

August 16, 2019



**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-144-2019)**

---

On August 2, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

**Please provide copies of any briefing notes, reports or studies related to Fracking created or received by DNR in the past year**

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to the requested records. The records are attached.

Annex 1 and 2 which are found on pages 4 & 5 have been redacted in full due to codes provided below.

We are providing access to the most information possible but have made redactions in accordance with Sections 29(1)(a) and 35(1)(d)(f)(g) of *ATIPPA, 2015* as follows:

29. (1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

35. (1)(d) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to result in the premature disclosure of a proposal or project or in significant loss or gain to a third party.

35. (1)(f) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose positions, plans, procedures, criteria or instructions developed for the purpose of contractual or other negotiations by or on

behalf of the government of the province or a public body, or considerations which relate to those negotiations.

35. (1)(g) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the financial or economic interest of the government of the province or a public body.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the *Act*). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
2 Canada Drive  
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A  
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309  
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309  
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the *Act*.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the letter posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or [rhynes@gov.nl.ca](mailto:rhynes@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



Rod Hynes  
ATIPP Coordinator

**Decision/Direction Note  
Department of Natural Resources**

**Title:** Newfoundland & Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel Recommendations implementation strategy

**Decision/Direction Required:**

- Whether to approve commencement of an implementation strategy derived from the report issued by the Newfoundland & Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel (NLHFRP).

- 

**Background and Current Status:**

S.29.1.a S.35.1.g

- The panel report finalized in May 2016 recommended a “pause” in accepting applications involving hydraulic fracturing in Western Newfoundland whilst a number of supplementary PR are implemented.
- The supplementary recommendations are color-coded ('red stage', 'yellow stage', and 'green stage') to indicate the sequence in which they should be implemented. There are 17 red, 38 yellow and 30 green. Red stage PRs are related to public policy and processes and must be undertaken prior to the “pause” been lifted, these red stages are show in Annex 1 and 2.
- A briefing presentation was held with the Minister and Deputy Minister on September 6th, 2018. Advisory documents have been prepared for each red PR with detailed explanations as to how the PR has been closed out or Gap Closure Plan as required.

- 

S.29.1.a S.35.1.g

**Analysis:**

- DNR has led the review of the PRs and adopted a project based approach in line with a typical horizontal initiative (i.e. multi-departmental). This review addresses the funding/timeframe requirements to implement the Red stage PRs. The implementation “roadmap” is detailed in Annex 2. (BN-9592).
- The approach is aligned with the guiding principles outlined in Advance 2030.
- There are two classes of reservoir formations, ‘reservoir rock’ and ‘source rock’. Reservoir rock is highly porous and permeable and it is classed as conventional oil and gas. Source rock, usually low permeability shale formations such as the Green Point shale, typically require unconventional (hydraulic fracturing) completion methods to increase permeability to allow oil and gas to flow. Most known resources in Western Newfoundland are contained in shale formations, albeit the region is still relatively unexplored.
- Using NLHFRP base case of 480 wells and 150MM bbls at \$85US/barrel, which aligns with GLJ and Spr predictions in the short term (5 years+) and PORA in the long term (15 years+), it is estimated that the provincial revenue would be \$83-84 million per year over the 26 year project life. It is also estimated that 8,000 – 8,500 person years would be used over the project life.

- Public opinion: NLHFRP commissioned MQO Research to conduct a public opinion survey. This was conducted by phone across Newfoundland with 840 respondents. See Annex 3
  - Majority of 67 per cent strongly feel that we should explore in Western NL, although only 20 per cent support hydraulic fracturing
  - 43 per cent are opposed to hydraulic fracturing mainly due to environmental concerns
  - A combined 37 per cent are neutral / don't know with the main reason being the need for additional information

From the survey the main take-away is awareness and learnings needs to be increased especially around environment.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

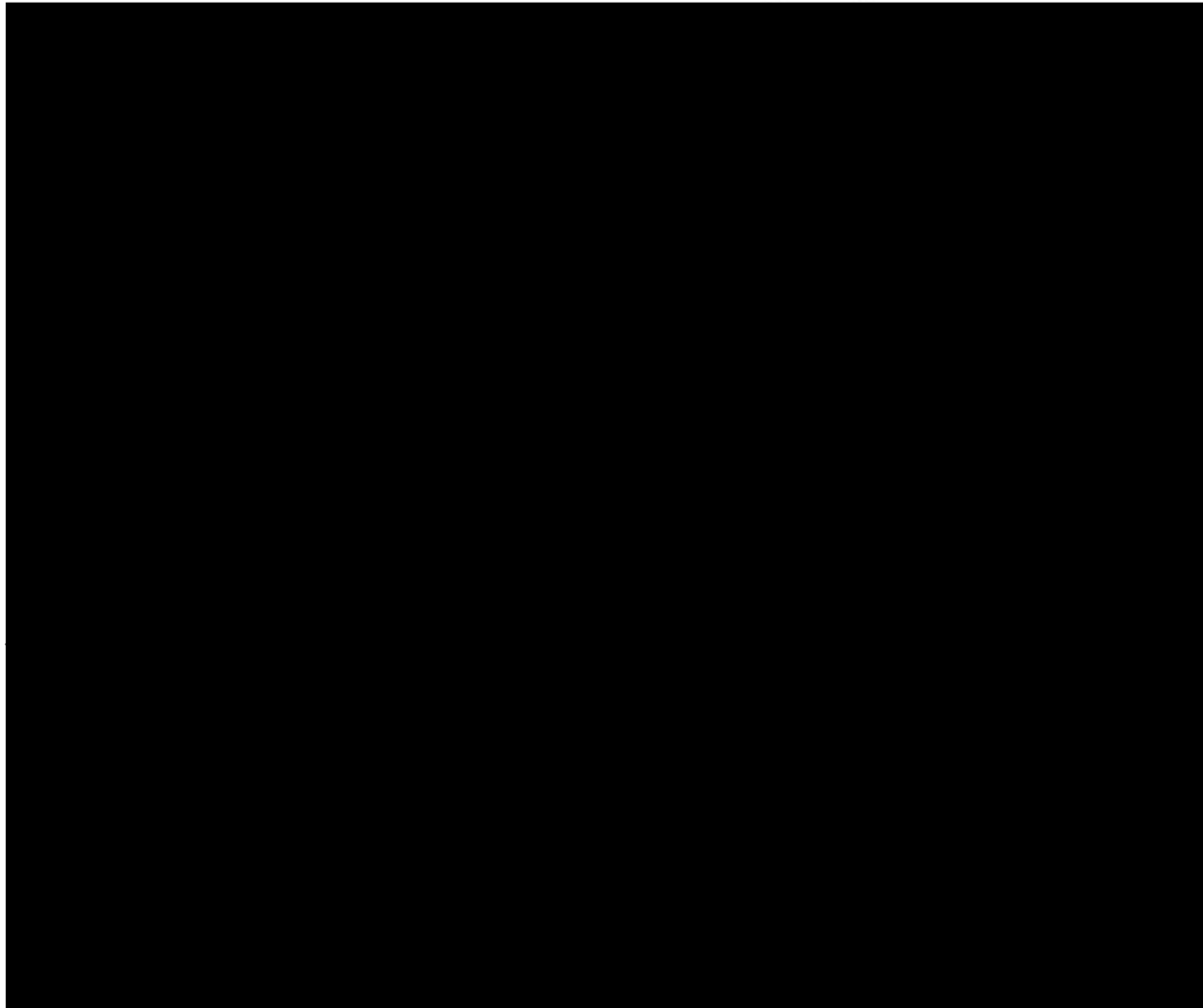
S.29.1.a

S.35.1.d

S.35.1.f

S.35.1.g

**Alternatives:**



S.29.1.a

S.35.1.d

S.35.1.f

S.35.1.g



S.29.1.a

S.35.1.d

S.35.1.f

S.35.1.g

Prepared/Approved by: I Boddy / H Simms / D Corkey

Ministerial Approval:

October 24, 2018

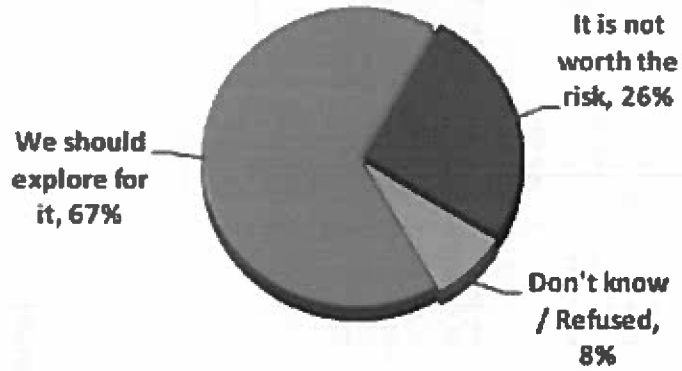
*ASL 3/12/2018*

*[Faint, illegible text from bleed-through of the reverse side of the page]*

**Annex 3**

**Public Opinion Survey (MQO Research Final Report August 2015, Appendix O of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel Final Report page 8)**

**Feelings about Exploring for Oil and Natural Gas**



**Feelings about Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas in Western Newfoundland**

