


From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
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Sent: Wednesday, 8 July 2015 2:22 PM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Mr Samuel Pottenger


SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Committee members,

My name is Samuel Pottenger and I write to you to express my concerns around unconventional gas exploration in my home state of Victoria. I am extremely worried that in our current state of a climate emergency, our governments are still giving approval to fossil fuel projects as risky as coal-seam gas drilling- projects that will add to even further catastrophic climate change, ruin our land and water and expose our communities to adverse health impacts. I do not support any unconventional gas mining in any form and wish to call for its permanent ban from this point onwards. We need to start investing in renewable energy sources and in clean, healthy projects that benefit our communities- not these dangerous and polluting projects that tear communities apart. Here is a summary of the many impacts of unconventional gas:

Health Impacts

- local children have near universal and severe skin irritations and asthma which worsens with proximity to the gas fields. Severe and recurrent nosebleeds are common.
- Severe neurological effects: McCarron found one third of children at Tara had parasthesia (abnormal sensations and numbness) and some had “abnormal movements” (central nervous damage).
- Severe effects on the unborn: US studies have shown 100% increase in neural tube defects and 30% increase in congenital hear defects.
- Huge increase in particulates which are class one carcinogens
- Wide range of toxic chemicals which show levels 10-100x above safe levels
- Existing health reports have suffered from poor methodology such as being based on affected people volunteering information only or intermittent testing which was discontinued, and are also hampered by the confidentiality agreements

Enviromental Impacts

- release of very potent green house gases including methane, that nullify any GHG saving associated with the transition from coal to gas

- unconventional gas extraction uses masses of water, draining our scarce water resources
- aquifer contamination with toxic chemicals
- release of naturally occurring BTEX compounds and other contaminants into the atmosphere and into groundwater
- “produced water” is left in ponds that will inevitably leak or spill or sprayed on local roads
- multiple earthquakes are associated with fracking and csg globally
- toxic acid rain which strips paint off cars (Ph 4.36 McCarron)
- failure rates of gas wells increase each year

Agricultural Impacts

- contamination of water (flammable water) with toxic chemicals, leading to poisoning of livestock and contamination of our high quality agricultural industry products
- increase in groundwater and soil salinity
- depletion of groundwater
- contamination of water (flammable water) with toxic chemicals

Community Impacts

- immediate community impacts include division and mistrust, then falling property values as the industrial process occurs and health impacts start to bite, agriculture being impacted, followed by families being bought out under confidentiality agreements, and communities being closed or relocated.
- unconventional gas extraction has near universal local disapproval, is strongly resisted, and proceeding is against communities self determination

I hope you truly consider all of these impacts and risks and weigh them against the spurious benefits that these projects may bring.

Kind regards,

Samuel

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File1:

File2:

File3: