

***Submission on Shale Gas Extraction***

***To***

***The Commission for Energy Regulation***

***Regarding Consultation Document: CER/11/137***

***From***

***Shannon & Erne Loughs Protection Alliance***

**Presented on 26 September, 2011 by:**

**Dr. Kevin Deering, Swanlinbar**

**Tom Hyde, Ballymagauran.**

**On behalf of *S.&E.L.P.A.***

We are a group of land owners resident in the area of north-west Cavan and south Fermanagh, concerned with what is currently being described as “The Shale Gas Project” by Tamboran, a company nearly mid-way through an exploration period under licence from the Republic of Ireland Government and the Northern Ireland Government.

Our immediate concerns are:

1. the lack of scientific verification of the effects of the process known as hydraulic fracturing which has been pioneered in the U.S. *in recent years*, but exempt from that country’s Clean Air and Clean Water Regulations.
2. the Europe-wide lack of Regulations with regard to this mining process, including the island of Ireland, North and South.
3. the changing message from Tamboran about it’s plans since it commenced media interviews by the Chief Executive Officer and it’s recent Public Information Meetings, especially it’s latest claim to be able to extract shale gas by non-use of chemicals, which the mining industry and academic mining people say is impossible.
4. the State’s reliance on Environmental Impact Survey carried out by such companies, in spite of the EU’s (EIA) Directive – Directive 85-337-EC, OJ L 175, 5.7.1985.

We urgently request the appropriate Authorities in Ireland to seriously review the lack of Regulations with regard to this process, to defer granting any extraction licences following the expiry of the exploratory ones now held by three companies in the Republic, until such time as independent scientists have established the effects of the process on water and human and animal health in the areas in which it takes place, or has taken place, i.e., most notably the U.S. and Australia.

Finally, we request the opportunity to make in-person submissions to C.E.R. and related planning Bodies considering this industry’s plans for our region, before any extraction licenses are granted by the Government; and or the right to be present at any oral hearings which might take place on this issue, which we believe seriously threatens the health and welfare of all who depend on the water source of the two great rivers of this island, the Shannon and the Erne, which is the ill-named “Lough Allen Basin”.