

## **Frequently Asked Questions Hydraulic Fracturing Review Extension April 2012**

### **Why is the review being extended?**

Government wants to make informed decisions around hydraulic fracturing and regulating this activity. A number of jurisdictions have technical reviews underway that won't be completed until late 2013 and 2014. It is important for government to have the benefit of this information from jurisdictions with more experience in this area.

### **What will government do if it gets an application for hydraulic fracturing?**

No applications will be approved for hydraulic fracturing.

### **What is hydraulic fracturing?**

Hydraulic Fracturing is a technology used by industry to extract hydrocarbons in tight sands, shales or limestones. The technique injects sand, chemicals and large volumes of water into the earth to fracture these rocks and allow the hydrocarbons to flow into the well bore.

### **Why not ban hydraulic fracturing?**

Government is reviewing the potential environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. Government has said that a ban or a moratorium is more an outcome of a review and the review is not completed. Until it is, no hydraulic fracturing will be approved in Nova Scotia.

### **What report or jurisdiction is the province waiting for before finishing its review?**

It's not one particular study or jurisdiction, rather the body of information and regulatory approaches available that provides the committee with enough credible information upon which to make informed decisions.

### **When will the report be released now?**

A date has not been set. The review will be extended until enough information is available for government to make informed and balanced decisions about this regulation of this activity.

### **What has the committee concluded?**

The committee has not made any conclusions and will wait to consider the results of technical studies underway in jurisdictions with significantly more experience in this area before doing so.