

New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance

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Do Not Depend on Shale Gas from New Brunswick, Canada

August 29, 2018

Dear Minister of the Environment Schulze,
Dear Minister of Economics Altmaier,
Dear Minister of Finance Scholz:

This letter is to urge you **not** to award Pieridae Energy an Undertaking Financial Guarantee (UFG) of up to US\$ 4 billion to build a liquefied natural gas terminal in Goldboro, Nova Scotia, nor encourage this project by awarding some of that UFG for Pieridae to purchase gas fields in Western Canada.

As part of its plan for the Goldboro LNG plant, Pieridae envisions getting a substantial portion of its gas supply from the province of New Brunswick. That is based on the assumption that the Progressive Conservative party wins an election in September, and makes good on its plans to lift an existing moratorium on the fracking of shale gas,

Even if this party wins the election, the flow of shale gas from New Brunswick is far from assured.

My organization, the New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance (NBASGA), represents dozens of community, environmental, public health, watershed and other groups across our province, including both our Anglophone and Francophone citizens. In addition, we are closely allied with the two major indigenous groups in the province.

Such a coalition has never before existed in our province. For four years we battled the previous Conservative government over bringing shale gas to the province. Ultimately, we successfully defeated that government on the issue, and a new government adopted a moratorium, which has lasted nearly 4 years, and which all the political parties in the province have promised to continue, except for the Conservatives.

However, even if the Conservatives win, the battle will have just begun. As part of our strategy to defeat the previous attempt to develop shale gas, NBASGA filed a lawsuit against the government, based on the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Once the moratorium was achieved, the suit became inactive, but it was not withdrawn. We still retain our attorney and the funds we

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collected to fight this issue in the courts, and are prepared to do so immediately, should the Conservatives attempt to lift the moratorium.

Even more importantly, perhaps, is the depth of feeling and dedication of the opposition to shale gas. This issue has inflamed our populace more than any issue in memory, particularly among the indigenous population and those living in the potential areas of drilling.

Their actions leading to the moratorium included the usual protests, petitions, demonstrations, etc., but also encompassed blockades and extensive civil disobedience, which eventually resulted in a police military-type raid on peaceful indigenous protesters at Elsipogtog that led to arrests and violence, and made international headlines.

The actions of the government and police in that raid are still under investigation by internal affairs investigators of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Opposition activities caused the drilling companies to suspend their operations for the year on two occasions before we achieved the moratorium. The passion of the opposition has not diminished.

So, any attempt to get shale gas from New Brunswick will be met in the courtroom by legal means, and by extensive citizen opposition activities. The gas may not flow for some time, if ever, but in the meantime, the civic life in our province will once again be shredded.

We believe you and any investors should be aware of these facts on the ground here in New Brunswick before making any plans. We also hope that you do not wish to be a party to the civil strife that will undoubtedly accompany any attempt to bring shale gas extraction to our province.

It is not lost on us that Germany itself does not allow fracking, for good reasons, and we hope that you do not simply want us to bear the threats to water, health and environment in your stead. And, of course, with fracking's clear threat to climate change, we will all suffer if projects like this go forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Emberger, Spokesperson
New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance