

As you know, the Commission on Hydrofracturing has issued its report, but the government has not yet made its decision on the moratorium. This update contains recent news that should make that decision easier.

In the category of bad news for the industry, and good news for shale gas opponents, there are these recent stories.

1. Jury Awards Two Dimock Couples \$4.2 Million After Finding Cabot Oil & Gas Negligent in Fracking Contamination Case

<https://ecowatch.com/2016/03/10/cabot-dimock-fracking-case/>

It took them 7 years to win their case over water contamination, and 40 of their neighbours reached settlements out-of-court.

What makes it even more newsworthy is that these are folks who were featured in the *'Gasland'* movie, and who for many years have been the objects of derision by the pro-shale forces, who accused them of being fakers and sensationalists. There is more in-depth coverage of this on the web, but this site has an embedded video of comments from Josh Fox, director of *'Gasland.'*

2. Canada, U.S. agree to cut methane emissions from oil and gas industry

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-us-trudeau-state-visit-methane-emissions-1.3484699>

This is in response to recent studies showing methane emissions from the oil and gas industry are much worse than previously estimated.

EPA Draft Says Oil & Gas Methane Emissions Are 27 Percent Higher than Earlier Estimates

<http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2016/02/23/epa-draft-says-oil-gas-methane-emissions-are-twenty-seven-percent-higher-than-earlier-estimates/>

Industry complains that fixing the problems will be too expensive for them to survive. Another well-known industry problem that remains unsolved is the failure of cement seals on gas wells, one of which caused the recent massive 4-month methane leak in California.

Porter Ranch 'Monster' Gas Leak Largest in U.S. History

<http://ecowatch.com/2016/02/26/porter-ranch-leak-worst-in-history/>

These leaks also negate the concept of natural gas as a 'bridge' fuel.
Methane Leaks Erase Climate Benefit Of Fracked Gas, Countless Studies Find.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/02/17/3750240/methane-leaks-erase-climate-fracked-gas/>.

3. FERC Denies Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline

<http://ecowatch.com/2016/03/12/ferc-denies-jordan-cove-lng/>

This is another blow to the shale gas dream of exporting gas, adding to the number of unlicensed, unfunded or not-built gas export terminals, in response to economic, renewable energy and climate change realities. The reasoning of the Commission is also interesting:

"We find the generalized allegations of need proffered by Pacific Connector do not outweigh the potential for adverse impact on landowners and communities," FERC said, adding that, "the record does not support a finding that the public benefits of the Pacific Connector Pipeline outweigh the adverse effects on landowners."

4. How is New Brunswick's largest gas leaseholder - SWN – faring? From various business websites and financial reports.

In 2015, shale industries suffered dozens of bankruptcies with more expected. SWN barely survived by laying off nearly half of its employees and not operating a single drilling rig at the start of 2016.

SWN's share price is in single digits, its bonds are junk status and it has been downgraded by credit rating agencies, like much of the industry.

5. Why The Renewables Revolution Is Now Unstoppable

There has been a lot of news recently about the record expansion, decreasing costs and jobs provided by renewable energy.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/02/01/3743082/renewables-revolution/>

In the category of bad news for everyone, the news concerning climate change is really disturbing. Since Paris, measurements, events and studies show that climate change is happening much faster than

anticipated. It is no longer a problem for our grandchildren; it is our problem.

Records are broken and thresholds exceeded on almost a daily basis. The following 2 stories are chosen from many that catalogue the increased alarm from scientists and the experiences of those living with climate change.

6. As temperatures soar, new doubts arise about holding warming to 2 degrees C

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/03/15/temperatures-are-spiking-can-we-keep-global-warming-in-the-safe-range/?utm_source=Daily+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=92fac80782-cb_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_876aab4fd7-92fac80782

7. Record-breaking temperatures 'have robbed the Arctic of its winter'

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/15/record-breaking-temperatures-have-robbed-the-arctic-of-its-winter?utm_source=Daily+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=92fac80782-cb_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_876aab4fd7-92fac80782-303463669

From the article: *"To put it in context: I tell people to imagine what if Los Angeles was 60 degrees warmer than it was supposed to be – because Fort Yukon is 60 degrees warmer than it's supposed to be. People think the changes up here are invisible ... but if it only changes half as much down there as it has changed up here you guys are in for a hell of a lot of trouble."* Ed Alexander

"Climate change is relentless; human habit is oblivious. Bridging those two extremes is the central challenge of our times."

Daniel Kahneman