



Review of Hydraulic Fracturing for Shale Gas in Nova Scotia

Government is appointing an internal committee of officials from the Departments of Energy and Environment to examine the environmental issues associated with hydraulic fracturing in shale gas formations and make recommendations on any additional required regulatory measures.

The team of senior technical and policy staff will work collaboratively to identify potential environmental issues, determine how they are managed in other jurisdictions and identify industry best practices. The team will look at the reviews of other jurisdictions across Canada and in the United States and bring in outside experts in certain subject areas.

The scope is focused primarily on issues about water. The proposed scope will examine the following potential environmental issues:

- effects on groundwater;
- use and effects on surface water;
- impacts on land, such as potential soil contamination;
- waste management, including surface ponds of produced waters;
- management of additives in hydraulic fracturing fluids;
- site restoration; and
- financial security / insurance.

The public will have an opportunity to provide written comments related to the topic areas covered by the scope.

At the end of this review process, a set of recommendations will be submitted to the Government of Nova Scotia to improve current provincial regulations into shale gas hydraulic fracturing. The public will also have an opportunity to provide written comments on the recommendations before regulatory changes are made.

It is anticipated that this review would be complete by early 2012.

Given that there are currently no applications for hydraulic fracturing of shales in Nova Scotia and none are anticipated this year, it is a good time to complete this work.