

MONICA CORISH

**PINPRICK**

"Tamboran expect to drill in August"  
Headline, Leitrim Observer, July 25, 2014

A scientific borehole  
6 inches across  
750 metres deep.

Just a little prick,  
dear,  
you won't feel a thing.

In Namibia, Nigeria,  
in the laundries  
of the slighted Magdalene:

vaccine trails, experimentation,  
a child without a voice  
a doctor in white,

a kindly matron:  
Now why are you crying,  
a big girl like you?

Over such a little thing?  
6 inches across  
750 metres deep.

Nothing at all  
to the skin of the earth.  
Such a big girl.

This is fact-finding,  
Dr Bazley of Tamboran stated,  
not fracking.

No public consultation  
will be included. The borehole will come  
under permitted development.

It's for your own good,  
dear, and the greater good,  
and the greedy god of growth and profit.  
Just a pinprick.  
Such a big girl.

# QUESTIONS OVER EPA RESEARCH COMMISSION ON FRACKING



UNCONVENTIONAL GAS Exploration & Extraction (UGEE) has not gone away, the companies that want to extract gas from the North West Carboniferous basin are still working away. Unfortunately the Environmental Protection Agency's study has been captured by the oil and gas industry.

In late 2014 the appointment of engineering and construction firm CDM Smith based in Cambridge, Massachusetts to head up the research into Fracking in Ireland shows contempt for our right to health in the North West of Ireland. CDM Smith offers consulting, engineering, construction and operations services to the energy industry including the shale gas industry. On its website, CDM Smith states that it has worked with Marathon Oil for the "completion of environmental, geotechnical, design and construction management services for its first proposed exploration well pad development in Poland". The Irish Times published an article in which they reported that the Vice President of CDM Smith Kevin Malloy criticised the decision of New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo to ban Fracking. While the public want policy development based on science, with a focus on

public health, it seems that the Irish State is driving forward with the introduction of regulations for the fracking industry. New York State's ban on Fracking is based on a review of the impacts on public health. Given CDM Smith's unapologetic pro-Fracking stance, communities where it is proposed that fracking will take place are now very concerned about the objectivity of the STRIVE (Science, Research, Technology and innovation for the Environment) funded research. The appointment of a Pro-Fracking company to indirectly answer questions about public health is outrageous and unacceptable to the communities of people living in areas where it is proposed that fracking will take place. It is a strongly held belief (as evidenced by the huge turnout at various public meetings on the issue) that the current research programme should be abandoned or at least suspended. In its current state it will prove to be a waste of public money given the undeclared conflict of interest with CDM Smith's public support of fracking. This will undermine the validity of the report as will the lack of a proposed peer review, which is also counter to standards expected in any piece of ethical research. The terms of

**Making the Connections...**

**NO FRACKING**

**Not Here  
Not Anywhere**

**Activists from Spain, UK & Ireland share their stories of opposing 'fracking'**

**Where**  
The Glens Centre,  
Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim.

**When**  
Sat 28th November  
7pm-11.30pm

**7pm sharp! 'Fionnuala'**  
Donal O'Kelly's award-winning show  
with music by Dee Armstrong & Co.

**8pm Connections & Reflections**  
with anti-fracking activists from  
Spain, the UK and Ireland.

**9.30pm DJ Enda**  
(Firehouse Skank)

Free Admission, donations welcome.

reference are already out of date and out of line with the European Commission recommendations. A vast amount of peer reviewed information is now available on fracking, highlighting the risks to public health that have been uncovered in the last 2 years. Antifracking groups are asking our political representatives to seek a review of the emerging scientific information on the public and community health effects of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF). This must be comprehensive and be carried out by a competent person who has responsibility for public health and with no conflict of interest.

In relation to public health the Concerned Health Professionals of New York, together with the Nobel-prize winning Physicians for Social Responsibility, have just released the third edition of the

fully referenced Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction). There are now more than 500 studies in the peer-reviewed scientific literature on the impacts of fracking and the overwhelming majority find harmful effects or significant risks of harmful effects.

For the first time, the Compendium includes a section on the risks posed by fracking infrastructure, including pipelines, compressor stations, and silica sand mining operations.

The three final sentences from the report are very telling:

*All together, findings to date from scientific, medical, and journalistic investigations combine to demonstrate that fracking poses significant threats to air, water, health, public safety, climate stability, seismic stability, community cohesion, and long-term economic vitality. Emerging data from a rapidly expanding body of evidence continue to reveal a plethora of recurring problems and harms that cannot be averted or cannot be sufficiently averted through regulatory frameworks. In the words of esteemed pediatrician Jerome Paulson, MD, there is "no evidence that...fracking can operate without risks to human health....Any claims of safety are based on wishful thinking"*

*Compendium of Scientific, medical and media findings demonstrating risks and harms of Fracking*

Love Leitrim continue to call for a ban on UGEE and fracking. To learn more please visit [www.loveleitrim.org](http://www.loveleitrim.org) and for information on the health issues caused by UGEE <http://concerned-healthy.org>

Paulson, J. (2015, August 23). Fracking near schools: DEP fails to keep drillers a healthy distance away from children. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

## MONICA CORISH

### NO FISH WILL BE LEFT IN LAKES, WARNS PRIEST

Headline, Leitrim Observer, 18 July, 1990

Christ returns, to Leitrim.  
He looks for men who know about water  
and dreams, the slippery deep;

for women who know about reeds,  
to weave a cross unsuited to death -  
women who swim in their sleep.

When Christ returns to Leitrim  
he comes upon a gathering -  
women and men on the gravelled shore

of a lifeless lake -  
huddled - waiting - keening.  
They put their arms around his shoulders,

they hold him while he weeps -  
when Christ returns to Leitrim  
he almost dies of grief.

Their tears add salt to the barren lake,  
the tears of friends of fish and dreams,  
of Brigid's tangled reeds.

Something stirs in the slippy deep.