

Take your time and research this major issue

Ed. note: this is a letter to all Yukon MLAs.

I am concerned when I realize that the full pages of "We want to hear from you" in English and French newspapers are completely hiding the fact that the Yukon Party plans to amend the Oil and Gas Act without consulting Yukoners as it said it would do last spring. Instead, the Yukon Party government plans to rely on "consultation" from 2009.

I must remind the government that:

In 2009, "fracking" was not known to Yukoners.

There was no "French" consultation on this important subject, as is required under Yukon law.

Today, my understanding is that, even with these amendments, there is no protection from the controversial subject of hydraulic fracturing, also called "fracking" or unconventional drilling.

I am pleased that Mr. Jim Tredger from the NDP has put forward a motion (No. 275) asking for a *moratorium on hydraulic fracturing*.

This motion will be discussed on Wednesday, Nov. 21 at the legislative assembly, and you will have to make a very important decision on this motion.

Last week, I heard Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers say: "They may or may not use hydraulic fracturing."

The public and the cabinet should be aware that there is much psychological finesse surrounding this subject.

It is why the oil industry has hired the same company, Hill and Knowlton, which was announcing that cigarettes were good for us years ago.

Now, we can hear them on TV and everywhere saying that "Natural gas is safe and is our future." Natural gas is obtained by hydraulic fracturing.

In these YouTube videos, we can observe what really happens when the oil and gas industry extracts natural gas.

Before you make any decision about the important matter of whether to permit the use of hydraulic fracturing, I thought I could send you a few links on the subject.

These links are not biased in favour of the oil industry. Here they are for your information:

Dr Ingraffea on YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHg6Ueb2t-E&NR=1&feature=endscreen>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=SjdhiZJCyzU

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSWmXpEkEPg&feature=fvst>

If "they may or may not use hydraulic fracturing," why not have a moratorium on it?

The oil and gas industry's practices are quite different from those

of mining. It uses and contaminates far more water – millions upon millions of litres more water.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need more time, as many other jurisdictions across North America and around the world realize. These include:

Quebec, Vermont, City of Ohio, City of Pittsburgh, Town of Wales, N.Y., Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, Buffalo, N.Y., Dryden Town, N.Y., Springfield, N.Y., Oneonta, N.Y., Town of Camillus, N.Y., Cresson, PA, Washington Township, PA, Wellsburg City, Ohio, Wellsville, West Virginia, Ulysses, N.Y., Licking Township, Clarion County, PA, Borough Council of West Homestead, PA, Tompkins County, N.Y., Broome County,

N.Y., Ontario, Sullivan and Onondaga Counties, N.Y., Ulster County, N.Y., Washington Township, PA, France, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Christchurch, New Zealand, Sligo and Donegal Counties, Ireland, Clare County Council, Ireland, Roscommon County Council, Ireland and Boxtel, Netherlands.

They have not said a blind *yes* to hydraulic fracturing. What is the Yukon's hurry?

Another benefit of delaying the oil and gas industry from "fracking the Yukon" would be to avoid what is happening in Fort St. John B.C., where drugs and alcohol are highly abused right now. Search online for the Oct. 21 edition of www.alaskahighwaynews.ca.

Read an article by Allison Gibbard called "Work hard Play hard".

After reading this article, my opinion is: if these impaired workers of the oil and gas industry are working on the hydraulic fracturing job, how can we say it will be safe? Maybe we should take time to investigate more on these practices.

What is your opinion?

From now until Nov. 21, I intend to send more information links to you and your colleagues about unconventional drilling practices because the decisions you will have to make about Motion No. 275 will highly affect our precious water resources and our way of living in the Yukon.

I trust you will take time to read and watch what I send you.

Thank you very much for your precious time.

Jacqueline Vigneux
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