

Submission to Dr. R. Gosine
Chair, Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel
19 May 2015

My wife and I lived most of our working lives in Kippens and hope to retire there after a short stay here in St. John's. We are therefore concerned by the egregious prospect of gas and oil fracking development in the Bay St. George area for all the reasons exhaustively covered in the Port au Port /Bay St George Fracking Awareness Group literature. Additionally I would emphasize the following points:

1. The fact that the German government has virtually banned the practice should be considered a compelling reason not frack in Canada
2. Gas obtained by fracking should not be considered clean – not only does it cost more in terms of using fossil fuels to get it out of the ground but the inevitable methane leakage compromises the atmosphere to an unprecedented degree.
3. The Newfoundland Government should set an example of responsible environmental stewardship and distance itself from the Harper Government, now considered an international pariah with respect to climate action, even in light of the announcement made by Leona Aglukkaq on 15 May this year.
4. Agreements with developers may be liable to expensive ISDS claims under NAFTA - as Quebec has discovered.
5. The alarming advance of the destructive effects of climate change behooves our generation to minimize the amount of fossil fuel extraction. Or, as Dr. Suzuki put it, leave it in the ground, reduce our use of energy and, if necessary, exploit other forms of generation. This especially applies to unconventional, risky sources like fracked oil and gas.
6. Lastly, fracking is simply a foul practice assuredly leading to atmospheric pollution, poisoned ground water, spills and leaks on land and under water, enduring reservoirs of toxic sludge and nasty social disruption such as that in North Dakota. Should the field be developed our children and grand-children will inherit many toxic abandoned drill sites, a degraded marine environment, fouled ground and surface water and large areas permanently disfigured by pipelines, access roads, pumping stations and the like.

On behalf of my family, which has a strong attachment to the Kippens area, I appeal to the panel to recommend a moratorium on fracking, not only in Bay St. George but also in the entire province.