

Submission to law Amendments re Hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

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First, I am very pleased that Nova Scotia will adopt a ban on fracking. This is a responsible and necessary step in planning for a future in which protection of the environment is recognized as a priority.

My suggestions on the Act itself.

1. Definition: The term "high volume hydraulic fracturing" was new to me, even though I have paid close attention to issues around fracking. I think "hydraulic fracturing" is a more general term and propose it be defined in the act, not left to regulations.
2. Community consultation: Communities, including First Nations, should be not only consulted but should have the right to disallow/ ban/ limit shale gas fracturing, in the event the ban is ultimately lifted.
3. The legislation should clearly define responsibility for any damages, restoration etc., where the property or use /enjoyment of property is compromised by any related activities, including exploration or testing.
4. The act should require environmental assessment of any area considered for testing before any such testing is carried out. (potential harm to water, wildlife, etc.) The impact on water is particularly important, and serious consequences of unexpected results of testing could be irreversible.
5. Any future consideration of lifting the ban should require public consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.