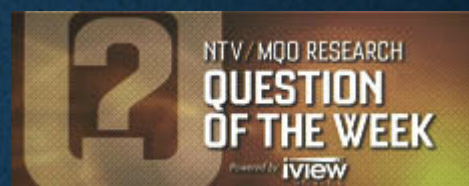




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Expert panel recommends 'pause' in fracking continue

Posted on May 31, 2016 by ntwwebeditor in Local with /* * * */



An expert panel on hydraulic fracturing has recommended continuing the “pause” on the controversial oil extraction process until a number of gaps and efficiencies can be addressed.

The panel was appointed by the former Tory government to assess whether fracking should be allowed in western Newfoundland. The final report was released Tuesday morning.

“Returning to the primary task of making a recommendation on ‘whether or not hydraulic fracturing should be undertaken in Western Newfoundland,’ the Panel does not believe that a simple yes or no recommendation would be appropriate or responsible, especially given the unknown and unresolved issues related to unconventional oil and gas development in the context of Western Newfoundland,” the panel wrote.

“The panel, however, unanimously recommends that a number of gaps and deficiencies must be addressed before the necessary conditions could exist that would allow for hydraulic fracturing, as an all-inclusive industrial process, to proceed reasonably and responsibly in Western Newfoundland. Supplementary recommendations are proposed to address these gaps and deficiencies. ...

“The panel believes that, at this point, the ‘pause’ in accepting applications involving hydraulic fracturing in western Newfoundland should remain in effect while some of the supplementary recommendations are implemented.”

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