

Dear Dr. Gosine,

I am a young adult and resident of the west coast of Newfoundland. For the last three years, I have been living with fear of junior oil companies coming to extract oil at Shoal Point, Port au Port Bay. I am extremely opposed to using high volume, slick water hydraulic fracturing to extract oil. It is not acceptable for a myriad of reasons, but for residents it is about our health, negative changes in our quality of life and the damage it will do to our environment. There is no one on the Panel to represent my concerns.

I am fortunate enough to have gained employment in my hometown of Stephenville. I love the hobbies I pursue here such as hiking, skiing and camping. If fracking were to occur, the tourism sector would suffer, as people would not be able to/or want to hike in Gros Morne, on the Gravels or any of the many hiking trails along the west coast or ski at Whaleback, Blomidon or Marble Mountain, all located on the west coast which draw high numbers of tourists and residents during the summer and winter months. It would destroy our sense of community and "fracture" bonds formed between people. The oil companies do only what is in their best interest, namely, frack as many wells as they can to get as much oil as they can and leave the toxic environmental waste for residents to have to deal with and absorb. I have chosen to live back here because of the quiet environment. While I was in my teenage years, I suffered a head injury and still get major headaches because of it. I am very concerned about noise pollution and poor air quality caused by fracking which would adversely affect my health as well as others.

The geology of the shale rock makes fracking it a risky gamble, as larger oil companies have stated, and increases the probability of water aquifer and ground water contamination, and oil pollution which is very harmful for marine habitat based around the Bay - and the Gulf adjacent to it - affecting the livelihoods of those who fish around this area.

Please consider my concerns in support of those who want Minister Derrick Dalley to ban fracking in western NL, and all of NL, until it is proven safe.

Sincerely,

E. Hatcher