

# What fresh hell is this!

**Where: Cochrane Ranche House  
Cochrane, Alberta**

**When: September 10th 2011  
9:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Featured Speakers:  
Jessica Ernst - Andrew Nikiforuk**

**POWERS**  
PROTECTING OUR WATER and ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES SOCIETY

## **POWERS (PROTECTING OUR WATER AND ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES SOCIETY) SEEKS A MORATORIUM ON MULTI-STAGE HIGH VOLUME HORIZONTAL HYDRAULIC FRACTURING**

### **AND PRESENTS A FREE WORKSHOP ON THE DANGERS AND DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF FRACKING**

This event is created by the community, for the community. We ask the ERCB, Industry, Government and New West Partnership representatives, if attending, to please defer seating to community citizens.

**WHO WE ARE** POWERS is concerned with the rate and scale of unconventional oil and gas development taking place in our community and throughout Alberta, where companies are using the new controversial process of hydraulic fracturing with directional drilling. We voice our concerns and raise awareness of the increasingly reported risks to health and the environment from this highly invasive process.

POWERS has no political affiliations and is not part of any environmental group. We are rural and urban dwellers. Concerns arose a year ago when several residents in NW Rocky View found their lives impacted by the rapid influx of oil wells, without prior community consultation by the companies. We've educated ourselves on the documented impacts of fracking. The available information is alarming: peer-reviewed studies recently published, world-wide media reports on water, air and land contamination, explosions, fatalities, earthquakes, moratoriums, bans and lawsuits.

We find Alberta's understaffed regulator, the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), has gaping holes in their Directives, undermining their mandate "to ensure public safety, environmental protection, and resource conservation."

**THE EXPERIMENT – TRADING ONE SCARCE RESOURCE FOR ANOTHER** Multi-stage high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing, for one well, permanently removes millions of gallons of fresh water from the hydrologic cycle, laces it with undisclosed toxic chemicals, then injects the mix under high pressure to blast open new or existing fractures to scavenge for tight oil and gas. 20% to 70% of this mix remains underground.

Companies in Canada are not required to disclose the chemicals injected – not even in the event of community-wide water contamination after fracturing. Recovered frack fluids and produced water are contaminated with organics, salts, heavy metals and NORM (naturally occurring radioactive material).

After numerous incidents, the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission warned that industry does not know what their deep fractures do. The ERCB reported similar problems with shallow fracking in Alberta.

The National Energy Board reports that only 20% of the fracked resource is recoverable. Reportedly, shattering the rock via fracking results in the formation becoming thousands of times more permeable, allowing the remaining 80% of the resource and underground water, many times saltier than sea water, to become fugitive, where over time, it could contaminate groundwater.

Documented problems that plague hydraulic fracturing and associated activities include failed or improper casings, spills, accidents, negligence, human error, etc.

**WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW WILL HURT YOU** On March 8th 2011, letters with questions and concerns were sent to six companies fracking our community. To this date, August 22nd 2011, not one company answered our questions or addressed our concerns. Companies extol the virtues of "good neighbour" policies through their advertising campaigns, donations to local schools and community theatres and fracking colouring books for our children. When asked critical questions – companies are silent.

**THEIR SILENCE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.** It is for this cloak of secrecy, the unstudied impacts and cumulative effects, the decimated communities and a captured regulator and government, that we demand a moratorium until independent scientists prove hydraulic fracturing is safe.

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