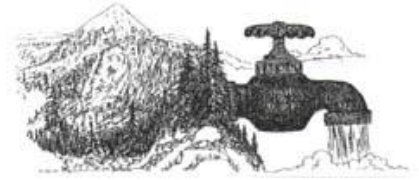


B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

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

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November 29, 2017

Public Notice

BC Tap Water Alliance No Longer a Signatory for Public Inquiry of Fracking in BC

When the B.C. Tap Water Alliance (BCTWA) signed on alongside others in early November 2017 for a Public Inquiry into fracking in British Columbia we were keen to be included.

After all, the BCTWA called for a frack ban in 2010 and organized the first call for a Public Inquiry in April 2011, which the BC Liberal government ignored. At that time, we understood it was necessary for government to investigate the cumulative life-cycle activities of fracking because authorities had failed to conduct inquiries on the many related public controversies. Of importance, the BCTWA has steadfastly called for a ban on fracking and continues to do so. (See attached Backgrounder)

Upon closer scrutiny of the November 2017 stated call for a Public Inquiry, the BCTWA realized two fundamental problems for supporting it:

- The objective stated is for government to regulate the fracking industry in BC, an objective which contradicts our consistent call for a ban. (How is it even possible for a government to implement regulations when numerous federal and provincial legislations have been intentionally de-regulated to enable the many negative impacts caused by fracking?) A Public Inquiry, from the lengthy time needed from start to end, will merely allow fracking to continue unabated for years.
- Since 2011, a growing and increasingly large body of scientific literature has been published that rejects the merits of fracking on numerous themes, ranging from pollution of air, soils and water harming humans, wildlife, livestock, pets and fish, to damage of geological formations, public infrastructure, well integrity, and bad economics. The professional literature speaks for itself.

“We now realize that it is too late for a BC Public Inquiry. And, as many of the signatory groups are national organizations, it is more appropriate for them to call for a national investigation. Canadians have been suffering law violations and harms caused by the brute force fracking experiments for years,” notes BCTWA Coordinator Will Koop.

“We therefore remove the BCTWA as a signatory (an email was sent requesting this), because we still do not believe that fracking, a vile and horrible practice, can ever be safely regulated. As attested to by affected citizens around the world, many of whom have been silenced by company confidentiality agreements, fracking has no legitimate place in Canada, or anywhere else!”

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(Backgrounder: attached below, 10 pages)

BACKGROUND

Web links to the November 6, 2017 call for a Public Inquiry of Fracking for BC, and media article by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives:

- [Public inquiry needed to properly investigate deep social and environmental harms of fracking, coalition says](#)
- [BC needs a full public inquiry into fracking](#)
- [BC needs a full public inquiry into fracking](#)

A REVIEW OF QUOTATIONS FROM BC TAP WATER ALLIANCE WEBSITE: *STOP FRACKING BRITISH COLUMBIA* (www.bctwa.org, and www.bctwa.org/FrackingBC) – Media Releases, Reports with Web links

Earliest Statement from 2010:

- *“The B.C. Tap Water Alliance has also come on board (as of February 22, 2010) to help advocate the end of impairing and poisoning North America’s and the Earth’s fresh water aquifers by the oil & gas industry complex through a process nicknamed “fracking” / “fracing” (hydraulic ‘frac’ turing) which involves the use of toxic chemicals, **and to ban fracking.**”*



April 14, 2011 – Media Release: [Public Inquiry Needed in British Columbia to Address Human Health and Environmental Risks Posed by Shale Gas Drilling, Coalition Says](#)

January 23, 2012 – Major Report – [FRACK EU: Unconventional Intrigue in Poland – A Preliminary Investigation of the Fracking Assault on Poland](#)

- Following statement by Will Koop in [Executive Summary](#): “Regulations and mitigations will never make fracking safe!”
- In [Executive Summary](#): “When the horizontal fracking technologies were first experimented with and developed in the late 1970s in the U.S. by Amoco Production Company and U.S. Steel (now USX) to extract methane gas that nature buried and sealed within unconventional coalbed shales deep underground, one of the sacred bodies the petroleum priests placed on their unholy sacrificial alter in the 1980s following was North America’s and the world’s groundwater. When U.S. landowners and citizens in Alabama, New Mexico and Colorado began to criticize and complain to their County, State and Federal governments in the 1980s about what the petroleum priests were doing as it all unfolded - the release of millions of cubic meters of tainted formation water onto surface lands and waters, the volatile contamination of groundwater, flaring balls of methane and atmospheric dispersal of coal associated particles through the practice of cavitation - some of the most powerful coal and petroleum corporation attorneys advised their wealthy clients and other companies out to do the same that they should, by all and any means, prevent and fend off foreseeable legions of legal liability actions associated with their unholy practices. If the U.S. courts would find the fracking companies liable, then such legal ruling(s) could most likely stymie and inevitably jeopardize their unconventional schemes and investments, both at home and abroad.

Excerpts as images from Chapter 12, in January 2012 FRACK EU report:

12. OPERATION SYNERGY: FRACKING THE WORLD, POISONING OUR MINDS AND HEARTS - the Emerging Global Dilemma of Petroleum Sponsored Strategic Messaging



*Marek Karabula, vice-president of the Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG), used a technical term from shale gas development, saying that there was a need to “**crack the minds of people**” with respect to shale gas.¹*

Historians, political scientists, sociologists and investigative researchers will look back at the Hydrocarbon Era and acknowledge that the period of pushing global unconventional shale fracking was unprecedented in the privateers’ thirst and lust for hydrocarbons. Due to the damaging,

contentious and intensive nature of this unconventional fracking period upon the earth and human societies by energy companies out to scrape the bottom of the proverbial hydrocarbon barrel, they will unravel both the psychological warfare component unleashed by the petroleum conglomerate upon societies to approval-implement the extraction of natural gas and oil, and the complex strategies in which governments were infiltrated, controlled and influenced to do so.

12-(4). Hanky McCranky Panky and the Synergy Love-In

How did the petro government of Alberta, mantra-mandated to purportedly serve “the (never defined) public interest,” respond to the public’s fears and concerns when the CBM developments were just getting underway? In early 2002, the ERCB (formerly EUB, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board) became a strategic partner with the petroleum sector to influence and control landowners/ public through the initiation of something called **Synergy Alberta**.



12-(10). PsyOpsGate: Unconventional Public Relations at Halloween Houston

Six and a half years after the petroleum sector complex got the Republican Bush/Cheney administration to implement the reprehensible and scandal-laden Halliburton Loop-Hole exemptions from the federal *Safe Drinking Water* and *Fresh Water Acts* in mid-2005 to legally justify the indiscriminate carpet-frack-bombing of the U.S., and following thematic conferences in Alberta and Poland in September 2011 on problems about managing the public, came the shocking revelation at an unconventional public relations gas conference in Houston, Texas that U.S. petroleum companies were implementing military strategies and hiring military personnel experienced in Psy-Ops to infiltrate and treat American citizens concerned or opposed to shale gas developments as “insurgents,” and advising the public relations industry at the conference to do the same for their clients in the petroleum sector! It wasn’t enough that America’s federal laws were bent to frequent-frack the United States, but now U.S. energy companies were openly admitting through their shameless communications officers that they had been spying on and infiltrating the American public who were apparently interfering with something called ‘energy security.’

November 28, 2012 - [Should Fracking be Allowed in British Columbia / Is Fracking “Sustainable”?](#): A Response to the November 15, 2012 report, *From Stream to Steam: Emerging Challenges for BC’s Interlinked Water and Energy Resources*

- “The fundamental question that needs to be asked is: *should fracking be allowed in British Columbia?* ... This critical consideration - should fracking be allowed in British Columbia - is what is missing from the Stream to Steam study. It seems as though the study considers the possibility that fracking is otherwise absorbed in the “sustainable use” and “sustainable management” concepts within land use governance and reform. In this sense, the report does not go far enough to elucidate this pressing concern.

I encourage those interested in land use governance policy in British Columbia, as it relates to water and land use decisions in general, to take a strong stand on this issue. As I, and

others, have stated, *it appears that fracking is impossible to safely regulate.* (For instance, in Quebec the regulator found 19 of the 31 new shale wells, some of which were not even fracked yet, were found to be leaking. The companies were ordered to fix the leaks, they tried, and failed.)”



One of Progress Energy’s numerous cleared frack sites on Crown lands, with huge water dam, north of Ft. St. John, June 1, 2017. (Will Koop photos)





One of Progress Energy's 'water' dams, built without proper permits, located north of Ft. St. John, June 1, 2017. (Will Koop photos)



September 3, 2013: Open Letter to 15 BC First Nations Participating in the LNG Pipeline Agreement(s). [Sharing LNG Fracking Riches Means Sharing Fracking Shame: Ecological and Political Crossroads Crisis in British Columbia / Canada](#)

- “At this critical moment in history when valid, knowledge-based public opposition to fracking is mounting in many jurisdictions throughout the world, we believe that First Nations’ endorsement of fracked gas pipelines running through your respective territories translates to a political and ecological crisis not only for British Columbia and Canada, but for the planet.”



Encana’s pressurized 10-inch water diversion pipe running to active fracking site, near Farmington, BC, May 29, 2017. Water pipe runs for kilometres in road ditches and through private lands. (Will Koop photos)



November 15, 2013 – Public Submission regarding Proposed Water Sustainability Act: [British Columbia in Crisis: The Contradiction of Fracking as Public Water Stewardship in BC's Laws and Proposed Water Sustainability Act](#)

- “The BC Tap Water Alliance is opposed to the use and practice of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in British Columbia, and believes that fracking cannot be safely regulated.

As such, we oppose the use of any of BC’s water sources for fracking purposes, or any other water sources outside of BC diverted for those purposes within BC’s boundaries. Likewise, any and all of BC’s waters (surface and subsurface) should not be used, diverted and transported for such outside of BC’s political boundaries.

Not only is somewhere between 30 to 100 percent of water used for fracking operations removed from the hydrologic cycle, it is being altered and poisoned.

As we understand it, the practise of fracking has nothing to do with “sustainability” or with “stewardship:” those are contradictions of terms.

Because the BC government is nevertheless advocating the purpose and practice of life-cycle fracking, we are opposed to the concept and regulation of ‘renting’ or conditionally ‘owning’ water through ‘licensing’ for fracking purposes.”

March 10, 2015 – Media Release: [Did the Council of Canadian Academies’ Frack Panel ‘Cherry-Pick’ the Scientific Evidence on Harms from Fracking?](#)

- “Our examination leads me to believe that the Council of Canadian Academies’ expert frack panel ‘cherry-picked’ reports on the harms associated with hydraulic fracturing (‘fracking’). It is also apparent that many of the 428 documents cited in the CCA report on fracking were not peer-reviewed, contrary to what the report claims. This is unprincipled and unconscionable stuff,” says Will Koop, Coordinator of the B.C. Tap Water Alliance. “The cumulative evidence from an increasing number of peer-reviewed, scientific studies and commentaries on the harms from unconventional fracking, as cited, for instance, in PSE’s library collection, have been instrumental in re-shaping political decisions in the United States and Canada concerning fracking’s social and environmental license. In association, the growing evidence of these harms may strongly suggest why the British Columbia government has been withholding final report studies on fracking and health effects since at least May 2014, including a now two-year old, outdated literature review report on fracking. In relation, this ‘withholding’ may be linked to why the BC government recently cut funding for an 8-year-old watchdog organization, the **North-East Oil and Gas Health Advisory Committee**, “a driving force behind the government’s health risk assessment” concerning unconventional gas and oil operations in northeast BC.”



Three 10-inch pressurized fresh water diversion pipes, pumped from huge water pit (see below), running some 8 kilometers to Apache's frack pad, near Fox Creek, Alberta, May 22, 2017. (Will Koop photos)



June 1, 2015 – Media Release: [One Step Forward, Two Steps Back: Call for Federal Fracking Regulation Flies in the Face of Call for a Ban](#)

- The Council of Canadians made a puzzling announcement in a May 12, 2015 media release, stating that it was supporting a formal request for the Canadian Government to regulate fracking.

In media releases posted on its website since October 2014, the Council had opposed operational fracking, opposed proposed fracking, and supported fracking moratoriums in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island (earlier postings included Saskatchewan and Quebec). On October 8, 2014, the Council announced the results of a national poll, whereby “70%” of Canadians support “a national moratorium on fracking until it is scientifically proven to be safe.”

“Has the Council of Canadians crossed a dangerous line? Justification for federal frack regulation has no basis and contradicts its stated aims to ban fracking. If the Council fails to change its position, it will betray the trust it has so far earned from Canadians,” says Will Koop, B.C. Tap Water Alliance Coordinator. “The increasing research and testimonial evidence from those who have been harmed by fracking show that **one cannot advocate frack regulation and be opposed to fracking**. There is no middle ground.”



Encana’s new 22-well frack pad, and water source (two kilometres distant), south of Dawson City, near 200 Road, May 29, 2017. (Will Koop photos)

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IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL:
(780) 356-6200 # (250) 782-2131



Frack trucks every day, toxic diesel fumes, road dust in Fox Creek, centre of Alberta's brute force frack experiments, May 22, 2017. Below, fresh frack water for sale, Fox Creek. (Will Koop photos)



November 16, 2017 – Article by Andrew Nikiforuk, in The Tyee: [‘Red Flag’ Raised: Study Finds Possible Fracking Risk to Pregnant BC Women: Researchers Found Markers Suggested Benzene Levels 3.5 Times Normal Levels for Women in Northeast](#)

November 22, 2017, Vancouver Sun Opinion article, by Vaughn Palmer: [Mungall’s All in on Fracking Review, But Not Moratorium](#)

November 23, 2017 – Article by Andrew Nikiforuk, in The Tyee: [Despite What Politicians Say, Hundreds of BC Gas Wells Leak Methane – Industry Regulator Withheld Data from Government for Four Years](#)