

How Dr. Cherry's Comments Validate NBASGA's Submission to the NB Commission on Hydraulic Fracturing.

(Fredericton, NB), November 18, 2015 - Dr. Cherry's description of the scientific evidence, or lack thereof, surrounding groundwater contamination is a perfect illustration of the position NBASGA has consistently maintained, and has communicated to the Commission on Hydrofracturing; namely that informed consultations leading to any kind of social license cannot take place until information about the nature and severity of risks are known, along with any possible mitigation.

Dr. Cherry's critique of widespread government failure to monitor and research groundwater contamination is applicable to other areas, such as air contamination, and the effects of fracking chemicals on public health and the environment. We still know little about them, as well.

Research in all these areas is just beginning, with 80% of studies on fracking only published within the last two years.

But what studies have been completed show just and reasonable cause for alarm, as new problems, both actual and potential, are identified. As with groundwater contamination, even more research is required, but, in light of the Precautionary Principle, we now know enough to reasonably and justifiably call for a continued halt to development here in New Brunswick before damage is done. We have said this to the Commission also.

If the necessary research to protect people and the environment takes a decade, then so be it. The health of our citizens and the environment that sustains us outweighs any quick and temporary grab for short-term jobs and questionable, financial gains.

As evidenced by all the science on climate change leading up to the Paris conference, it is obvious that no new source of unconventional fossil fuel can be developed. To stand any chance of addressing the threat to existence of runaway climate change, New Brunswick must participate in the global responsibility of ensuring these fuels stay in the ground.

That is the last point we made to the Commission. To see the entirety of our submission and supporting evidence to the Commission go to:

<http://www.noshalegasnb.ca/nbasga-presentation-to-new-brunswick-commission-on-hydraulic-fracturing/>