
From: dawn allen <dawn.allen@hotmail.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 10:39 AM
To: Office
Cc: Premier; Minister, Energy; min_env@gov.ns.ca; chuck@chuckporter.ca; margaretmillermia@bellaliant.net; rallen@westhants.ca; spineo@westhants.ca; rmatheson@westhants.ca; admin@westhants.ca; tbrown@westhants.ca; cochrane@westhants.ca; jdaniels@westhants.ca; mcampbell@westhants.ca; vswinamer@westhants.ca
Subject: Law Amendments committee submission
Attachments: Law Amendments_testing and research_D Allen Oct 2014.pdf

Thanks for the opportunity to present to the Committee.

As you can see I have cc'd my concerns to a few others.

This issue is important to me and all Nova Scotians.

Dawn Allen
Centre Burlington,
HWY 215
Hants County, NS

Law Amendments Committee submission

Dawn Allen,

Centre Burlington

Hants County

Oct 22, 2014

Regarding the province's position on fracking in our province - I was initially pleased to see the word 'ban' being used, but with further examination it appears there is much that needs to be strengthened in the wording of the proposed amendment to Chapter 342 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Petroleum Resources Act.

Although I have the same concerns as many on the lack of definition of 'high volume' and on the specifics of the means that will be used to attain 'community consent' I am very much concerned by what could be meant by '*exempted for the purposes of testing and research*'.

Seismic testing

I do know now that the Hants County area that I live in (Centre Burlington and Cogmagun) has already had some seismic testing done along property baselines and along some resource roads. I know it involved blasting at an unknown depth. I also know of 4 properties in the nearby areas where drilled wells are said to have collapsed, turned bad or have stopped producing water. We deserve the right to know both when and where testing is going to occur, what damages may occur due to seismic testing and who will pay for the damages. We also should have some sort of water testing on both surface

and drilled water wells within a specified distance of any test and research fracking activities.

Will seismic mean using explosive charges at depth or are there other forms of seismic work that will be employed using other types of heavy equipment that will cause road damage, dust, noise and fumes? Nova Scotians must have prior and complete information about the methods and procedures that will be used in seismic testing.

Test drilling and blasting of fluids into the ground

Hydraulic fracking (the fracturing of rock formations by pumping large quantities of fluids down a well at high pressure) regardless of it being done on a small scale vertically or horizontally will create the potential for faulty well casings, and the potential leakage of both methane and any fluids used during the fracking process into aquifers. That is to say, any of the concerns that are associated with commercial fracking will be there for any test fracking that is being proposed. And we need to know what chemicals are being used in the test fracking so that we know what to monitor for. The Kennetcook area drill logs mention the possibility of expecting coal seams, gypsum layers and of drill hole deviations.

Flowback from the test fracking activities

We need to be informed of the treatment of, and the disposal location of the flowback waters and the drilling muds that will be produced from test fracking. Monitoring needs to take place not just by government and industry reps but by a committee of local people. I have seen first hand, from the evidence left at a well site near my home, that a drainage ditch had been

trenched to direct flowback waters from the wellhead towards a naturally low lying area. Any test and research activities need to be closely monitored at all times.

Will chemical potential damage be reversible? An analysis of the chemicals used in the frack fluids used in the Kennetcook area drill well logs included: alcomer, alkapam, bentonite, chembreak eca, drispac, dyna det, envirofloc, humalite, kelzan, sulphamic acid, XL-defoamer to name but a few. The public should know if industry has developed successful methods of extracting these chemicals from our soil and water.

Around my area, the No Fracking signs are consistently put up by those who have moved here from Alberta or who have worked there or who currently work there. A young couple – she works in local real estate, he works Out West – put their house up for sale almost as soon as the talk of fracking began. Yet we hear about the thousands of wells that have been drilled safely in other provinces. What is the proximity of those wells to habitation. And how much is New Brunswick truly making off of its resource? And on this question, try to find out the truth and not get the information from industry sources. Where fracking is taking place in those western provinces are there the same settlement patterns and the same geology? The answer is no. I think we currently have all the geologic research that we need to preclude testing for the viability of fracking.

it is the people whose husbands work out west in the oil and gas industry

Unless more information is given in the proposed amendments to the Petroleum Resources Act there is much for Nova Scotians to be distrustful about.

This Bill, as it now stands, explicitly excludes *testing and research* related to fracking, but it fails to include a definition of —testing and research. Nova Scotia needs a strong definition written in the Act, not the regulations.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak before the Law Amendments Committee.

Dawn Allen
Centre Burlington
Hants County, NS