

Environment and Public Affairs Committee

From: Vaughan Ujdur
Sent: Tuesday, 17 September 2013 11:02 PM
To: Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Subject:

Submission - RE: Inquiry into the Implications for Western Australia of Hydraulic Fracturing for Unconventional Gas .

HERE ARE MY SUBMISSIONS

a) how hydraulic fracturing may impact on current and future uses of land; *The rate of flow through the ground water profile may be such that the effects of gas mining may take 100's of years before it reaches any existing receptors. However if that water is to be transported or environmental receptors "grow" to within contact areas effected by the plume over that time, due to climate change, effecting the pressure gradients or changing the water table. This will create a problem for future generations.*

b) the regulation of chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process; *The UNNATURAL result of new chemicals forming or new microbial life forms appearing or dying as a result of gas or other compounds coming in contact with lithology or through pathways that would not normally be exposed. May cause long term damage to naturally occuoring mineral production. This would be occurring in an uncontrolled environment and the unknowns effects of this have not been modelled.*

c) the use of ground water in the hydraulic fracturing process and the potential for recycling of produced water; *When you remove gas you create a void. What does the void become filled with? Is this a known process and can it be scientifically modelled and quantified with confidence?*

d) the reclamation (rehabilitation) of land that has been hydraulically fractured. *Re rehabilitation does include ensuring the "life sustaining properties" of the natural environment. So if nothing is currently living there, they do not have to ensure any thing is able to live there in the future!*

How does the "value" (financial or not) of the land change and who will be held financially accountable if something goes wrong or the company has to stop or the emergency management plans fail, or the rehabilitation company made assumptions that were not validated?

What if.... the price of gas falls due to global consensus on a stop to fossil fuel burning and the company is not able to pay for the rehabilitation?

Sincerely

Vaughan Ujdur