

RURAL SECRETARIAT
STEPHENVILLE-PORT AUX BASQUES REGIONAL COUNCIL

March 10, 2014

Minister Derrick Dalley
Department of Natural Resources
50 Elizabeth Avenue
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Dalley,

On behalf of the Stephenville-Port aux Basques Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat, we are writing to acknowledge the temporary moratorium placed on hydraulic fracturing, instituted by the Department of Natural Resources in November, 2013.

Interest from Shoal Point Energy and Black Spruce Exploration to use hydraulic fracturing for oil extraction in western Newfoundland, including sites on the Port aux Port Peninsula, has caused much concern for residents in the region.

While there is ongoing debate about the economic benefits that could result from hydraulic fracturing in the region, the potential environmental and socio-economic implications are a worry for many residents. After discussion and deliberation, the Regional Council determined the following as significant concerns from within the region. These include, but are not limited to: the potential risk of oil spill; the impacts of oil and gas activity on sensitive biological habitats; knowledge gaps on the unique geology and biodiversity in the area; as well as implications to the fishing and tourism industries in western Newfoundland.

The Regional Council commends the Department of Natural Resources for their decision to place a temporary moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, and also for acknowledging the importance of the health and safety of residents and protection of the natural environment. The Council hopes that this remains at the forefront during the review of hydraulic fracturing,

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and advises that open and transparent public engagement opportunities are made widely available to citizens throughout this process.

We look forward to hearing from you, and would be happy to discuss this issue in more detail.

Sincerely,

s.30(1)



Ms. Dianna Kung

s.30(1)



Mr. Calvin White

Co-chairs, Stephenville-Port aux Basques Regional Council

Cc: Hon. Steve Kent, Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement

Dr. Bruce Gilbert, Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of Public Engagement

MAY 02 2014

Stephenville – Port aux Basques Regional Council
of the Rural Secretariat
35 Carolina Avenue
Stephenville, NL
A2N 3P8

Attention: Mr. Calvin White & Ms. Dianna Kung, Co-Chairs

Dear Mr. White & Ms. Kung:

RE: Hydraulic Fracturing

Thank you for your joint letter from the Stephenville – Port aux Basques Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat dated March 10, 2014, and your interest in participating in the public consultations with regard to hydraulic fracturing.

Our government supports a balanced approach to economic development. We always take into consideration potential environmental effects of proposed development activities and mitigate identified risks either through the application of regulations or the imposition of strict conditions on development activity.

The Department continues to conduct a balanced review of regulations, rules and guidelines in other jurisdictions; to complete the technical work necessary to fully assess the geological impact in western Newfoundland; and following this process undertake public engagement to ensure that our residents have an opportunity to comment and are fully informed before any decision is made. At this time, we are assessing the form and nature of the public engagement process.

Your letter will be kept on file, and you will be notified once the consultation process is underway. Thank-you for your interest in this issue, and I look forward to your continued input.

Sincerely,



DERRICK DALLEY, MHA
The Isles of Notre Dame
Minister

c. Hon. Steve Kent
Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement

Dr. Bruce Gilbert
Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of Public Engagement