

From: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas POV eSubmission Form
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Sent: Thursday, 9 July 2015 12:02 AM
To: EPC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Unconventional Gas in Victoria.

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Among many issues connected to fracking, these are just a few:

- Contamination of groundwater
- Methane pollution and its impact on climate change (we MUST consider exhaustive reports on this issue. Recent publications include Lancet Commissions, Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change, which labeled climate change as the biggest global health threat of the 21st century; Centre for Policy Development's report examining climate change and Australia's national security; President Obama acknowledges that climate change is a threat to national security; experts such as Admiral Morisetti (UK Government's former Climate and Energy Security Envoy and an expert on climate security and its effects on international relations and the military) and Admiral Chris Barrie (former Chief of the ADF, also states that action must be taken on Climate Change), and so many others!

- Air pollution impacts
- Exposure to toxic chemicals
- Blowouts due to gas explosion
- Waste disposal
- Large volume water use in water-deficient regions
- Fracking-induced earthquakes
- Workplace safety
- Infrastructure degradation

We can look to the US in this instance as they have had extensive experience in this area. A great number of extremely negative reports about fracking have emerged. The U.S. Geological Survey issued the first ever national report that details the amount of water used in oil and gas fracking, with staggering statistics. There is no argument that proves that same or similar situations will be significantly different here. This is unacceptable use of water. OUR vital resource!

In addition, New York State's longstanding moratorium on fracking has transitioned to an outright fracking ban, with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) releasing the results of its seven-year fracking study. It reasoned that too little was known about the potential health impacts. I object to the risks

presented by fracking. There are other solutions to meet energy demands that do not pose such risks to our water, environment, health, social and economic security and so on. Surely we should take heed of the DEC 1,448-page report on fracking that began in 2009, and countless other reports by various independent organisations, Universities, and Governmental Departments that define in no uncertain terms the certain impacts and potential risks.

It is also worth noting that these reports provide many years worth of study, and the concerns raised are echoed in the recent encyclical of Pope Francis. We MUST change our ways.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University found that homes located near fracking sites have an overall radon concentration 39 percent higher than those located in non-fracking areas, and that "The development of unconventional natural gas in the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania has the potential to exacerbate several pathways for entry of radon into buildings." Findings were published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

The British government has also undertaken a comprehensive fracking study under the auspices of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This report comes to similar conclusions as New York's DEC study, and presents the destructive impacts on communities where fracking exists. With several countries around the world banning fracking, are we really going to be the fools who continue to chase short term profit for a handful of individuals, above health, social, environmental and economic prosperity for everyone? Say NO to fracking!

Victoria needs a permanent ban on all unconventional gas and related activity. The risks are too great – we have seen the impacts already, and no amount of written regulations can prevent great disasters, as we saw in Hazelwood, Fukushima, and so many more.

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File1:

File2:

File3: