

B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

**Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
British Columbia's Community Water
Supply Sources**

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(Stop Fracking British Columbia – www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC.html)



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Media Release

Canadians being fracked by international energy producers, B.C. Tap Water Alliance warns

OTTAWA – A number of international energy producers are using a controversial extraction method to develop non-renewable, deep shale gas deposits in vast tracks of remote, public wilderness lands in northeast British Columbia, according to the coordinator of the B.C. Tap Water Alliance.

“The method is called fracking,” says Will Koop, who is scheduled to appear on the late afternoon of Thurs., Feb. 3, before Ottawa’s Standing Committee on Natural Resources studying Energy Security in Canada. “There are numerous, adverse environmental impacts caused by fracking which Canadians, particularly parliamentarians, need to be aware of.”

Koop says fracking refers to the use of large quantities of fresh water mixed with chemicals in order to fracture the earth and release valuable methane gas. “The companies are using this very controversial method because of a sympathetic, deregulatory-minded BC Liberal administration,” Koop says. “Our own provincial legislators have allowed environmental protection, regulations and governmental oversight to be disabled and removed.”

Koop says there has also been a failure to implement long term environmental planning, called “cumulative effects,” to regulate deep shale development proposals.

He says a number of corporations with long term land leases in northeast BC are already mining Alberta’s tar sands. “Those corporations are planning to export B.C.’s gas as a new form of energy to fuel their tar sands operations. The combined greenhouse gas emissions from deep shale and tar sands developments will continue to be a major issue for federal and provincial governments.”

One of the main environmental controversies surrounding the issue of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the withdrawal, contamination and disposal of significantly large quantities of fresh water. This is already an issue in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and New Brunswick.

“The controversial practice of combining toxic additives with fresh water and specially-mined frack sand for this process have come under federal investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States since 2010. Deep shale energy companies there are under significant public scrutiny, particularly concerning the pollution of fresh water aquifers.”