearns and Teresa Butler

Rationale behind the day

The All Ireland antifracking movement is recognised internationally as a grassroots movement that has made its mark and achieved remarkable success that we all should be proud of. What we have? The campaign has a good skill base and cross section of the community, and has been rewarded with many motivated and enthusiastic campaigners. Campaigners are a finite resource that need investing in and building on. There has been recent appetite and efforts to pool resources, personnel and knowledge, and share and promote best practice, while offering developmental support for groups starting off. A development day can assist mapping the beginning of a more unified approach between groups, and agree a shared vision and aims of what we might want from such a national "network" to move forward. All these can be sought using a bottom up approach, breaking off into individual workshops to ensure that all voices will be heard. Any proposed network would not threaten individual group autonomy.

Building the foundations of a network together, which would seek to offer an avenue that can help communication, raise morale, offer feedback, and resolve any disagreement. Poor communication can result in a lost in good personnel, a lowering of morale, and loss of valuable time. A unified approach can also be a powerful campaign tool to stand up to the industry, and any potential destructive elements that might seek to be divisive. It offers to the public at large an expression of the seriousness of the movement, and is more attractive to gain members than groups that may be in public disagreement. A network ensures that groups and individuals do not feel isolated and alone, and give identity and vision re-energising solidarity for the future, that this campaign and its members deserve.

The Facilitators;

Peter Kearns is a lecturer in Sligo IT; he has been active in the disability rights movement in Ireland and works in Dessa, (Disability Equality Support Agency)

Teresa Butler has a track record of Community development in local authority and community development organisations.

Agenda

10.30am: Registration, Tea & Coffee
11am: Define Vision of the network

Define Aims of Network

12.00 -12.30 Lunch break

12.30pm -3.30: Define Objectives: What we plan to do, How we plan to achieve our objectives.

Paths to move forward: Action plan day for next meeting?

End

Eco-Congregation Ireland Roadshow ~ Kilkenny, 20th April

Eco-Congregation Ireland invites you to its first ever Roadshow, which will be held in the **River Court Hotel, Kilkenny**, on **Saturday 20th April** from **2-5pm**. All welcome!

The theme of the Roadshow will be '**Live Simply, Live Well: why Christians should care about the environment**'.

We are delighted to have secured two high-profile speakers – **Fr Seán McDonagh SSC** and environmentalist **Gavin Harte**.

Members of the Church of Ireland **Diocese of Cashel and Ossory**'s eco committee will also showcase the kinds of eco-friendly initiatives undertaken by various parishes in the diocese. This will be followed by a presentation to them of an ECI award – only the second diocesan award to be made by ECI (the first was to the Catholic Diocese of Kerry last May).

The **Oblate parishes of Inchicore, Dublin**, which won an ECI parish award last September, will also give a powerpoint presentation of their work.

It is hoped that there will also be some input from local green schools.

Come and learn how you can take eco-friendly steps in your own life .. as an individual and as a church! And bring a friend!

Admission free ... although donations will be welcomed!

If you live in Kilkenny or a nearby county, please print off some fliers here - [Kilkenny Flier](#) - and distribute them to local shops, churches and libraries as well as family and friends ... Thanks!

It is hoped that the ECI Roadshow will tour to other locations in Ireland, north and south, over the next couple of years

<http://ecocongregationireland.com/archives/3975>

MAY

'Climate Change and Virtue' ~ Prof Mike Hulme ~ Belfast, 1st May

'Climate Change and Virtue: An Apologetic' is the title of a talk that will be delivered by Prof Mike Hulme in Queen's University, Belfast, on Wednesday **1st May from 2-5pm.**

Prof Hulme is Professor of Climate Change at the University of East Anglia and is a former director of the **Tyndall Centre** for Climate Change Research.

The talk, which will be followed by a discussion and open forum, will take place in the Canada Room and Council Chamber of the Lanyon Building, Queen's University Belfast.

TWO CAMPAIGNERS FROM AUSTRALIA WILL GIVE 'LOCK THE GATE' TALKS

NORTHERN IRELAND - Mariann Lloyd-Smith

Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith is active in the **anti - fracking movement in Australia** and promotes the **Lock the Gates campaign**. She is an expert in the toxic risks of coal seam gas mining to human and animal health.

She will be speaking in **the Long Gallery, Stormont on Saturday 25th May 2013.**

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND - Annie Kia

**FAO FARMERS / LANDOWNERS
PUBLIC MEETING**

**THE IMPACTS
OF GASFIELDS
ON COMMUNITIES**

ANNIE KIA

From Australia's Lock The Gate Alliance

**Leitrim Village
Community Centre
May 2nd
8.30pm**

**LOCK
the GATE**

TO COAL & GAS COMPANIES

WARNING TRESPASS IS AN OFFENCE!

1. Leitrim Area

TALK ON INVASIVE GAS MINING (SHALE, COAL SEAM GAS (LIGNITE) AND TIGHT SANDS)

Large areas of Leitrim and Clare are under options licenses for onshore Shale Gas extraction using destructive and invasive technology, including hydraulic fracturing.

What is less well known is that large areas of Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon are also licensed for Lignite extraction, which in simple terms is Coal Bed Methane/Coal Seam Gasification, with an even greater environmental and human health impact than shale gas extraction.

Annie Kia , a leading member of Australia's **LOCK THE GATE ALLIANCE** will be in **Leitrim Community Center, Leitrim Village, on May 2nd at 8.30 pm**, presenting,

"Impacts of Gasfields on Communities: The Australian experience"

Annie Kia works with the Lock The Gate Alliance in Australia to empower communities to resist invasive gas mining. With others, she developed a grass-roots democracy process called Gasfield Free Communities that has enabled citizens to stand up to gas mining intrusion. With a background in social movements and health promotion, Annie has a strong belief in the power of communities to determine their futures through grass-roots participation.

When she travelled through southern Queensland, Annie was horrified by what she learnt about the social impacts of the 'gas rush' on local economies and communities.

Her presentation covers

- Characteristics of invasive gas mining (extraction from shale, coal seams and tight sandstone)
- Economic impacts – empty shops amidst the gas rush
- Social displacement that follows the housing bubble
- The transfer of land management decisions to distant corporations
- Social consequences of the new system of patronage
- Symptoms of the gas rush: trucks, pipes, roads, fly-in workers
- Institutional failure to protect: bubbling rivers, leaking gasfields
- The power of social movements to make a difference
- A story of resistance: the Northern Rivers region of NSW

For further information please contact

Meg Rybicki-McAuley
NORTH WEST NETWORK AGAINST FRACKING
0863840254

2. Clare Area – June 2013

International anti fracking camp

Confirmed on Friday, Camp Frack 2 will take place on the weekend of the **10th/11th & 12th** May at a site adjacent to the Leisure Lakes Complex at Mere Brow near Tarleton, Lancashire

JUNE

Bulgarian festival in Brussels and release of the documentary from Catherine Boyle.

Date: Monday, June 3 at 7.00 pm

Location: CIVA, Brussels

Documentary :

The Fracturing of Public Opinion: Bulgaria's Fracking Controversy

Catherine Boyle

71 min

Bulgaria/Ireland

2012-2013

Film language(s): Bulgarian, English

Subtitle language(s): English

This documentary film explores the scientific, socio-political and economic dynamics underlying the ongoing discussion in Bulgaria of the feasibility, or lack thereof, of unconventional shale gas development (commonly known as "fracking").

Of particular interest and concern is the Cold War framework which is being imposed upon this discussion, and the manner in which political considerations would appear to be outpacing hard science.

Of equal concern is the profound lack of open communication and dialogue among citizenry, government and industry, coupled with the apparent impunity of vested interests.

While our film focuses on three communities in Bulgaria, in light of the ongoing fracking debate worldwide there are clearly lessons to be drawn for us all.

Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland is organising the creation of a massive "frack pipe" to form a crucial part of mass demonstrations against the G8 summit in Northern Ireland, which is taking place in June.

We intend to make a massive prop out of hula hoops, fabric and broom handles, which will look like a huge gas pipe that will run down the spine of protest marches that will take place in **Belfast on Saturday 15 June, and in Enniskillen on Monday 17 June.**

More details on: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/upcoming-events/>

The Radical Emission Reduction Conference

This conference will bring together academics and practitioners, engineers and economists, policy-makers and civil society to detail evidenced-based opportunities for delivering urgent and deep reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

Deadline for Abstracts 28th June 2013

10th - 11th December 2013,

Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AG.

<http://tyndall.ac.uk/radical-emission-reduction-conference>

International Protest

This morning in Brussels activists from a number of groups, including Friends of the Earth and Powershift visited the EU Energy Conference on Shale Gas to let them know that unconventional gas is unneeded and unwanted, and to draw attention to the fact that the Flemish Environment Minister is expected to give a answer this week to DART Energy /LRM's coal bed methane exploration licence request.

English Press release below:

Media coverage in Dutch and French here: http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=DMF20130416_00542423

http://www.lavenir.net/article/detail.aspx?articleid=DMF20130416_00297511

Photos and video footage here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/janslangen/sets/72157633260404876/>
and

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.531480320231369.1073741840.100001082184349&type=1>

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B63lcJ7nDX66XzY0Zm85YUVfSEE/edit?usp=sharing>

Event info here: <http://www.claeys-casteels.com/shalegas/>



Today in Brussels a group of activists, opposed to unconventional gas development superglued themselves to the doors at the entrance of an exclusive 995 euro a head industry lobby meeting.

The Conference on Shale Gas brings pro industry academics and 'experts' including gas industry lawyers, climate sceptic think tanks together with EU decision makers -to discuss the future of unconventional gas development in Europe. It takes place behind closed doors, with no environmental groups invited to give the other side of the story.

Jonas from Powershift, one of the groups in the action, said:

'This 2 day meeting is a part of a bigger lobby offensive by the Unconventional Gas industry to push this dangerous technology in Europe.

We are here to tell the decision makers that unconventional gas is unnecessary and unwanted and to tell the organisers that we find these cosy private lobby meetings unacceptable. We want debate about unconventional gas to happen in public.."

The event today takes place just days before the Flemish Environment Minister is expected to give her approval for the first unconventional gas exploration licence in Belgium. This is also a closed process, with no public debate or right to object.

Limburg Gas, (Australian company DART Energy + Flemish Government owned investment agency LRM), want to drill for coal bed methane in the north of Belgium

Stop Steenkoolgas are opposed to this and are calling for a ban on all unconventional gas drilling in Belgium, and across Europe.

Nicola Freeman, coordinator of the campaign explains: "CBM drilling has serious negative impacts on climate, environment, health and local economies. It threatens to lock us into a new generation of fossil fuels and takes attention and investment away from real solutions like energy efficiency and renewable energy in the hands of local people. We don't need any test drillings in Belgium to know that unconventional gas is not the answer to our future energy needs."

Nicola Freeman

Stop Steenkoolgas Campaign Coordinator

Friends of the Earth Flanders & Brussels

www.friendsoftheearth.be

www.facebook.com/StopSteenkoolgas

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNER ACTION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sandra Steingraber , a well known scientist, made a statement that Inergy is guilty of TOXIC trespass.

Who is Sandra Steingraber?

Sandra, is a scholar in residence at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y and an author and cancer Survivor.

She Received the Prestigious Heinz Award Hailed as 'the New Rachel Carson,'" **Dr. Sandra Steingraber Links Toxic Chemical Exposure to Diseases _**
[Sandra Steingraber Press Release 17th Heinz Awards\[1\]](#)

This is a must read, a powerful statement by Sandra Steingraber on her sentencing over trespass on private property owned by the Inergy company. She blocked access to a compressor station site that is being constructed in order to prepare explosive hydrocarbon gases, propane and butane, for storage in abandoned salt caverns that are located beside and beneath Seneca Lake.

<http://www.the-leader.com/newsnow/x987010447/Inergy-protesters-refuse-to-pay-fines-head-to-jail>

Watkins Glen, N.Y. —

Sandra Steingraber and two other activists refused to pay a trespassing fine for a protest at the Inergy property near Watkins Glen, and instead took **15-day jail terms**.

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/raising-elijah-by-sandra-steingraber/sandra-steingraber-prepared-sentencing-statement-for-the-reading-town-court-apri/571372119549941>

Sandra Steingraber: Prepared Sentencing Statement for the Reading Town court, April 17, 2013

by [Raising Elijah by Sandra Steingraber \(Notes\)](#) on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 9:17pm

Your Honor, I am not a lawyer. I am a biologist and a human being. I am also a mother of a 14-year-old and an 11-year-old. I bring all these identities to your courtroom tonight.

I am guilty of an act of trespass. On March 18, I willfully stood on private property owned by the Inergy company and blocked access to a compressor station site that is being constructed in order to prepare explosive hydrocarbon gases, propane and butane, for storage in abandoned salt caverns that are located beside and beneath Seneca Lake.

In my field of environmental health, the word *trespass* has meaning. Toxic trespass refers to involuntary human exposure to a chemical or other pollutant. It is a contamination without consent. It is my belief, as a biologist, that **Inergy is guilty of toxic trespass**. Inergy has been out of compliance with EPA regulations every quarter for the past three years. In spite of this, Inergy applied for, and has received, from the state of New York a permit to discharge, every day, an additional 44,000 pounds of chloride into Seneca Lake. That's 22 tons a day. That's 8000 tons a year. Seneca Lake is a source of drinking water for 100,000 people. Those industrial discharges trespass into the bodies of those who drink it.

Additionally, Inergy's planned 60-foot flare stack will release hazardous air pollutants, including ozone precursors, as will the fleets of diesel trucks hauling propane. This kind of air pollution is linked to heart attack and stroke risk, preterm birth, and asthma in children. Thus does Inergy trespass into our air and lungs. I see this as a real danger to my 11-year-old son, who has a history of asthma. We live 15 miles to the east—directly downwind—from this facility.

Inergy's plans to industrialize the lakeshore will bring 24/7 light and noise pollution into a tranquil community. These forms of trespass also have health consequences, including increased risk for breast cancer and elevated blood pressure.

And because Inergy is building out infrastructure for the storage and transportation of greenhouse gases obtained by fracturing shale, Inergy trespasses into our climate and contributes to its ongoing destabilization at a time when the best science show us that we need to be rapidly moving away from fossil fuels of all kinds.

Lastly, the risk of catastrophic accidents from the storage of liquefied petroleum gases in salt caverns is real. It has happened in at least 10 previous occasions. The [14-acre sinkhole in Belle Rose, Louisiana](#), which is now making headlines, was caused by a collapsed salt cavern. It sent crude oil gushing up into surface water and natural gas into groundwater.

As a biologist, I have submitted expert comments and petitions about Inergy's application for permits to both the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. However, I am hampered in my efforts to judge the structural soundness of the salt caverns because the company that owns them insists that the scientific research that documents the history of these caverns—at least one of which sits on a fault line—is a trade secret.

Your honor, how can geological history become proprietary information? Without access to data, how can any member of the public evaluate the risks we are being compelled to endure by the repurposing of salt caverns into giant underground cigarette lighters?

In closing, my actions were taken to protest the trespass of Inergy into our air, water, bodies, safety, and security. My small, peaceful act of trespass was intended to prevent a much larger, and possibly violent one.

The people of Bellrose, Louisiana, are now facing relocation after the catastrophic collapse of the salt cavern there. Family homes are being abandoned. And the signs on the front lawns of the empty houses read, "No trespassing."

To bring attention to such hazards for the Finger Lakes--and for the act of protecting water, which is life itself--I trespassed. It was an act of civil disobedience. For that, and because I have deep respect for the rule of law, which Inergy company does not, I am willing to go to jail.

GAS (related) COMPANIES NEWS

Article from investors page on Tamboran.

Shale Gas Explorer Tamboran Seeks A\$19.9 Million Seed Finance As It Eyes 2014 IPO

Tamboran is readying its balance sheet to take its early stage exploration portfolio to the next level. The Sydney-based shale gas explorer is raising seed financing of up to A\$19.9 million to fund three **vertical wells** – two in the Ngalia and Pedirka Basins in Australia and one in the **Lough-Allen Basin in Ireland/Northern Ireland** – ahead of an IPO, currently slated for H1 2014. At that point, the company, which is currently sitting on 22.6 million net acres of frontier acreage, hopes to have converted some of the speculative P50 gas-in-place estimate of 149 TCF into prospective resources and contingent reserves and will target a potential A\$150- A\$200 million raise.

That is 12 to 18 months in the future. For now, the focus is a seed raise priced at A\$1.50 per share, the same level that ASX heavyweight Santos executed a A\$10 million investment in December 2012, when it took a 14 per cent stake in Tamboran. This price values Tamboran's acreage at A\$2.83 per acre, which is a discount to similar transactions in Australia's fast-emerging unconventional resource sector.

In March 2011, for example, Falcon and Hess struck a JV for acreage adjacent to Tamboran's Beetaloo Basin position priced at A\$13 per acre. Other frontier basin deals, such as Statoil's entry into the McArthur and Georgina Basins with PetroFrontier in June 2012 or the Santos and Total deals with ASX-quoted Central Petroleum of Q4 2012, have ranged from US\$3 to US\$8 per acre. All of these, of course, were early stage positions: the aim is to derisk the proposition and move the acreage up the value chain to get the kind of US\$848 per acre valuation achieved when Chevron made its bet on Australia's shale gas potential when it acquired Beach Energy's Cooper Basin interests in February 2013.

That kind of valuation uplift is the end prize. Much work has to be done first to demonstrate the shale gas potential of these frontier lands. That requires cash and Tamboran did well in December 2012 when it landed a cash-rich partner to accelerate the work programme across its acreage in the Beetaloo/McArthur Basins in Australia's Northern Territory. Santos agreed to invest A\$10 million for a 14 per cent stake in Tamboran (which can be increased to 20 per cent if Tamboran succeeds in raising A\$20 million on the same terms – the current seed raise is below this top-up trigger). Santos will also earn equity in the EP 161, 162, 189 and EP(A) 299 permits in two stages phased over three years. The first stage involves an A\$41 million commitment to earn a 50 per cent stage, with stage two involving another A\$30 million spend to increase its stake to 75 per cent. This means Tamboran will be fully funded on this acreage for the next three years. This year Santos will acquire 455 km of seismic and next year, following the IPO, will deliver a three-well-plus drilling programme.

Elsewhere in the Northern Territory, Tamboran owns 100 per cent of 8 million net acres in the Pedirka-Eromanga Basin that could host 12 TCF of gas in place, with stacked play potential in the Poolawanna Sands, Peera Peera Shale and unconventional Walkandi Fm structures. Importantly, the company reckons that this acreage could lie in the liquids window, with the potential for oil at depths of 2,000 to 2,500 metres. There has been drilling in the area and there's some regional seismic and gravity data. Activity here, however, will kick off following the 2014 IPO, when Tamboran hopes to get busy with seismic acquisition and stratigraphic drilling.

The company also has 100 per cent of 3.6 million net acres in the Ngalia Basin, with a gas-in-place estimate of 50 TCF. Significantly, there's a gas pipeline to the east of the basin. There has been some successful drilling in the area. Again, work will start following the 2014 IPO.

In Ireland and Northern Ireland, the company holds what it calls a drill-ready exploration project that could be an analogue to the prolific Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas. There's extensive data here from 13 vertical wells, six of which have been successfully fracked, plus over 770 km of vintage 2D seismic and extensive drill cuttings and cores. Independent consultants reckon there could be 3 TCF of recoverable gas in the Bundoran Shale, with additional upside in additional shale formations. Inhouse modelling of long term well economics suggest that a Bundoran well could cost US\$4.39 million all in and deliver an initial production rate of 1.5 million cf/d with a five per cent decline rate: at a gas price of US\$11 per MCF, the company would see payout within 22 months. This year the aim is to drill a test 1,500 metre stratigraphic well to provide proof of concept, leading to post-IPO 3D seismic and further drilling in 2015.

The final leg to the company's portfolio lies in southern Africa, where it has a position in the Gemsbok Basin in Botswana. This is a real frontier but Tamboran isn't the first to spot the opportunity here: Shell and Falcon/Chevron are exploring in the basin across the border in South Africa. The company, which has a credible management team that has worked on early shale basin development projects around the world, is keen to add further projects to the portfolio.

These are challenging times for small companies and the pre-IPO seed round will be a key test of continuing investor appetite for the shale gas story. The fact that Australian major Santos has become a cornerstone investor in both the company and one of its Northern Territory projects will certainly aid credibility as investors weigh the business case.

POLITICAL NEWS

Economy

Published on Wednesday 17th April 2013

“Decisions on fracking will be based on scientific evidence.” – Rabbitte.

SPEECH BY PAT RABBITTE TD

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

DECISIONS ON FRACKING WILL BE BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Information Session on Fracking, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin

17th April 2013

Chairman, fellow Oireachtas members, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to be invited to give the opening address to this meeting. I think it is an opportune time for the Royal Irish Academy to host such a discussion, to place scientific facts on the record and to do so in a calm and measured way. I applaud the initiative of the Academy and our two Geological Surveys, north and south, in arranging the meeting and in organising it so as to facilitate decision-makers both here and in Northern Ireland.

The subject of the meeting is a method of recovering unconventional oil and gas of which most laypeople would have been completely ignorant up to a couple of years ago – although the technology is I understand more than 50 years old. Within the last two years, however, the terms ‘hydraulic fracturing’ and ‘fracking’ have become common in public debate. But I am not sure there is much greater clarity yet as to what precisely is involved or what exactly may be at stake.

Full speech: <http://www.merrionstreet.ie/index.php/2013/04/decisions-on-fracking-will-be-based-on-scientific-evidence-rabbitte/>

Royal Irish Academy information briefing on fracking - <http://www.ria.ie/News/The-Royal-Irish-Academy-Information-Briefing-on-Fr.aspx>

Presentations:

Shale Gas and water related issues - Rob Ward - <http://www.ria.ie/getmedia/3c4115c6-c265-42b3-93d8-8c9f1c7d5983/Shale-Gas-and-Water-Related-Issues.pdf.aspx>

Hydraulic Fracturing Technology, safeguards and remaining issues – Davies - <http://www.ria.ie/getmedia/ccbc42a4-d97a-4979-8e8d-2d34467ecea/ Hydraulic-Fracturing-Technology--Safeguards-and-Remaining-Issues.pdf.aspx>

Fracking Big Bad Monster or Economic Deliverer? - <http://www.ria.ie/getmedia/2ed6931b-637e-4091-a730-af551ef3863f/Fracking---Big-Bad-Monster-or-Economic-Deliverer.pdf.aspx>

Brian Meaney - MEP

Background to Own-initiative Opinion on "Local and Regional Authorities perspective on Shale/Tight Gas and Oil (unconventional hydrocarbons)"

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/MeetingWithBrianMeaney_April122013.pdf

more: <http://frackingfreeireland.org/politics-related-info/>

BRIAN left the Greens http://www.clare.fm/news/green-party-confirms-its-clare-councillor-leave-party?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed

CORRESPONDENCE – LETTERS

LETTER TO THE MINISTER

Dear minister,

You stated in your address today that fracking technology was fifty years old. If this was the case, may I ask respectfully why America was importing oil and gas from the Opec nations until very recently? The technology has only in the last decade been advanced to include high volume slick water horizontal fracturing, which has garnered a natural gas glut in the US, (and after more than a million wells have been drilled!)

You paraphrase the constant mantra of the industry that "science" will protect our vulnerable communities, but neglected to quote any of the very easily researched evidence on the well bore failures of refracked bores, the methane leakage, and the vast land usage such industry will require on our small island. The gas will have to be cleaned, stored, transported, piped, liquified, not to forget the sheer volume of water required for this enterprize. again, respectfully, where will the toxic and possibly radioactive waste water be treated and stored? We cordially invite a member of your staff or rresearchers to attend our presentation on May 2nd in Leitrim Village Community Center, by a leading Lock the Gate Alliance campaigner from Australia.

A formal invitation to your office will follow in due course. The presentation focuses on the Gasfields communities of Australia and their experience of fracking: not internet garnered "fracts", but hard evidence of methane leaking into rivers and water courses, health and air quality compromised in rural, remote areas, and a complete disregard by the profit driven gas companies of the negative impacts of their industry on the afflicted communities in their midst. We remain resolute in the face of a media blackout on any balanced reportage of the true scale of the devastation this industry has wrought in Australia, Canada, and the US, to campaign and inform communities of the true scale of the irreversible damage unconventional fossil fuel extraction will wreak on our island, if "safe" and "rigorously regulated" onshore shale , tight sands, and CBM extraction is given the green light in the future.

Yours,

Meg Rybicki-Mcauley **NORTH WEST NETWORK against fracking**

NORTHERN IRELAND

Letter published on an industry site by Majella-

<http://www.pennenergy.com/wirenews/oilgasnews/2013/04/02/letters-prospecting-licence-a-dreadful-proposal.html>

Letters - Prospecting licence a dreadful proposal

April 2, 2013

I believe I can bring your readers some follow-up news to an article that appeared in The Irish News headlined "Ireland could be hiding huge stores of oil and gas" (January 9).

The article featured Susan Morrice, chairwoman of the oil exploration company Belize Natural Energy (BNE).

On March 25, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment published an advertisement in the Northern Ireland press inviting the public to consult on a proposed petroleum prospecting licence.

The licence area covers large swathes of Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Derry and Armagh and stretches from Maghera down to Armagh, to Holywood via Belfast city centre and back up to the outskirts of Ballymena. Lough Neagh, which supplies 40 per cent of the drinking water to Northern Ireland, is now totally hemmed in by petroleum licences.

There are strong indications that these licences will involve prospecting for unconventional natural gas and oil and that ultimately fracking will be required.

The licence is in the name of CHx Capital LLC (Denver, Colorado).

BNE works in partnership with CHx Capital in Belize. The chairman of CHx is Ms Morrice's ex-husband.

In the Irish News article Ms Morrice described the process of fracking as "an environmentally sensitive form of drilling". It beggars belief how she could have uttered such a claim.

Fracking is a dirty industrial process that pollutes the environment and damages the health of the people in the fracking zones.

There is a one-month consultation period during which you can make representations to Deti. Please exercise your right to have your say about this dreadful proposal.

Majella McCarron, Belfast BT6.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...



A small funding could be available...

We're just ten days off the application deadline for Round 2 and so far we've only received 33 applications. Of course, most of the applications are likely to arrive in the last few days, but at this point in the last round we had over 100. So I wanted to please ask that you let as many groups know as you can that there is still time to apply.

Could you please send on the attached flier to people you think might be interested or those who can spread the word throughout different networks? You can also direct them to this page on our website which has information about how to apply: <http://edgefund.org.uk/how-to-apply>.

Sophie Pritchard
Edge Fund

07767 126 915

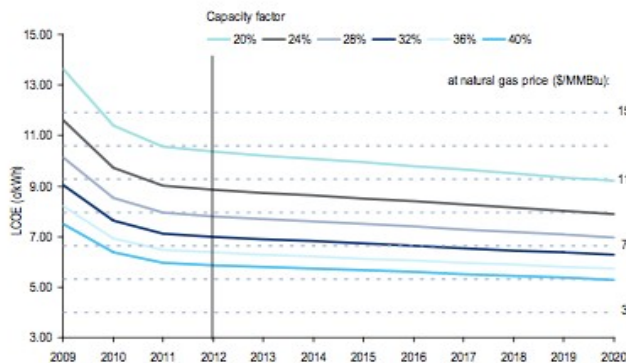
www.edgefund.org.uk

www.facebook.com/edgefund

www.twitter.com/theedgefund

Wind is already cheaper...

Figure 8. Wind is already cheaper than CCGT electricity in high-priced gas markets, and in windier regions can compete with cheap shale



Source: Citi Research

[The 'unstoppable' renewable grid](#)

MOVIES- SONGS

Must watch movies

Tony Ingraffea - Cornell Prof- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhS4RNs_YEc

Jeanette Barth - the economist - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gu74Yifdx8>

Sandra Steingraber - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OggHbQEL-IM>

Q & A - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCYUdLJSav8>

Festival - <http://www.festivalmillenium.org/en/>

They screened the PIPE a few years ago.

IRISH NEWS

Leitrim Observer: Fracking promoted to reduce energy costs

Published on 18/04/2013 08:30

The Government's economic advisory body, Forfás has publicly backed the use of fracking in Ireland to reduce energy costs for homes and businesses.

The Forfás 'Costs of Doing Business in Ireland' report published this month has called on the Government to facilitate the development of 'new and diverse sources of gas (e.g. fracking)'. The group is the State's advisory body on enterprise and economic development. Forfás stated, "A reliable and competitively priced supply of energy is vital for business and its ability to compete successfully in international markets."

The report recommends "It is critical that the new energy policy framework to be developed by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources facilitates the development

of gas storage and new and diverse sources of gas (e.g. fracking) to ensure that Ireland has a cost-effective, secure and diverse electricity fuel mix in the future." The said reducing energy use is one of the most effective ways for companies to reduce their energy costs.

The annual report examines input costs for Irish businesses particularly those which hamper economic growth and reduce Ireland's competitiveness. It points to the high cost of energy as a major issue for small-to-medium sized enterprises and as a barrier to further economic growth and competitiveness.

The report's authors found that electricity costs for small-to-medium sized enterprises are now amongst the highest in the euro area, while gas for industrial customers is the sixth highest.

The report says that increased domestic gas supplies would reduce Ireland's dependence on imported gas and ensure greater security of supply.

Tamboran Resources who are seeking exploration licences to assess the viability to frack for gas in North Leitrim welcomed the report.

A Tamboran spokesperson told the Leitrim Observer, "Tamboran welcomes the positive comments in support of shale gas made by Forfas in its recent report. Forfas in its role as a key economic advisor to Government is respected and recognised. In recommending that the Government develop Ireland's own natural gas reserves, Forfas is reflecting the growing concern amongst households and businesses about the high cost of energy prices in Ireland.

Forfas's recommendations are also a sign that our policymakers appreciate the competitive disadvantage which Ireland faces because of high energy costs and are now exploring long-term solutions to address this problem, including the development of shale gas."

In another report recently published in Journal of Marine and Petroleum Geology recently, it claims fracking is "not a significant cause of earthquakes that can be felt on the surface."

Sinn Féin MLA Phil Flanagan in Fermanagh/South Tyrone MLA said, "This report is the latest in a long list of narrow pieces of work carried out into fracking, which completely fails to look at the wider issues raised by those opposed to it.

"It ignores concerns of widespread environmental damage, the impact on public health, the potential for water contamination all through causing earthquakes under the surface.

"Whether fracking causes earthquakes that can be felt on the surface is largely irrelevant. What is much more important is its potential to leak harmful poisons into our water supply.

"Without addressing all of the concerns that those of us opposed to fracking have, this report will play very little part in the debate that needs to happen on whether we allow fracking to take place in Ireland or not."

<http://www.leitrimobserver.ie/news/local/fracking-promoted-to-reduce-energy-costs-1-5004954>

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write a letter to the Leitrim Observer/The Irish Times and use the facts you will find in the documents below!

Some arguments to help undermine the economic success story of shale gas.

<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/take/the-murky-future-of-us-shale-gas/157economy>

And an excellent document:

http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Microsoft-Word-Economic-arguments-against-shale-gas-extraction_Andy-Gheor.pdf

Fracking hasn't gone away, you know

Feathers still being ruffled on explosive issue

Mention "fracking" in some parts of the country (we're looking at you, Leitrim) and the reception might be less than welcoming. Presumably aware of this, the Government has been cautious on deciding whether it likes or dislikes the practice. Advocates point to a new, cost-effective source of fuel; enemies cite potential risks to water supply.

Last year, the Government sidestepped the controversy by saying it was awaiting further research and, in January, the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) stepped into this breach by launching a public consultation on the draft terms of reference for research into fracking. That public consultation closed in March, with the research itself expected to be commissioned around the middle of the year. Clearly, nothing is to be decided quickly.

It was thus a small surprise to see [Forfás](#), the State adviser on science and innovation among other subjects, enter the fracking fray. In its annual *Costs of Doing Business in Ireland* study, under the energy policy section, it recommends the development of a new energy framework to facilitate "the development of gas storage and new and diverse sources of gas (eg fracking) to ensure that Ireland has a cost-effective, secure and diverse electricity fuel mix in the future".

Nestled on page 71 of a 100- page report, the potentially explosive reference hardly stands out, but that doesn't mean it won't ruffle feathers.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/business/sectors/energy-and-resources/fracking-hasn-t-gone-away-you-know-1.1357444>

Extra 20,000 jobs forecast for tourism

AN expected surge in the growth of hospitality and tourism in Northern Ireland means 20,000 extra jobs will be created in the sector over the next seven years, according to new research.

People 1st, the skills council for hospitality, passenger transport, travel and tourism, also said that 4,300 of those will be employed in management and "senior official" roles.

Its 2013 State of the Nation report said that while the sector decreased in size between 2010 and 2011, heavy investment and a number of world-class events here will drive tourism over the next few years.

Co Antrim tipped to yield oil bonanza

A TOTAL of 450 million barrels of oil could be beneath Co Antrim.

Based on a seismic survey carried out by Surrey firm Infrastrata over the past two years, geosciences engineers Merlin Energy Resources has

said there are "significant potential resources". Infrastrata said it has funding to bankroll exploration of the site and expects to test drill the Larne-Lough Neagh basin, running from the tip of Lough Neagh to Larne, with months.

Cow mattresses prove a win-win all round

A COLERAINE company is now making comfy mattresses and pillows for cows with recycled tyres from Cork.

Wilson Agriculture's link-up has generated additional sales of over £178,000 and cost savings of £3,000.

The firm manufactures a range of products that improve conditions for cows and increase milk yields. The cow mattresses require 65kg of crumb rubber filling material and the collaboration has provided a sustainable solution for recycled tyres.

The supplier has another customer while Wilson Agriculture has been able to convert the material into a high-value product for the agricultural sector and improved its environmental credentials.

Comments by a campaigner:

Notice how they put the article on an Oil find in the Larne area with an article on tourism on the same page.

They go hand in hand.. dont they?

Well so it seems to the magazine.

This magazine always portrays possible drilling of oil and gas in NI as a really positive thing.

If you disagree ..

please feel free to contact the editor who in a prior correspondence with myself stated he was all for Fracking.

DAVID ELLIOT

d.elliott@businessmonth.co.uk

EU -NEWS

THE NETHERLANDS



Shale Gas (probably) deposits in the Netherlands

Interesting Dutch news article.

It says that Heineken and other **Dutch brewers are against shale gas exploration** as long as it is not proven that it will not affect groundwater. Also Coca Cola en Pepsico are 'sceptical' about drillings as long as guarantees for safety are not in place.

<http://www.nu.nl/economie/3399879/bierbrouwers-keren-zich-schaliegaswinning.html>

ANP: Trouw: **Brouwers en bottelaars sluiten zich aan bij schaliegas-verzet**

Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2013 09:04:51 +0200

Brouwers en bottelaars sluiten zich aan bij schaliegas-verzet

Hans Marijnissen - 17/04/13, 08:41

© Trouw.

De grote bierbrouwers **Heineken, Grolsch en Bavaria** zijn tegen de winning van schaliegas zolang niet is bewezen dat het Nederlandse grondwater onaangetast blijft. Ook frisdrankfabrikanten als **Coca Cola en Pepsico** zeggen 'sceptisch' over de boringen te zijn, zolang veiligheids garanties ontbreken.*

The three brewers and coca cola and pepsico are sceptic to fracking

De bierbouwers en frisdrankfabrikanten omarmen hiermee de zorgen van waterleidingbedrijf Vitens, dat vorige week in Trouw waarschuwde dat bij boringen naar schaliegas de Nederlandse drinkwatervoorraden onherstelbaar beschadigd kunnen raken.

The brewers agree with the water supplier VITENS that warned the government that fracking could cause irreversible damage to the aquifer.

Bij een grootschalige calamiteit kan zelfs de levering van drinkwater in gevaar komen.

10.000's people could be affected/have no water for a long period, if a catastrophe happened

Tienduizenden mensen komen dan langdurig zonder water te zitten.

Underground water is the most important ingredient for Beer and Soft drinks

Grondwater vormt het belangrijkste ingrediënt voor bier en frisdrank. De bescherming van het grondwater is voor ons daarom een absolute prioriteit, aldus Taco Juriaanse van Nederlandse Brouwers, waarbij nagenoeg alle bierfabrikanten zijn aangesloten. "Schaliegaswinning en andere activiteiten in de bodem mogen geen aantasting van het grondwater tot gevolg hebben. Zolang dat niet is bewezen, zien we de winning van schaliegas met zorg tegemoet."

De Nederlandse vereniging Frisdranken, Waters, Sappen (FWS) onder Leiding van ex-milieu-staatssecretaris Van Geel, laat zich in dezelfde bewoordingen uit. "Schaliegaswinning en andere activiteiten in de bodem mogen geen verontreiniging van het grondwater tot gevolg hebben. Zolang dat niet is bewezen, zijn we sceptisch over de winning van schaliegas", aldus een woordvoerder. Naast Coca-Cola en Pepsico zijn grote spelers als Hero, FrieslandCampina en Danone bij de FWS aangesloten.

Fracken

Om bij het schaliegas te komen, moet door de watervoerende aardlagen heen worden geboord. Deze lagen staan vaak met elkaar in verbinding. Bij winning van schaliegas worden op grote diepte, onder hoge druk grote hoeveelheden water, zand en chemicaliën in steenlagen gespoten. Door dit zogeheten fracken ontstaan scheurtjes waaruit het gas vrijkomt.

Mocht daarbij iets mis gaan, dan is de verontreiniging van de Nederlandse watervoorraad een 'onomkeerbaar proces', aldus topvrouw Lieve Declercq van Vitens, Nederlands grootste waterleverancier, vorige week in Trouw. Het waterbedrijf vindt net als de brouwers en de frisdrankfabrikanten dan ook dat er niet naar schaliegas moet worden geboord, voordat alle risico's in kaart zijn gebracht en calamiteiten uitgesloten.

De Rijksoverheid heeft al meerdere opsporingsvergunningen voor onconventionele fossiele brandstoffen' afgegeven, die ook voorzien in proefboringen. Zo liggen er vergunningen klaar voor de Noordoostpolder en het Brabantse Boxtel. Daarnaast zijn er aanvragen gedaan voor vergunningen in Noord-Holland, Utrecht, Flevoland en Gelderland. Er geldt echter een boorverbod totdat er een onderzoek is verschenen dat in opdracht van het ministerie van economische zaken is uitgevoerd naar de risico's. Dat wordt vóór 1 juli verwacht.

Het debat over schaliegas in de Tweede Kamer dat vandaag zou worden gehouden,

is in verband met het sociaal akkoord uitgesteld tot volgende week.

The debate about shale gas that should take place today is postponed to next week

Disclaimer

This newsletter aims to be an open, international information platform about unconventional shale gas extraction. I see my role as a facilitator for all concerned people, to inform them and post their comments (like a letter to the editor in a newspaper). For that reason I aim to be as neutral as possible and I am not liaised to any anti-fracking group or political party.
Ineke Scholte

