

## Open Letter to Premier Redford *December 15, 2011*

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Dear Premier Redford,

On behalf of POWERS (Protecting Our Water and Ecological Resources Society), we are writing with regard to the new brute-force hydraulic fracturing taking place in our community of Northwest Rocky View and throughout Alberta.

We demand a moratorium on this [risky experiment](#) until it has been studied and found safe by independent, unbiased scientists, and [the study peer-reviewed](#).

### **BELOW ARE A FEW REASONS WHY:**

#### **1. When doctors are concerned, people should be concerned.**

October 2011 - [Over 250 doctors and medical authorities in the US](#) are calling for a complete 'health impact assessment ... hydrofracking has the potential to significantly destroy the water air and soil of communities in and around the drilling areas and to affect large state aquifers providing water for millions of families.'

*'As pediatricians, we are very concerned about how the negative environmental outcomes may impact children's health, development and general well being in the hydrofracking areas and beyond. Children are far more susceptible to environmental toxins, since they absorb and metabolise toxins at a higher rate for their body mass.'*

Medical professionals agree that the time to conduct that health assessment is before drilling gets underway, not afterwards.

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#### **2. Smoking is a choice and easily avoided, a fracking assault on communities is not.**

August 2011 - [Warnings](#) raised by the [Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units \(PEHSU\)](#) - Located across the US, Canada and Mexico - [PEHSU Canada located in Edmonton](#).

[PEHSU: A Network of Experts in Children's Environmental Health released information warning of the risks to children from fracking.](#)

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#### **3. Deadly secrets.**

Nowhere in Canada is it legislated that companies must disclose all chemicals injected during drill-

ing, fracturing, refracturing, blow-outs, accidents, acidizing and servicing – not even in the event of community-wide water contamination.

It is astounding that the well known [theater community of Rosebud](#) was [left with dangerously contaminated water after a company drilled and fracked there](#) and that:

- The company did not disclose to affected families the chemicals injected;
- The government and regulators did not compel the company to disclose the chemicals, rendering the investigation incomplete;
- The company continues to refuse to disclose their chemicals after [giving testimony November 23, 2010 to a Parliamentary Committee that they disclose all chemicals injected](#):

*MP Nathan Cullen:* Mr. Dunn, to bring you back to another conversation, we had one of your competitors up earlier committing publicly to disclose the chemicals used in the fracturing process. Is that something Encana is doing right now or is willing to do in the future?

*Mr. Richard Dunn (Vice-President, Canadian Division, Regulatory and Government Relations, Encana Corporation):* Yes, we're doing it now.

*MP Nathan Cullen:* You're doing it right now. Again, just to be clear, because this committee has to write a report and recommendations to government to change the regulations to require companies—all of your competitors and Encana—to release information on all of the chemicals used in the fracturing process, I assume you would have no problem with that because it encourages greater public confidence in your operations?

*Mr. Richard Dunn:* Yes, absolutely, I agree with your comments on increasing public confidence and full disclosure.

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#### **4. Eroding the resiliency of communities.**

[Affected families in Alberta were promised safe, alternate water “now and into the future” by the former provincial government.](#) Not only was that promise broken, the companies are now engaged in a “game changing” campaign, ramping up their operations and rapidly drilling and fracking these communities even more.

[Is this what the communities being fracked in Alberta have to look forward to?](#) Where is the protection for our families?

We ask that this government do right by Albertans and immediately reinstate the government's promised alternate safe water to affected citizens and that the drilling and fracking cease immediately near the communities until [an EPA-Wyoming-like investigation is carried out addressing the contamination and risks.](#)

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#### **5. Profit over people.**

Who is responsible when our ‘world-class’ [ERCB deregulates to accommodate the rapid increase of hydraulic fracturing](#), placing [the liabilities of industry's fall-out onto landowners and the public?](#) Where are our governing bodies headed?

In other jurisdictions, [moratoriums](#) or [outright bans](#) are being implemented to protect the citizens.

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## 6. Dangerous government interference.

Who is accountable when our water well chemistries and historic records, including whether gas or oil is present or not, are quietly removed from public access after contamination cases in Alberta become public? (eg: Three men were seriously injured and hospitalized after [the contaminated Bruce Jack water well exploded](#).)

We are appalled to learn that these vital records needed to protect water, families and operations have been removed, and [replaced with altered records](#).

All historic water well records and chemistry data  
must be reinstated on the Internet, as they were.

In 2002, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment reported that [unconventional drilling poses a real threat to groundwater quality and quantity](#), yet to this day, there are no comprehensive, unbiased risk assessments or peer-reviewed studies completed for Canada.

[The rapid onslaught of the experimental hydraulic fracturing](#) on our communities must be halted immediately. Contaminated water moves, it affects us all.

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In closing, we express our disappointment that with all the innovation in the world today, the government appears intent on navigating a dead-end road laden with community casualties. We expect and demand better.

*Families should never have to choose between a job and a healthy environment. They are entitled to both. Americans are no less entitled to a safe, clean environment during difficult economic times than they are in a more prosperous economy.* [Lisa Jackson, US Environmental Protection Agency, Testimony](#)

Canadians deserve the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we look forward to hearing from you promptly. We invite you to visit our [website](#) and consider the information presented there.

Sincerely,

**POWERS**