



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing

33rd Yukon Legislative Assembly

OPEN LETTER

January 20, 2014

On Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 2014 the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing will be conducting proceedings in the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Part of our mandate is to develop a science-based understanding of hydraulic fracturing and also to allow for an informed public dialogue. To this end we would like to invite interested Yukoners to observe our proceedings from the public gallery. Because the public gallery can only accommodate approximately 120 people, the proceedings will be broadcast live on 93.5 FM and on the Legislative Assembly's website. The video will be made available online afterwards. A transcript of the proceedings will also be posted on the Committee's webpage.

Over the course of two days, we will receive presentations from eight different groups and individuals that we have invited here to share their knowledge and perspectives. Each presentation will be 50 minutes long, followed by a 10 minute break and then 45 minutes of questions. Up until the end of the presentations, visitors in the gallery may submit written questions for the presenters. After asking a few questions each, members of our committee will randomly select written questions from those that have been submitted, and ask the presenters to answer them. Time will not guarantee all public questions will be asked and answered, but we will do our very best with the time allotted. If individuals from the public have questions that persist afterwards, we will do our best to follow up and ensure that they are answered.

The full agenda is available on the Committee's website but the following groups and individuals will present to us. Friday will begin with Dr. Gilles Wendling who is a consultant who has been involved in the assessment of drinking water supplies and in the protection of groundwater resources. Next is the BC Oil and Gas Commission to discuss how hydraulic fracturing is regulated and dealt with in British Columbia. Following them is the Pembina Institute which is an organization that advocates for the protection of Canada's environment. Friday's last presentation will be from Northern Cross Yukon Ltd. and EFL Overseas Energy which are both companies with oil and gas interests in Yukon.

The first presentation on Saturday will be from Dr. Bernhard Mayer who is a professor of geology and geophysics whose research focuses on groundwater monitoring. Next is Dr. Rick Chalaturnyk who is a professor of geotechnical engineering and sits on the Canadian Council of Academies' expert panel convened to provide an evidence-based and authoritative assessment on the state of knowledge of potential environmental impacts from the exploration, extraction and development of Canada's shale gas resources. Following Dr. Chalaturnyk will be representatives from the Fort Nelson First Nation, who will share their experiences with hydraulic fracturing in the Fort Nelson area. The final presentation will be by the National Energy Board which is an independent federal agency established to regulate international and interprovincial aspects of the oil and gas industries.

These proceedings will be an excellent opportunity for us to learn from these presentations and for Yukoners to hear for themselves what the Committee is learning. We have not yet set a schedule for our public hearings which will be held in various Yukon communities. We thank Yukoners for their patience as we continue our work.

Patti McLeod, MLA

Chair of the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing

Committee webpage: www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca/rbhf

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PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS SCHEDULE

January 31 and February 1, 2014

Yukon Legislative Assembly, 2071 Second Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon

Friday, January 31, 2014	
8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Presentation by Gilles Wendling
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Questions
10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Presentation by BC Oil and Gas Commission
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Questions
1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	Presentation by the Pembina Institute
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Questions
3:15 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.	Industry Presentations: EFLO / Northern Cross
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Questions
Saturday, February 1, 2014	
8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Presentation by Bernhard Mayer
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Questions
10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Presentation by Rick Chalaturnyk
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Questions
1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	Presentation by the Fort Nelson First Nation
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Questions
3:15 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.	Presentation by the National Energy Board
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Questions