

1. An overwhelming portion of the provincial medical and public health communities have joined with public health institutions across Canada in calling for moratoriums on the extraction and burning of shale gas, based on the large and growing number of studies linking it to a long list of serious health issues. These issues also seem to take effect at greater distances than previously thought.

What does the government know that the experts don't that would make it think shale gas can be extracted safely? How will an already undersized and poor health system monitor citizen health issues, and assist them when there is a problem?

2. Droughts have become more frequent in New Brunswick - possibly linked to climate change. NBPower says that the flow of water over the Macquatac dam has been decreasing annually, requiring the utility to buy expensive power from elsewhere. We know that modern fracking requires millions of litres more freshwater than it did back in 2015 when worries over water was part of the moratorium.

Where will this water come from? Will there be limits? Who will have priority for water in times of shortages? Who will pay for it?

3. We know that modern fracking produces a lot more wastewater now than it did 15 years ago, but the method for its disposal has not changed. It still gets pumped into pressurized injection wells. We now know that this causes earthquakes, and that the wastewater can migrate away from the well, and that trucking the water to the disposal site introduces the risk of accidents.

How will NB handle wastewater differently than it did in 2015 when it was one of the main concerns for the moratorium?

4. Fracking is a notorious destroyer of rural roads and bridges, as well as a source of increased accidents.

Who will pay for the infrastructure repair, which in other jurisdiction has run into tens of millions of dollars?

5. Climate scientists and institutions from around the world have informed us that we will not hold warming to the 1.5 degree celsius increase that was the goal of the Paris Climate Treaty. The climate is warming at twice the expected rate and tipping points are rapidly approaching or are here. The ONLY path to halting catastrophe is to drastically reduce the burning of fossil fuels. This means there can be no new fossil fuel extraction projects.

Canada has never hit a climate target, and a new shale gas project would likely mean that New Brunswick never will either.

How do you morally, economically, or even legally justify a project that will help bring on a catastrophe?

6. Canadian provinces that host the shale gas and oil industry have debt loads of billions of dollars to close down orphaned and abandoned wells that continue to produce environmental contamination and greenhouse gas emissions. Gas producers don't even pay their local and property taxes.

How will you adequately police this industry when large and powerful provinces with large staffs, like Alberta and BC, cannot?

7. Water contamination from a variety of sources from different stages accompanies shale gas extraction. In other jurisdictions citizens are often left to fend for themselves when harmed, often having to fight the government as well as the gas company.

Voluntary enforcement and self-reporting procedures have largely proven ineffective elsewhere and contain many loopholes.

With our small enforcement capacity, what will be done to keep citizens from being at the mercy of gas companies?