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Review Panel Recommends Cautious Approach To Fracking

May 31, 2016 | 9:23 am

Last Updated: May 31, 2016 | 2:19 pm



The review panel tasked to decide whether or not fracking should be allowed to go ahead in Western Newfoundland has recommended that a number of gaps and deficiencies must be addressed before fracking is allowed.

The panel's report, released this morning, has listed a series of recommendations that would allow a "staged, cautious, and evidence-based approach" to better understand the opportunities and challenges presented by hydraulic fracturing.

The review was ordered by the previous Tory government after a moratorium was put on plans for fracking on the west coast. The panel says because Gros Morne National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is so close to the Green Point shale site, greater clarity is needed on how development could potentially affect the park.

[View the NLHFRP website.](#)

Groups Optimistic About Report

The Port au Port - Bay St. George Fracking Awareness Group is reasonably optimistic about the report.

Spokesperson Graham Oliver says many of the panel's recommendations echo concerns they've raised for some time, including a Health Impact Assessment and further scientific study.

He says they've also recommended a simulated fracking operation, but he



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She says establishing a buffer zone around Gros Morne National Park is something they, and UNESCO had been seeking if, or when, fracking activity is given the green light.

UNESCO called on the province last week to establish a buffer zone around the park.



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