

Ministry of Natural Resources

Ministère des Richesses naturelles

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July 22, 2015

MNR5805MC-2015-1462

Heather Morrison
County of Grey
Deputy Clerk
595-9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, Ontario
N4K 3E3

Dear Heather,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding high-volume hydraulic fracturing in Ontario. The Honourable Bill Mauro forwarded me your letter regarding PCD90-15. I am responding on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR).

In early 2013, the MNR and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) accepted an Application for Review under the Environmental Bill of Rights to review existing legislation related to high-volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and unconventional oil and gas resource development. The review is still underway.

To date there are no proposals by industry for the use of high-volume hydraulic fracturing, commonly referred to as "fracking" in Ontario. At this time, the ministry would not consider applications for the use of high-volume hydraulic fracturing before proper consultations with stakeholders, Aboriginal communities, and the public are conducted to ensure that adequate measures are in place to protect the environment.

Staff from my ministry, and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, will continue to monitor the latest regulatory developments in other jurisdictions.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry remains committed to ensuring that all oil and gas related drilling and production activities are conducted safely without detriment to the public and the environment.

Again, thank you for writing. I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monique Rolf Von Den Baumen-Clark".

Monique Rolf Von Den Baumen-Clark
Director (A), Integration Branch