

Fracking Matters Newsletter 01-114 (132) – 8January 2014

Contact details: [Web Fracking Free Ireland](#) and [Fracking Matters Newsletter](#)



Ban Fracking on the Island of Ireland

Leonard Peltier



“I don’t know how
to save the world.
I don’t have
the answers or
The Answer.

I hold no secret knowledge as to how to fix the mistakes of generations past and present. I only know that without compassion and respect for all of Earth’s inhabitants, none of us will survive — nor will we deserve to.”

THE 21 CENTURY WILL BE THE 'WAR OF MIND' (Churchill(?))

It seems Europe is speeding up the development of Shale Gas Extraction
read more in this newsletter

- Kentz in Ireland and now Sandvik in Sweden acquires international energy services (fracking equipment, services, knowledge)
- Tamboran starts to meet with Fermanagh District council re. Testdrillings
- Ireland is speeding up to become a supplier for (renewable) energies: huge windfarms in the midwest and very high pylons and high voltage powerlines
- eirgrid for sale
- EU is not keen to regulate fracking, no ban on fracking, no strict regulations, only recommendations!

In the meantime we are 'awaiting the outcome of the EPA report' (in 2016, 2017 and " no decision will be made... (according to the government) but it seems the preparations for fracking are in full swing!

PEOPLE OF IRELAND – WAKE UP!!
take action now
attend demonstrations, write letters, email, tweet politicians,

It will be a tough year, but keep strong!

Happy, Fracking Free New Year

UPCOMING EVENTS - National

ENNISKILLEN ANTI – FRACKING DEMO Thursday 9 Jan 6.30 Town Hall Enniskillen (gathering Linnen Hall 6.00 pm)

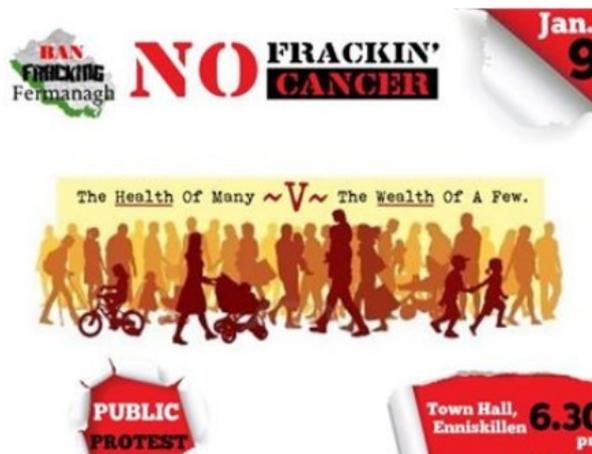
 **Ban Fracking Fermanagh**
 19 hours ago · Edited

ATTENTION!! READ & SHARE!! The following public PROTEST is in direct response to the planned visit by Tamboran Resources representative, Dr. Tony Bazley, to address the Environment Health Committee (in closed session) at Fermanagh District Council on Thursday, 9 January.

The purpose of his visit is to update the committee on Tamboran's work to date and their future plans to 'frack' OUR county!!

As an act of solidarity, Ban Fracking Fermanagh would like to invite ALL our fellow anti-fracking groups & concerned citizens, North & South, to attend this PEACEFUL protest at the Town Hall, Enniskillen on Jan 9th commencing @ 6.30pm..

For further information please pm this page.. — with Liam Johnston and 31 others.



Source: Ban Fracking Fermanagh (facebook)

<https://www.facebook.com/BanFrackingFermanaghCampaign>

Jan the 13th, Leitrim will be voting on the county development plan, we will need everyone their children, friends and neighbours to be outside the offices to say NO BAN means NO VOTE .

FFAN have organised a screening of

"Fracking in Fermanagh. What Could it Mean".

Belcoo Community Centre, Wed 8th – 7pm

<http://www.frackaware.com/wordpress/>

Development Day

Hi all,

The next development day of anti-fracking groups is proposed to take place in Sligo on Saturday January 18th at a venue yet to be confirmed starting at 11am. If you are interested in attending please confirm as soon as possible as to ensure an adequate number of participants from different groups preferably North and South.

The philosophy behind the development days has been to try and encourage more effective cooperation and communication between the different groups and an aim, vision and objectives was agreed upon by participants at the previous meetings. These development days have been facilitated by Teresa Butler and Peter Kearns and they have kindly agreed to do so again on this occasion. Following on from the work that has been done by all the different groups the meeting on Jan 18th will hopefully help us to continue to work together effectively and cohesively and prioritise pressing actions North and South.

I have again attached a copy of the report of the previous Development Day which was hosted by No Fracking Dublin in September 2013. If anyone has emails for other groups please let them know. Please confirm attendance by Saturday Jan 11th. To: revolt682000@gmail.com

Thanks

Jamie Muphy

LL member

More info: <http://www.loveleitrim.org/>

Conference: Upgrading the National Grid- European Best Practice and Alternative Options

Friday 14th of February 2014

Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny

Title: Upgrading the National Grid- European Best Practice and Alternative Options

Date: Friday 14th of February 2014 from 7pm to 9pm

Where: Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny

Why: The conference will feature a number of distinguished speakers from the European public and private sector including the European Commission. The purpose of the event is to look at the situation across the European Union in relation to the upgrading of grid networks to examine best practice models and realistic alternatives.

Please RSVP to phil@philprendergast.ie or simply show up on the day, all welcome!

CAMPAIGN NEWS – NATIONAL

Shoppers sign petition asking Stormont to ban fracking

<http://www.impartialreporter.com/news/roundup/articles/2014/01/03/403482-shoppers-sign-petition-asking-stormont-to-ban-fracking-/>

UPCOMING EVENTS – INTERNATIONAL

Alan Seatter, Deputy Director General, Environment at the European Commission, is giving evidence about shale gas to a UK Parliamentary Committee next Tuesday (14th January) at 4.30pm UK time.

It is a committee of the House of Lords and is stacked with pro-frackers like the well-known climate sceptic Lord Lawson (see [here](#) for his views). The Committee will obviously want to question him about the EU's position and whether it should interfere with the UK pushing ahead with fracking.

I hope to listen in to the evidence and tweet about what is said, so if you want to know what Mr Seatter says, you can watch live at <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Home.aspx> or follow me on Twitter at @tonybosworth

Tony Bosworth

CAMPAIGN NEWS INTERNATIONAL

EU - Brussels democracy??

The Romanian diaspora tried to organise a protest in solidarity with Pungesti in Brussels, in front of the USA Embassy, next week, on the 16th of January. Surprise-surprise, their application got rejected!!! With no explanation...that at the "core" of the European democracy...what a ridiculous joke!

Previously, the Romanians living in Madrid organised a protest in front of the US Embassy, 3 weekend in a row, with the same purpose, and it went all peacefully...Just to see how different European countries react to the most elementary right of the citizens: the right to protest. It was not enough that it takes 10 working days to get a permit to protest in Brussels (which is indeed outrageous, taking into account that such situations need rapid reactions), now they are not even granting this right. It is simply unacceptable!

What has happened to the European "democracy", a commodity that the EU was so willing to export over its borders, to its neighbours and even further away??? I think the red line has been passed long ago in Europe and the abuses against the antifracking protests throughout Europe (especially in the UK, Romania and Poland) have been among the most blatant breaches of elementary norms of democracy and citizens rights.

Sincerely yours,

Maria Olteanu

TAKE ACTION

1. ENNISKILLEN ANTI – FRACKING DEMO Thursday 9 Jan 6.30 Town Hall Enniskillen (gathering Linnen Hall 6.00 pm)

From Ban Fracking Fermanagh

<https://www.facebook.com/BanFrackingFermanaghCampaign>

Despite the announcement that Mr. Bazley may or may not turn up this Thursday to meet with Fermanagh District Council, **the planned demo is going ahead.**

Public representatives need to be reminded that they represent the interests of the people not the few who will be the only ones to benefit from this destructive industry.

We are united in a growing, global movement to ban 'fracking'.

This Thurs 6:30pm - 9pm it's still on in Fermanagh. Groups meeting from 6:00pm, in the Linnen Hall, Enniskillen.

Spread the word, Tweet, share, post and tell your friends. We have all seen Barton Moss, Balcombe and others. If you don't believe peaceful protest is effective watch the clip from the link I'll add below then be inspired. See you on Thursday.

[https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=617219344992672&set=a.583443178370289.1073741825.582012601846680&type=1&heater¬if_t=like)

[fbid=617219344992672&set=a.583443178370289.1073741825.582012601846680&type=1&heater¬if_t=like](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=617219344992672&set=a.583443178370289.1073741825.582012601846680&type=1&heater¬if_t=like)

Brewing Up A Twitter STORM!!

To coincide with Dr. Bazley's visit to address FDC's Environmental Health Committee this Thursday (Jan 9th), we want to make the topic of #fracking the No.1 trend in Ireland & UK!!

This Thursday, between 7-9pm, we will be calling for a mobilization of fractivists & people opposed to #fracking accross Ireland & UK to simultaneously tweet/retweet your opinions, links, pics etc using the hashtag, **#irelandfrackfree**.

Also, for those living in NI, to ensure that our Stormont politicians are paying attention, we would ask YOU all to express your opposition to #fracking by directing your tweets to the following: **@MarkHDurkan @DUPlader @M_McGuinness_SF**

JOIN US in our campaign to keep #irelandfrackfree

2. Jan the 13th, Leitrim will be voting on the county development plan, we will need everyone their children, friends and neighbours to be outside the offices to say NO BAN means NO VOTE .

3. Flood our politicians with emails re. Fracking and flooding (see special topic below)

4. GUARANTEED FRACKING FREE - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/01/08/take-action-guaranteed-fracking-free-food/>



Tweet:

Fracking poisons food <http://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org/our-programs/fracking/whats-wrong-with-fracking-2/farming-and-fracking/>

Musgraves, Tesco, Lidl and M&S have no policies re buying food from regions being fracked.

Email:

Query:

Haspolicies relating to purchasing meat/milk or fruit/vegetables produced in rural regions where the fracking industry is active?

Contact details:

Lidl: press@lidl.ie

Customer Services Dept

David Corway

Phone: [+353\(0\)45 853 418](tel:+353045853418)

Tesco: customer.services@tesco.ie

Nicholas Wheeler

Tesco Ireland Customer Service

Musgrave Group/Supervalue: www.musgrave.ie

Sue Lamon-Diver

Head of Communications

Musgrave Retail Partners Ireland

(086) 227 3397

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- Love Leitrim is not willing to post the Fracking Matters Newsletter on their website any longer ?
- Leitrim County Councillor **Enda McGloin** [emcgloin@leitrimcoco.ie] did unsubscribe to the Fracking Matters Newsletter.
- **Europe is preparing for a Shale Gas Revolution...**

At present not only [Ireland](#), (by Kentz and Valerus)

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/2013/12/29/ireland-preparing-for-fracking-kentz-and-valerus-field-solutions/> but also **Sweden** acquires Energy Services

Sandvik acquires Varel International Energy Services Inc.

<http://news.cision.com/sandvik/r/sandvik-acquires-varel-international-energy-services-inc-,c9518124>

- The Guaranteed Fracking Free Food Campaign is growing.
Jim Connolly info@irishcitizensparty.com received a reply from Mark and Spencer and they have no policy on fracking free food.

"I have had serious correspondence with M&S on the fracking/policy issue which went right to the top executives in the UK. Regrettably the final outcome falls short of a ban but refers to concerns and carefully 'monitoring the fracking debate' etc

In these circumstances I informed them I will be mentioning them as having no policies in publishing their position (which I have started to do already)"

TWEETS and Emails with contact details [here](#):

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/01/08/take-action-guaranteed-fracking-free-food/>



LETTERS - CORRESPONDENCE

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ineke. Re [Newsletter 41-13 \(131\)](#) and my thoughts about its contents: My impression is that, at last, a picture is emerging as to what pitfalls our campaign faces and the hidden road blocks that have been there, for so long, that we may hardly be in time and able to stop the rot.

I thank you for your mention that I am an Independent candidate in the Carrick Area for next May's Co Co elections. I'm putting it on record that I want a complete ban on fracking put into the Co Leitrim Development Plan. Approving the new Plan is one of the "reserved functions" enjoyed by Cllrs. They are awful fools if they cede that right to officials etc. They are most negligent of their offices and functions if they allow Co Co officials to intimidate them or brainwash them. In fact they would be unfit for office.

I've absorbed what your Newsletter states, (through the campaigner comments) about GEAI's meandering attitude towards the insertion of a ban. My impression is that those people (whoever they may be) want to have their cake and eat it. I have noted, way back, that they wanted more "scientific study" about fracking. Did they never hear of Dimock, in Pennsylvania ?. How much study is needed after we read up about Dimock? Are they posing as one of us while seeking the approval of government, Co Cos, and fracking speculators (like Tamboran)? Are they seeking a place on the board of the EPA?

GEAI opposed my proposal, of well over a year ago, that we should form an All-Ireland Committee to plan and to guide the fight against the horrors of fracking. We really need coordination and not be drifting.

I agree with the campaigner's comments. By presenting themselves as a sort of scientific group opposed to fracking and, at the same time, not actively prepared to fight for our rights and take on the frackers they "have done untold damage to our cause". They do NOT represent me.

Another cause of concern to me is that what I regard as official environmentalists (like NPWS, Dept of Environment) and those extreme environmentalists who wish to put a ban on turf cutting on all bogs in Ireland, are "noticeable by their ABSENCE" from this current fight against the frackers. Now, what is their real agenda?.

I, also, note that the kind of coverage given to fracking, in the Leitrim Observer etc, is likely to have the psychological effect of "normalising" fracking. I, personally, am banned from writing to the Letters page of the Observer - where I could complain about this "softening up " of the public. What do you, O Reader, think might be done about this?

Best wishes for a frack-free year and decade ahead.

Des Guckian. dguucks@yahoo.com

Six Co. Clare families stranded - <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/six-co-clare-families-stranded-as-sea-engulfs-road-1.1645976>

Dear Sir,

In your article of Monday, 6 January 2014, "Six Co Clare families stranded as sea engulfs road", you report that six households on the Loophead peninsula have been stranded since Thursday, 2 January, by flood waters that have engulfed the road to the nearest village of

Carrigaholt.

The Loophead peninsula (recipient of the Irish Times best tourism destination in 2013) is one of the areas where hydraulic fracturing for shale gas extraction will occur if the government allows it.

If hydraulic fracturing were underway now on the Loophead peninsula, the gas wells would be underwater, as would be the vast reservoirs of highly toxic wastewater that are generally constructed (in the form of open pits dug into the ground) at each well pad site. This toxic wastewater is produced in enormous quantities and contains cancer-causing and endocrine-disrupting chemicals, as well as the naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORMs) that come out of the ground with the flowback water.

Even under ideal meteorological circumstances, numerous studies from the USA and elsewhere have shown that hydraulic fracturing pollutes surface and ground water, as well as the air, and poses serious health risks for people and animals. To allow this highly polluting practice in an area subject to the sort of severe storms and flooding that we are seeing at present would be madness.

Ireland should be proud of its current "Guaranteed Fracking Free" status and should protect it by enacting a permanent ban on hydraulic fracturing without further delay.

Sincerely,

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/six-co-clare-families-stranded-as-sea-engulfs-road-1.1645976>



THOUGHTS – OPINION

Ireland - The Next Saudi Arabia? - <http://iontach.hubpages.com/hub/Ireland-The-Next-Saudi-Arabia>

SPECIAL TOPIC - Prepare and educate yourself, some 'homework' Flooding and fracking

STUDY A REPORT

Received from a campaigner:

Read/study the **Standing Orders of Leitrim County Council** which everyone should familiarise themselves with before the Council meeting next Monday. A lot of what happens at the Council meetings is a mystery to people because they don't have the basic rules of how the Council is meant operate. If people study these rules before the next Council meeting, they should have a better idea of what is taking place on Monday.

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Leitrim-County-Council-STANDING-ORDERS.pdf>

STUDY THE THREAT AND RESULTS OF FRACKING AND FLOODING and wake up our politicians

Six County Clare families stranded- <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/six-co-clare-families-stranded-as-sea-engulfs-road-1.1645976>

Did floods cause a fracking disaster in colorado

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/09/19/did-floods-cause-a-fracking-disaster-in-colorado.html>

Actions by campaigners - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/2014/01/08/take-action-fracking-and-flooding/>

See letter from Sarah (also in this newsletter) sent to the Irish Times (not published) and flood and fracking article from Sian Cowman
<http://www.inshore-ireland.com/News/flooding-and-fracking-don-t-mix.html>

General action – flood our politicians with emails

Dear TD,

With the recent bad weather, I'd like to remind you that if high-volume slickwater hydraulic fracturing (fracking) goes ahead in Ireland, there will be serious problems with flooding of the fracking wastewater storage ponds - these contain the toxic flowback fluids that return to the surface after fracking takes place.

Colorado has had this problem after their historic floods last year -
<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/09/19/did-floods-cause-a-fracking-disaster-in-colorado.html>

Please see the article from Sian Cowman on this issue in the Irish context in the magazine Inshore Ireland - <http://www.inshore-ireland.com/News/flooding-and-fracking-don-t-mix.html>

Kind regards,

I have been sending lots of emails regarding the floods and Fracking. The ground-zero for Fracking in the UK could be the South Coast of England. And we have seen from The USA what can happen when floods hit frack sites. I got a lot of responses from our local officials after sending them, I even pricked the ears of some pro-frackers who now genuinely seem concerned. This is a good topic and it is current, people seem to be listening when I send this out. They cannot dismiss this as irrelevant. Use the floods as a means to waken people up who don't care or are on the fence.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk/>

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings/#?tab=warnings®ionName=se&fcTime=1388880000>

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/142151.aspx>

Contact politicians here



POLITICAL NEWS – EU/IRELAND

EC = European Commission

EP = European Parliament

ENVI = committee on the [environment, public health and food safety](#)

EIA = Environmental Impact Assessment

AM = Amendment

NGO = Non-governmental organisation

Political Groups (consisting of various national parties)

ECR - European Conservatives and Reformists Group

EFD - Europe of freedom and democracy Group

EPP - European Peoples Party (FG)

ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats (FF)

S&D - Socialists and Democrats (Labour)

GUE/NGL - Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (SP)

Our Irish Meps -

http://www.europarl.ie/en/Your_MEPs.html;jsessionid=51A57B9C2032461FF8228C1C22D2134A

EU leaves shale gas out of stricter law on environmental studies -

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/20/eu-environment-shalegas-idUSL6N0JZ3JT20131220>

Many of those keenest on exploiting shale gas, such as Britain, say extra EU regulations on the energy form are unnecessary and would get in the way of its development.

The parliament had called for mandatory shale gas impact assessments, but EU diplomats said negotiations between representatives of the Parliament, the Commission, the EU executive, and member states had been blocked until that requirement was dropped.

So far, shale gas is already covered by 17 different pieces of EU legislation, but there is no specific law.

A full impact assessment for a gas project is only required when a single licensing area produces more than 500,000 [cubic](#) metres of gas per day.

Shale gas, which companies such as Chevron and ExxonMobil had sought to develop in Europe, will again come up for debate in January, when the Commission is expected to publish its 2030 environment and energy strategy.

This is expected to cover shale gas, although an EU official, speaking on [condition](#) of anonymity, said any guidance on shale gas would not involve new binding law.

So, all the amendments were rejected after all!

This is very bad result after all our hard lobbying to the ENVI and MEP's. (and for the MEP's as well, who voted pro the amendments for strict regulations it is disappointed as well...)

Reporter:

Antoine Simon – Friends of the Earth Europe

EU letter - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/12-20-EIA-Letter.pdf>

EAI annex - <http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/12-20-EIA-Annex.pdf>

I have new information both about the EIA Directive and the so-called shale gas legislation:

- First about the EIA Directive: You can find enclosed the latest version of the text after the trialogue negotiations between the EP, the EC and the Council. Because the agreement was found just before the Christmas holidays, nothing has happened since then. The legal team of the European Parliament will now need some time to proofread and fine-tune these last discussions on the text. The final date for the ENVI Committee vote will be decided when proofreading work will be finished... and it's apparently taking quite some time as many other big files are being rushed at the moment to be finished before the European elections. That basically means that the ENVI Committee and Plenary vote will not happen before at least February (it could also be in March or April)... which therefore leaves us more time to finalise the letter.
- About the "shale gas legislation": That is something we more or less knew before, but we received the confirmation that it will be weakest option the Commission could have offered. On the 22nd of January, the **Commission will therefore present a non-binding shale gas framework (therefore not legislative) and which will more or less consist in guidance on how to interpret existing legislation**

More background information (thanks to Antoine)

It is a bit confusing as the ENVI Committee vote may actually happen almost on the same day than the presentation by the European Commission of the Shale Gas legislation (or whatever it is). The date set is the 22nd of January

- About the European Parliament's vote: It is important to understand right now what will really be voted by the EP --> To cut one long story short, **the Council rejected all the shale gas amendments**, but agreed on compromise amendments on other issues (the EIA review was not only about shale gas as you certainly know). The other environmental NGOs which followed the review of this directive at a more general level (not only through the shale gas scope) consider that these compromises represent an important improvement of the text... **The EP will therefore vote on these compromise amendments as a whole: MEPs will basically say whether they support the overall text or not. They won't be discussing about the shale gas AM.** Unfortunately, we already know that the ECR, EFD, EPP, ALDE and most probably the S&D groups will support this text. **Only the Greens have clearly said that the shale gas AM were their red tape and that because the shale gas AM were rejected, they would therefore reject the text.**

First about the EIA Directive: I now have the confirmation from the ENVI Committee Secretariat of the European Parliament that "The default choice would be to schedule the ENVI Committee vote for the first available occasion, i.e. 22 January" --> So, normally, the first vote (in the ENVI Committee) will occur on the 22nd of January, same date than the presentation by the European Commission of the shale gas framework (as if it wasn't already confusing enough...). However, things are not that simple: The Greens are currently trying to push to have a coordinators discussion first to suggest the possibility to table a shale gas amendment in addition to the agreement with the European Council. If the discussion was conclusive, this would mean the vote could be postponed to the 30th of January, but it is also (highly) possible that coordinators do not agree to the Greens' request.

- We know that the Chair of the ENVI Committee (the German S&D Matthias Groote) is particularly angry about the shale gas amendments. When the text was discussed at the EP level, the only contribution he made to the text was about shale gas.
- Either way, keep it mind that the ENVI Committee vote will happen this month, and the final Plenary vote mostly probably in February.

Well, actually, now that we know that no legislation will be improved, reviewed or adapted, we know all the gaps that the industry will use to bypass a number of legislation: The European Commission actually did the listing work for us a year ago with the studies it commissioned:

- Support to the identification of potential risks for the environment and human health arising from hydrocarbons operations involving hydraulic fracturing in Europe (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/energy/pdf/fracking%20study.pdf>)
- Regulatory provisions governing key aspects of unconventional gas development in eight Member States (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/energy/pdf/Final%20Report%2024072013.pdf>)

Objective of the ENVI Committee

'We are working to see the many concerns of citizens all over Europe reflected in environmental, health and food safety legislation. The European Parliament has gained co-legislative powers in the vast majority of issues discussed in ENVI, making it one of the most influential committees.'

Big EU guns fire for 'crucial' 2030 renewable targets -

http://www.euractiv.com/energy/big-eu-guns-fire-crucial-2030-re-news-532608?utm_source=EurActiv+Newsletter&utm_campaign=4c3b3d1c94-newsletter_daily_update&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bab5f0ea4e-4c3b3d1c94-245740849

(...)On 22 January, a blockbuster EU climate and energy package is due to be unveiled, comprising new legislative proposals on subjects from shale gas and tar sands to structural carbon market reform and industrial competitiveness (...)

Tamborans submission to the proposed terms of reference -

<http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/TamboranSubmission.pdf>



IRISH NEWS

Shale Gas Bulletin Ireland - <https://sites.google.com/site/shalegasbulletinireland/all-previous-issues/issue-no-23---january-1-2014>

Full of scientific info. Thanks to Keep Ireland Fracking Free

Six County Clare families stranded-

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/environment/six-co-clare-families-stranded-as-sea-engulfs-road-1.1645976>



EU -NEWS



THE NETHERLANDS

Earth quakes in the Netherlands due to gas extraction in 2013

green: less than 1, yellow: 1-2, red: 2 or more <http://www.rtvnoord.nl/index/index.asp?q=dossieraardschok>



Government will pay for compensation on damaged houses (not the gas companies Exxon and Shell) and the royalties for the Dutch government are 90%

POLAND

Poland shale gas deal expires -

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/31/poland-shale-idUSL6N0KA1UQ20131231>

Comment by a campaigner:

That situation simply confirms what many experts have been announcing since almost the beginning: The Polish political will to develop this industry has been well beyond the technical and inherent capacities of development: Tusk can change all the officials he wants, it will never change the quality of the geology, never change the national lack of technical skills, never change the population density issue.

The only contradiction in that story is the fact that Polish officials refuse to see what the shale gas story in their country really is: A dead body.

Remember that after 2 years of exploration, they have "only" been able to drill around 50 wells, and the most successful one only produces 8.000 cubic meter of gas per day (on average, at the beginning of the production, US shale gas wells produce 250.000 cubic meter of gas).

Who knows, maybe they're gonna find one offshore sweet spot, or a couple of ones onshore, but it's simply never gonna be this success Polish officials have been announcing for a while.

Comment by a (pro regulate) campaigner with some figures for the UK

The reality is that polish shale has been very disappointing and the recoverability rates very low. In some cases less than 0.3%. The average is 5% and the UK is "promising" 10 % (a la Cuadrilla and iGas). So Poland will not be the shale capital of Europe and shale will not allow them to be rid of Russian gas imports. It's ironic but the **unfortunate reality of the situation there. 2014 is the year of shale in the UK the Gov has decided. Now finally we will get at least 30 wells drilled and fracked this year to start the ball rolling.** Personally I do not believe this but it's a new years resolution for the operators and the Gov. 7 wells on Fylde coasts to get exploration going in what Cuadrilla now believe (hope more like) will be Europe's biggest shale gas zone – **The Bowland Shale. So surrounding my home (within 2 miles) and 1.5M other people's houses the drilling will start and by end of year 7 wells fracked with 12 stage multi fracks and 140M litres of chemicals, silica and water sent 2 miles down and 3 across into the shale. This will leave 70M litres of fracking waste below us and 70M to be treated and dumped into the Manchester Ship Canal by new year 2015. That's just my area.**

Then we have Manchester (Barton Moss), Falkirk (Scotland), Banks (Southport), Deal (Kent) and Balcombe (Surrey). By end of year we will have approx. 200M+ litres of fracking waste left underground to leak who knows where (as nobody is monitoring) and 200M+ litres to be disposed of – again who knows where as the Environment Agency responsible will not tell the public as it could affect the profits of the private companies involved in shale exploitation! (I joke not – I have a letter from the EA stating this). All unregulated. All not inspected or monitored. This is why I called for the EU (DG ENV) to impose shale specific regulations and the EIA on fracking now and not wait for production. This is why it is needed now because fracking is happening now. It is not a pipe dream it is a reality and the EU needs to step up to the mark and protect its citizens else what is it for in 2014? For me that means doing what it does best – issue regulations. I understand that in Romania these may well be ignored and you need tougher action there. Fair enough. In the UK they will not be ignored and they will be obeyed to the letter if they are introduced – hence why my Gov fights so hard to ensure they are not forthcoming.

GLOBAL NEWS

A blog post **about the effects of fracking** on the inhabitants of Karnes County, Texas.
<http://www.desmogblog.com/2013/12/30/eagle-ford-shale-breathe-your-own-risk>

Overview of fracking - http://frackingfreeireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/the_fracking_files.pdf



CALIFORNIA

Fracking Moratorium urged by California Lawmakers

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2014/01/06/3407291/fracking-moratorium-urged-by-california.html>

Fracking foes sound off at hearing - <http://www.oregister.com/articles/fracking-596220-oil-water.html>

Environmentalists and activists pleaded Monday for state officials to protect California's air, land and water from the fires of fracking at a public hearing to take comments about proposed

statewide rules governing the controversial drilling method.

About 30 activists rallied before Monday's hearing, denouncing the oil and gas industry, criticizing state officials and agencies and repeating one message: ban fracking. Now. "We're the majority. We want fracking banned and 2014 is going to be our year," said Alex Nagy, a Southern California organizer for Food & Water Watch, an environmental group that organized the pre-meeting rally.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Says It's Unconstitutional For Gas Companies to Frack Wherever They Want- <http://www.alternet.org/fracking/pennsylvania-supreme-court-says-its-unconstitutional-gas-companies-frack-wherever-they-want>

This may seem like a no-brainer, but it's what the industry has been doing for years.

(...) Some major parts of Pennsylvania's two-year-old Marcellus Shale drilling law are unconstitutional, the state's Supreme Court decided Thursday.

Fracking Wells Abandoned in Boom/Bust Cycle. Who Will Pay to Cap Them?
<http://climatecrocks.com/2014/01/04/fracking-wells-abandoned-in-boombust-cycle-who-will-pay-to-cap-them/>

CANADA

Reporter: Jessica Ernst

MUST READ!

As 'frack hits' grew in Alberta, regulator (AER) takes action, but years too late; high pressure frac hits have been damaging hydrocarbon wells for at least a decade!
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/as-frack-hits-grew-in-alberta-regulator-aer-takes-action-but-years-too-late-high-pressure-frac-hits-have-been-damaging-hydrocarbon-wells-for-decade>

this is worth a read too:

[Is Saskatchewan and North Dakota Bakken Oil safe enough? Cenovus Bakken "oil's flammability classification is the highest there is, level 4 — the same as methane gas and propane"](http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/is-saskatchewan-and-north-dakota-bakken-oil-safe-enough-cenovus-bakken-oils-flammability-at-highest-level-there-is-level-4)
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/is-saskatchewan-and-north-dakota-bakken-oil-safe-enough-cenovus-bakken-oils-flammability-at-highest-level-there-is-level-4>

Four states, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Texas, confirm multiple cases of water pollution from fracking
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/four-states-pennsylvania-ohio-west-virginia-and-texas-confirm-multiple-cases-of-water-pollution-from-drilling-or-fracking>

Public forum planned by city council on Lethbridge oil drilling; council worries about health impacts and drilling sterilizing land designated for home developments
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/public-forum-planned-by-city-council-on-lethbridge-oil-drilling-council-worries-about-health-impacts-and-the-drilling-sterilizing-land-designated-for-home-developments>

Water delivery needs to improve on Blood Reserve
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/water-delivery-needs-to-improve-on-blood-reserve>

Another Alberta MD speaks up. what makes city children deserve protection from frac'ing but

not rural children?

Proposed drilling in Lethbridge carries too many risks: Letter by Dr. Tyson B. Brust
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/proposed-drilling-in-lethbridge-carries-too-many-risks-letter-by-dr-tyson-b-brust>

Law Judge for Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Eric Lipman, says Natural Gas Loses to Solar on Costs, A First
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/law-judge-for-minnesota-public-utilities-commission-eric-lipman-says-natural-gas-loses-to-solar-on-costs-a-first>

REPORTS- RESEARCH

EPA Unlikely To Pursue Fracking Contamination Cases Anytime Soon, Analysts Say -
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/06/epa-fracking-contamination_n_4544961.html

TAKE ACTION

EMAIL ADDRESSES TO COPY AND PASTE scroll down for the copy and paste list

For 'Bulk' actions: www.contact.ie

CONTACT

FACEBOOK : [NO FRACKING IRELAND](#)

[No Fracking Northern Ireland](#)

TWITTER: [@Notofracking](#)

[@BANfrackingNI](#)

WEB: FRACKING IRELAND: <https://sites.google.com/site/frackingireland/>

WEB GEAI: <http://goodenergiesalliance.com/> FFAN: <http://www.frackaware.com/wordpress/>

WEB: LOVE LEITRIM: www.loveleitrim.org NOT for \$HALE: <http://www.notforshale.com/>

NO TO FRACKING: <http://notofracking.com/>

FACEBOOK BRUSSELS: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fracking-Free-Ireland-Brussels/164779630344250?fref=ts>

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

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

Use the [sitemap](#) for an overview of all topics on the web

