

Tina Graham

Subject: CER/13/016 - Draft Decision Paper on the Petroleum Safety Levy for public consultation -
Response from Geraldine Ring

With reference to this draft decision paper, I wish to point out that this paper does not make any reference to hydraulic fracturing for shale gas (fracking). Is there an explanation for this?

This paper does not address the costs of regulating this industry. Why is that?

The total budget of the CER up to 2016 for the establishment of the framework and the regulatory regime, is 6 million euros only, yet this must cover all gas and oil exploration and extraction in Ireland.

It would be reasonable to expect a budget of that size to be required to investigate and identify the risks and mitigation measures of fracking alone.

In my view, this does not give confidence in the ability of the CER to carry out its remit in a satisfactory way.

I believe the industry must be required to finance the total cost for a proper regulatory framework via the proposed Levy and the ultimate decision on the Levy cannot be taken until these issues are addressed.

**Yours sincerely,
Geraldine Ring**