

9TH JULY, 2015

SUBMISSION INTO THE GOVERNMENTS INQUIRY INTO UNCONVENTIONAL GAS IN VICTORIA

I will make it clear that I believe that UCG drilling/mining needs to be BANNED FOREVER in Victoria and in the rest of Australia, **as it is in:**

New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Wales, Northern Ireland, France, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Austria, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Italy. By now it may be banned elsewhere as governments everywhere contemplate the disasters and tragedies that have resulted from this form of drilling called "FRACKING".

I believe that those countries and those corporations that still allow fracking to take place in the search for UCG will have a lot to answer for from future generations. It is short term money for long term devastation of which the world has plenty of evidence.

Plenty of other submissions will give you those details.

MY CASE

I live on acreage in South West Victoria and my major concerns are:

Damage to the aquifer – I depend on bore water for me and my stock as do all the towns and farmers in this area

Destruction of the landscape and wildlife – UCG seekers destroy all the in the vicinity down to bare dirt before they start drilling. Thereby creating erosion problems whenever there is wind or rain.

No habitat remains and therefore no wildlife.

Lowering of the water table – each bore requires 900,000 gallons of water and water would become a serious concern for all those like me who depend upon it.

Contamination of the water supply – 5% of all wells fail in 5 years

100% of wells fail in 15 years

No responsibility by governments for allowing it to happen and no responsibility by the mining companies who all say that it is not their problem

Destruction of roads by drilling rigs, utes etc.. The blue gum trucks are bad enough but nothing compared to what miners do.

The amount of chemicals used - which will ultimately contaminate the water systems and some of these chemicals are not disclosed. Regardless of that, contamination will occur.

The South West of Victoria in particular has many important primary industries such as dairying, beef/sheep/deer farming, horticulture and abalone.

Tourist attractions such as the great South West Walk and surfing would all be put at risk.

Social fabric of the communities – it is well known that FIFO workers change the existing social fabric holding communities together.

All mining company employees have to sign a document before they are employed saying that they will not talk about the things they have seen or done. What are the companies afraid of?

CONCLUSION

The damage done is irreversible.

A lot of people and habitat are irreversibly damaged wherever fracking has occurred.

The unknown seismic disturbances caused by fracking. Eg earthquakes , sink holes. This area is well known for limestone caves – would these collapse, putting people’s lives at risk?

Thank you for reading my submission

Yours sincerely

Linda O’Hara

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