

Archive of Selected Media Coverage Posted on our Social Media Feeds in 2013

December 2013

Shoal Point Energy, partner with Black Spruce Exploration, loses exploration license EL 1097R and \$1 million deposit. C-NLOPB rejects the companies' request for extension. Our groups continue to watch this and other neighbouring license areas as the debate over unconventional oil exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in NL continues: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/gros-morne-fracking-proponent-loses-exploration-licence-1.2462567>

CBC Radio interview with Shoal Point Energy CEO Mark Jarvis:
<http://www.cbc.ca/thewestcoastmorningshow/episodes/2013/12/16/no-extension-for-shoal-point-energy/>

Gulf of St. Lawrence Oil Projects will be in the news in 2014:
<http://www.thetelegram.com/Business/2013-12-28/article-3557997/Gulf-of-St.-Lawrence-oil-projects-topic-of-discussion-for-2014/1>

Rich marine biodiversity and potential oil reserves: eyes turn to the American Bank in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A short radio interview explains:
<http://www.cbc.ca/quebecam/environment/2013/12/23/potential-hydrocarbon-development-in-the-gaspe/>

November 2013

Newfoundland and Labrador Fracking Awareness Network (NL-FAN) press release calling for an independent and science-based review of hydraulic fracturing with public consultation: <http://www.nlfan.ca/resources/NLFAN-moratorim-response---press-release.pdf>

Groups in Newfoundland urge for an independent scientific review with public consultation that considers impacts across sectors including health, tourism, & fisheries. Read more at: <http://www.thewesternstar.com/News/Local/2013-11-05/article-3466081/Awareness-group-welcomes-fracking-review.-but-wants-it-to-be-independent/1>

Newfoundland and Labrador government announces a temporary ban on hydraulic fracturing, Nov. 4th, 2013. The government says they will not accept any project applications for hydraulic fracturing and will conduct an internal review of "regulations, rules and guidelines in other jurisdictions, and to complete the technical work needed to assess the geological impact on western Newfoundland:"
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fracking-on-hold-near-gros-morne-across-n-l-1.2355701>

October 2013

Members of Qalipu Mi'kmaq met on Oct. 30, 2013 to discuss fracking. Participants at the meeting were interviewed by the media:

<http://www.thewesternstar.com/News/Local/2013-10-31/article-3459213/Mitchell-taking-anti-fracking-message-back-to-Qalipu-council/1>

September 2013

President and CEO of Black Spruce Exploration interviewed today on CBC radio on plans for conventional drilling in garden hill area. Regarding future plans for fracking, he says his company will "work with government on the guidelines for hydraulic fracturing and help people become more familiar with how the industry works in the meantime." In the interview he encourages the government to "educate themselves." The company has 30 different oil and gas targets in western Newfoundland. They have plans for 3D seismic.

<http://www.cbc.ca/thewestcoastmorningshow/episodes/2013/09/13/exploration-company-opens-corner-brook-office/>

During a recent oil and gas symposium in Corner Brook, the NL Premier indicates that there is no guarantee that fracking will actually take place in the province. However, the NL government has no plans to introduce specific rules to regulate hydraulic fracturing: http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/09/13/newfoundland-fracking_n_3919182.html

People's Forum held in Stephenville in Sept. 2013 hosts Jessica Ernst. The event is covered by the Calgary Herald, Vancouver Sun, Ottawa Citizen, and Huffington Post among others: <http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/energy-resources/Debate+over+fracking+heats+Newfoundlands/8942832/story.html>

July 2013

Black Spruce Exploration "eager" to drill on west coast and building partnerships with UK company Enegi Oil. Black Spruce reports they have "already invested...US\$25 million in purchasing a drill rig, piping, and associated equipment." Yet they have not registered the project with govt. nor received permits. Although they now propose not to conduct fracking, fracking is the only way to extract tight oil from the shale rock and "Sullivan said his company is not ruling out fracking wells in the future." In the absence of a project description or govt. regulations on fracking, many questions remain. Why the rush?

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2013-07-27/article-3329387/Black-Spruce-eager-to-drill/1>

June 2013

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee recommends this week that a monitoring mission be sent to Gros Morne National Park to do a risk assessment of proposed fracking near the park boundaries and its potential impacts on the park. A range of perspectives are covered, including from the Premier of Newfoundland, the oil industry, CPAWS, and a local tourism operator:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/06/19/potential-fracking-in-gros-morne-3469641.html>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/fracking-risks-in-gros-morne-should-be-assessed-unesco-says-1.1333662>

Oil and gas regulators in Newfoundland have issued a call for bids to explore parts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence several months before a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for the western Newfoundland offshore area has concluded. The SEA may identify certain areas as off-limits to oil development, and groups calling for a moratorium in the Gulf of St. Lawrence argue that the regulators should wait for the conclusions of the SEA before issuing a call for bids:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/oil-regulators-invite-exploration-near-newfoundland-defy-federal-environment-commissioner/article12359188/>

Oil exec linked to Newfoundland plan cited for role in UN-Iraq Oil for Wheat Scandal: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fracking-firm-chairman-cited-for-role-in-un-iraq-scandal-1.1319356>

May 2013

Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador voices concern over proposed fracking in Gros Morne Region and potential impacts on tourism:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/gros-morne-fracking-issue-causing-significant-reaction-1.1380630>

April 2013

Port au Port / Bay St. George Fracking Awareness Group hosts a People's Forum on Fracking. 314 community members attend as did MHAs for the district, civil servants from the province's Departments of Natural Resources and of Environment and Conservation, and a representative of the St. Lawrence Coalition. The Hon. Tom Marshall, Minister of Natural Resources, also attended the event:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fracking-plan-draws-little-support-at-port-au-port-meeting-1.1317219>

<http://www.thewesternstar.com/News/Local/2013-04-08/article-3215336/Fracking-issue-draws-large-crowd-at-public-forum/1>

March 2013

On March 6 2013, Shoal Point Energy and Black Spruce Exploration submitted a project description to the C-NLOPB for the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Drilling Programme 2013 – 2019:

<http://www.cnlopb.nl.ca/pdfs/bsespe/projdesc.pdf>

January 2013

On January 8th, Shoal Point Energy Ltd. filed an Amendment to the Port au Port Exploration Drilling Program, requesting permission "to drill a side track to its current well at Shoal Point, NL and conduct a near---wellbore stimulation of the target Green Point Shale Formation"(p. 1). To do this, the company must conduct hydraulic fracturing. Comments or concerns regarding this amendment can be sent by February 11, 2013: <http://www.cnlopb.nl.ca/pdfs/pdidrill/pdiamen.pdf>

Unpacking Local Concerns

October 2013

Industry does not have a social license to frack in Western Newfoundland:
<http://theindependent.ca/2013/10/29/industry-does-not-have-a-social-licence-to-frack-in-western-newfoundland/>

Facts on Fracking Event held in St. John's, and the event held at the City Hall draws politicians as well as members of the public:

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2013-10-21/article-3434774/West-coast-fracking-a-hot-topic-at-St.-John%26rsquo%3Bs-event/1>

August 2013

Fish harvesters and community members meet in the Port au Port to discuss fracking and implications to their livelihoods. What will be the impacts of fracking a geological formation that is naturally highly fractured? Questions were raised about migration of chemicals into the bay and the impacts that 80 wells along the coast could have on the ocean and fisheries resources. "This is a big chance to take. If things go wrong, there is no fix:"

<http://www.cbc.ca/thewestcoastmorningshow/episodes/2013/08/15/people-gathered-in-lourdes-last-night-to-hear-about-fracking/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fishermen-concerned-about-industry-if-fracking-approved-1.1329180>

Could the door be cracking open for fracking in western Newfoundland without a rigorous scientific review and comprehensive public dialogue process? This letter to the editor raises the question of a Trojan Horse:

<http://www.thetelegram.com/Opinion/Letter-to-the-editor/2013-10-08/article-3420648/Fracking-through-the-back-door%3F/1>

May 2013

Letter to the Editor raising concern over the lack of a regulatory framework for hydraulic fracturing in Newfoundland and Labrador and calling for an independent review of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of fracking:

<http://www.thetelegram.com/Opinion/Letter-to-the-editor/2013-05-21/article-3252833/Not-much-of-a-review/1>

February 2013

When we know more about Christmas lights than fracking, it's time to take a harder look: <http://theindependent.ca/2013/02/19/when-we-know-more-about-christmas-lights-than-fracking-its-time-to-take-a-harder-look/>

The Broader Context

December 2013

A report is tabled to PEI legislature calling for moratorium on offshore fracking. The Chair of PEI's The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Energy said, "fracking-related leaks, spills and accidents would be catastrophic for our province." The Report highlights concerns re. leaks, risks to fisheries & Gulf ecosystem, risks to tourism, waste disposal, contamination of ground and surface waters, & high water use: <http://www.souwester.ca/Business/2013-12-03/article-3528031/PEI-legislative-committee-opposes-fracking-in-gulf/1>

November 2013

Canada's largest energy union, Unifor, has called for a Canada-wide moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, citing: health and safety issues for workers; economic concerns; concerns expressed by First Nations across the country; and the "substantial environmental concerns" raised by new methods / technology being employed. The Nov. 12 resolution can be found here:

http://www.unifor.org/sites/default/files/attachments/neb_resolution_on_fracking_nov2013_e.pdf

CBC's The Current covers interest in Oil and Gas exploration in the Gulf of St.

Lawrence: <http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/episode/2011/11/24/oil-gas-drilling-in-the-gulf-of-st-lawrence/>

October 2013

Quebec and Labrador First Nations sign a memorandum of understanding and form a political coalition to speak with a common voice on issues related to the protection of the Gulf of St. Lawrence: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1250873/oil-and-gas-exploration-three-first-nations-formed-political-coalition-to-protect-the-gulf-of-st-lawrence>

Shale gas protests in New Brunswick, ongoing since September, turned violent after police moved in to enforce a court injunction won by SWN Resources to remove protesters. 40 were arrested. Chief Atwin said the Assembly of First Nations in New Brunswick "urges all sides not to resort to violence as history has proven these tactics are not productive." But he noted First Nations in New Brunswick have tried

to work within the confines of "a restrictive, compartmentalized consultation process:" <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/shale-gas-protesters-clash-with-police-in-rexton-n-b-1.2100703>

The European Parliament looks to revise legislation to make all hydraulic fracturing, regardless of amounts extracted, subject to mandatory environmental assessment. Measures are proposed to ensure that those carrying out assessments are independent of the developer or public authorities, have necessary qualifications, and work in a scientifically objective fashion. Measures are also proposed to ensure that the public is informed and consulted.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20131004IPR21541/html/Shale-gas-new-fracking-projects-must-pass-environmental-test>

September 2013

Radio interview with the David Wheeler, Chair of the panel that will lead the new Nova Scotia independent review on fracking. He discusses the mandate of the review, timeline, the questions that need to be answered, and the public engagement planned:

<http://www.cbc.ca/informationmorningfredericton/2013/09/03/nova-scotia-fracking/>

July 2013

Crude oil that exploded in Lac -Megantic in July 2013 was extracted via fracking (from the Bakken formation). Documents indicate that "there can be up to 10 times as much benzene in Bakken crude, as well as high levels of hydrogen sulphide, compared with conventional crude oil," which could cause oil to become more explosive. Investigations needed to better understand how fracking and non-disclosed mixtures of chemicals used in the process can influence the composition and behavior of oil. What would be the safety issues of transporting shale oil through small communities and on rural roads in western Newfoundland?

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Other+chemicals+have+been+play+train+disaster+Test/8741223/story.html>

May 2013

Inverness County, Nova Scotia, passes and anti-fracking bylaw:

<http://www.capebretonpost.com/News/Local/2013-05-06/article-3237799/Inverness-County-passes-antifracking-bylaw/1>

February 2013

Concern over chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing and the lack of oil spill preparedness of the two offshore petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada are highlighted in a report tabled by Canadian Commissioner of the Environment and

[file://localhost/Sustainable Development/](file://localhost/Sustainable%20Development/)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/environmental-watchdog-worried-about-rise-of-fracking-1.1354456>

