

Letters from C. Short

May 22, 2015

Letter 1

Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel Public Consultations

Dear Dr. Gosine:

I wish to request that the Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel provide more public consultations across Newfoundland and Labrador, and particularly in communities within Western Newfoundland that would be directly impacted by the potential use of hydraulic fracturing. As with the Nova Scotia Review Panel on Hydraulic Fracturing which held eleven public consultations, I would like to see more extensive consultations take place within this province.

Yours sincerely,

C. Short

May 24, 2015

Letter 2

C. Short

**To: Dr. Ray Gosine, Chair
NL Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel**

Re: Submission to Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel

May 23, 2015

Dear Dr. Gosine:

Please accept this letter as a formal submission for the panel to consider with regards my views on the process of hydraulic fracturing.

Having lived in Western Newfoundland for 23 years, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact of hydraulic fracturing on the environment, our economy, and the health and well being of people living in the province.

So far, no reasonable solution for disposing of fracking fluids has been provided by the fossil fuel industry which also is unable to guarantee that wells are 100% safe. This combined with the lack of enforcement to disclose all chemical components of fracking fluid and the lack of information on the safety and management of these chemicals is highly

problematic, particularly when considering the complicated geology of Western Newfoundland. All of these factors make me extremely worried about the potential for contamination of the ground and surface water. Further, as no baseline data has been obtained, the impact of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and the quality of the water would be unknown were it to go ahead.

I am concerned also about air emissions and air quality resulting from the process of hydraulic fracturing and their impact on human health.

While I support economic development for the region I don't believe that the fossil fuel industry is a good fit as it would most certainly adversely affect our tourism and our fisheries. I believe that the development of wind, solar and geothermal sources of energy would provide alternatives that would be more compatible with our fisheries, the tourism industry and other industries and sectors, and has the potential to provide more employment opportunities for people living in the region.

As well, I am concerned about the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the infrastructure of our communities.

Recent studies on global warming state that 50% of known gas resources and 30% of known oil resources should be left in the ground in order to prevent global warming exceeding 2 degrees (see Ekins and McGlade's Nature Article: www.nature.com/nature/journal/v517/n7533/full/nature14016.html). Climate change is estimated to be killing 150,000 people a year (see WHO link in Whittaker and Curtis, The Independent NL). Extracting even more oil and gas would be highly irresponsible given this information.

The fossil fuel industry has not been allowed to go ahead with hydraulic fracturing in Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and New York. All of those regions have completed their reviews.

Moreover, Newfoundland and Labrador is lacking in spill preparedness (discussed in the report by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development [2013] and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Update for Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area). I am concerned about the lack of information on the effectiveness on mitigation measures for environmental risks, particularly given the sensitivity of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and about the capacity of our municipalities and our province to respond to accidents - on land and on the water.

But mostly I am concerned about the risks to human health.

I sincerely ask you to please consider my legitimate concerns and to recommend to Minister Derrick Dalley that the province ban hydraulic fracturing.

In closing, I ask you to review the recent comprehensive study completed by the Health Professionals of New York. The findings of the Health Professionals of New York is certainly compelling.

Yours sincerely,

C. Short

Please add this report to the list of “Documents Under Consideration by the Panel:” Health Professionals of New York <http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>