



Media Release

Coalition of NWT Citizens Calls for Environmental Assessment of Husky Oil Application for Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing

Yellowknife April 14, 2014

A coalition of NWT citizens is encouraging NWT residents who want to see the latest application for fracking referred to a full environmental assessment to write letters to the Sahtu Land and Water Board. Many Sahtu residents are expressing concerns about the lack of previous consultation on fracking, and insisting that there must be a focus on thorough public consultation and discussion with this latest application.

On April 7, 2014, the Sahtu Land and Water Board opened a 21-day period to accept comments on Husky Oil's recent application to horizontally drill and hydraulically fracture four wells near the Mackenzie River between Norman Wells and Tulita.

Sample letters and more information on the concerns about fracking can be found at the following websites: www.alternativesnorth.ca, www.ecologynorth.ca and www.cocnwt.ca

Many NWT citizens are concerned about the impacts that horizontal hydraulic fracturing (fracking) has on the health of water, land, wildlife, climate, people and communities. The public concern about this new and controversial oil extraction technique was demonstrated through the presentation of a petition to the Legislative Assembly in March 2014, which was signed by 790 people from all over the NWT, including all Sahtu communities:

http://epetition.lant.public-i.tv/epetition_core/community/petition/2614

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLF1fv7RFys>

The petition called on the GNWT to use its authority under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) to refer any further fracking applications in the NWT to a full environmental assessment that includes public hearings. The MVRMA states that a project that might be a cause for public concern should be referred for an environmental assessment.

"Fracking uses and permanently contaminates very large volumes of water, and will require transporting toxic fracking chemicals and polluted wastewater through our communities, along our highways and on the Mackenzie River," says Christine Wenman of Ecology North. "In Canada alone, the controversial technique of horizontal hydraulic fracturing has been placed under moratorium in the Yukon, Québec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, in order to

allow time to study the environmental and social impacts of the process before approval is given to use it. We want to ensure that this new oil extraction process has been carefully studied before further fracking is approved in the NWT," comments Lois Little of the NWT Chapter of the Council of Canadians.

For more information and to speak with members of the Fracking Action North coalition, please contact the following spokespeople:

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