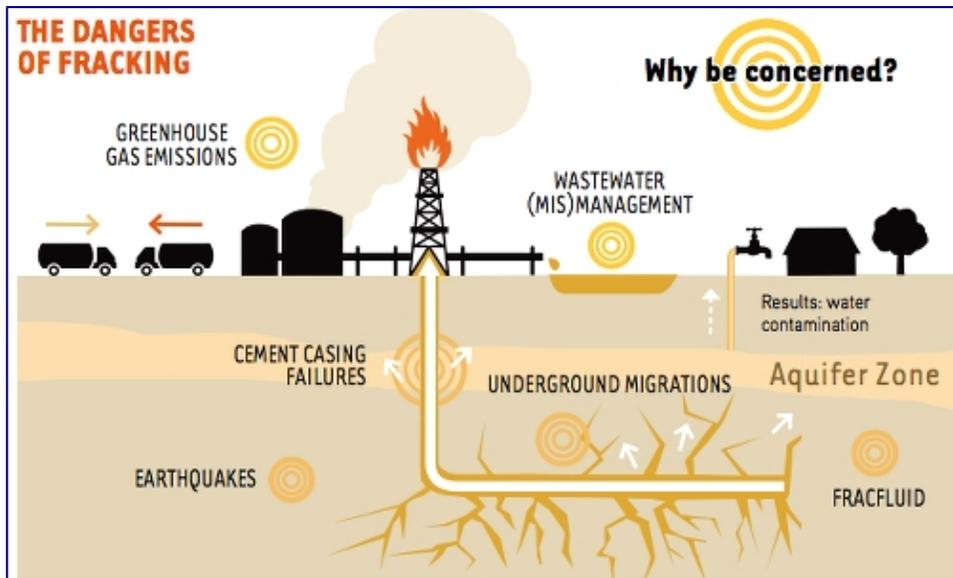


Defend Our Water and Our Climate: NO FRACKING TTIP!



Report Exposes How TTIP Could Expand Fracking in U.S. and Europe

EcoWatch: Brandon Baker | March 6, 2014 9:13 am |

As the U.S. and European Union (EU) governments continue negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), environmental organizations are growing more concerned about a loophole that could leave the door open for expanded fracking in both regions.

According to a report released today from Friends of the Earth Europe, the Sierra Club, Corporate Europe Observatory and others, the pending TTIP contains language that could allow energy companies to take governments to private arbitrators if they try to regulate or ban fracking. Now, campaigners in Europe and the U.S. are fighting to eliminate such rights from the trade deal.

“Giving companies more rights as part of the EU-U.S. trade deal would undermine Europe’s growing resistance to fracking,” said Antoine Simon of Friends of the Earth Europe. “Energy companies must not be given the power to challenge democratically agreed laws that safeguard the environment and citizen health. Put simply, this puts profits before people, democracy and the planet.”

The report, “No Fracking Way,” states that the Investor-State Dispute Settlement clause would enable corporations to claim damages in secret courts or arbitration panels if

they believe their profits are adversely affected by changes in a regulation or policy. Those companies could seek compensation through private international tribunals. U.S. firms or those with a subsidiary in the U.S. that invest in Europe could also use those rights to seek compensation for future bans or other regulation on fracking. The arbitrators are mainly set up for investment cases and not part of the normal judicial system, according to the report.

“Trade should help strengthen economies while protecting families and communities—it should never put them at risk,” Ilana Solomon, director of the Sierra Club’s responsible trade program, said. “The egregious Lone Pine lawsuit shows how investor-state dispute settlement threatens people and our environment by letting big corporations attack common-sense policies. We need protections from dangerous practices like fracking, and big oil and gas corporations shouldn’t use trade as the trump card to get their way.”

The report points out several other examples, including Swedish energy giant Vattenfall’s request of the equivalent of nearly \$5.1 billion from Germany to compensate for the country’s vote to phase out nuclear power.”

In the U.S., some individual cities and states are taking notice of the dangers of fracking. Last week, the Los Angeles City Council approved a moratorium on fracking within city limits. The decision made Los Angeles the nation’s largest city to approve such a ruling. Four days before that, groups in Colorado launched a ballot initiative that would essentially give residents control over fracking within their communities.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

Call, write, and email your US Senators and US Representative to demand that they vote against any legislation that would expedite a vote on TTIP in Congress, whether that legislation is called Fast Track, Smart Track, the Bipartisan Trade Priorities Act, or anything else! So-called “Fast Track” legislation prohibits Congress from in any way amending trade agreements before they are voted on, preventing members from removing provisions that will lead to more fracking. Fast Track also forces Congress to vote on trade bills within 90 day and limits floor debate to 20 hours, ensuring that members of Congress will be unable to effectively study the environmental implications of these bills. You can find out who represents you in Congress and find their contact info at <http://gjae.org/leg>

For additional info or to volunteer to stop TTIP, contact:



Global Justice for Animals and the Environment

219 Carlton Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666
Phone: (718) 218-4523 *Email: info@gjae.org

Website: <http://gjae.org>

Join Our Email List: <http://gjae.org/elist>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GJAEnvironment>

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