



What's going on with this Fracking Moratorium, and how can I get involved?

Friends of the Earth Scotland Supporter Briefing

November 2016

Fracking moratorium

In January 2015, following massive public opposition to plans for onshore gas drilling and fracking across central and southern Scotland, the Scottish Government placed a moratorium on shale gas and coalbed methane (CBM) extraction.

A moratorium is probably best understood as a temporary ban or halt. The Scottish Government has used planning and environmental regulation powers to put a stop to shale gas fracking and CBM while it gathers evidence to inform a decision as to whether these industries should be banned more permanently or allowed to go ahead.

Based on its timescale for **evidence gathering** and **public consultation**, we anticipate that the Scottish Government could make a decision on the future of shale gas and coalbed methane in spring 2017.

Responding to enormous public pressure, the Scottish Government has already announced [a ban on Underground Coal Gasification](#)¹, which was under a separate moratorium. We are positive about winning on shale gas and CBM too, but this will only happen if huge numbers of people tell the Scottish Government that it is the right thing to do!

How can I get my voice heard?

The key opportunity to get your voice heard is during the **public consultation**, which is scheduled for 'winter 2016/17'. It's possible that the Government will organise community meetings and events that you can get involved in. But whatever the Government plans to do there are loads of ways you can get involved to get your voice heard and spread the word – see below.

Evidence gathering

The [evidence gathering](#) process that the Scottish Government has commissioned involves:²

- A [Public Health Impact Assessment](#) conducted by Health Protection Scotland
- [Studies on:](#)
 - Economic Impacts and scenario development work carried out by KPMG consultants
 - Seismic Activity & Monitoring, carried out by the British Geological Survey
 - Decommissioning, Site Restoration and Aftercare, by AECOM consultants
 - Climate Change Impacts, by the UK Climate Change Committee
 - Community Level Impacts of Transport, by Ricardo consultants

¹ <http://www.blog.foe-scotland.org.uk/index.php/2016/10/ucg-ban/>

² A statement on details of the evidence gathering and consultation process including timescales can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00487134.pdf> Details of the Health Impact Assessment can be found at <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/enviro/unconventionalgas.aspx> and full remits of the 5 research reports can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00490623.pdf>

- Workshops and engagement on environmental regulation and planning

Consultants and Health Protection Scotland have engaged with stakeholders including Friends of the Earth Scotland,³ the Broad Alliance of Scottish communities opposed to unconventional gas, as well as industry stakeholders such as UK Onshore Oil and Gas, while carrying out their research.

The studies are expected to be published towards very soon. We will be analysing these studies as soon as they are published since they will form an important foundation for the **public consultation**.

What you can do

- **Respond to the consultation when it is published.** If you are short of time sign an online petition, such as the one we will be offering. Even better, send a personal response by email or post
- **Get the word out to friends, family and colleagues** and encourage them to respond too
- **Organise a street stall, public meeting or film screening** in your area to inform and engage people and enable them to respond to the consultation too
- **Go along to [your local community council meeting](#),**⁴ tell them how you feel about fracking and encourage them to reach out for the views of local people and respond to the consultation
- **Write to [your local councillors](#)** to tell them how you feel about fracking and ask them to take a stance – with an election coming up next spring they'll want to know they can count on your vote...⁵
- **Make sure your MSPs also know how you feel** by writing to them or dropping into a surgery
- **[Find a group fighting fracking near you](#)** and get involved!⁶

When you respond to the consultation or write to you councillor remember to make it clear why you are opposed to fracking. Focusing on key impacts identified in the **evidence gathering** process will help strengthen and structure your response. To help the struggle against fracking around the world, it's really important to emphasise arguments such as climate change and public health impacts.

We are producing resources to help you do this, but there's already loads of information on our website.

Take action, find out more and sign up for updates at: www.stopfracking.scot



Friends of the Earth Scotland's work on unconventional fossil fuels is part of our campaign for a Fossil Free Scotland: A just transition to a 100% renewable, nuclear-free, zero-fossil-fuel Scotland

find out more at: www.fossilfree.scot

³ Read the evidence we submitted as part of Scottish Environment LINK to the Economic Impacts, Seismic Activity and Decommissioning studies at: <http://www.fracking.scot/learn-about-fracking>

Read the evidence we submitted to the Transport Impacts study at: <http://www.fracking.scot/learn-about-fracking>

⁴ If you are not sure who your community council is, or how to get in touch, visit:

<http://www.communitycouncils.scot/community-council-finder.html>

⁵ This helpful website uses a postcode search to find your local councillors, MSPs and MPs and lets you write your own email to all of them <https://www.writetothem.com/>

⁶ Frack Off have a list of local groups in Scotland including contact details: <http://frack-off.org.uk/local-group-specific-pages/#anchor-11>