Submission to CSQ Inquiry

Peter John Brown to: Csg.review 24/04/2013 02:58 PM

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Submission to Chief Scientist.docx

21 Cambridge Ave

Lemon Tree Passage

NSW 2319

(02)49823061

A SUBMISSION TO THE NSW CHIEF SCIENTIST AND ENGINEER

FROM PETER JOHN BROWN

Csg.review@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

Madam,

May I respectfully submit the following call for a broadening of the terms of reference in your report to the Premier:

. to commission rigorous independent scientific research to properly assess the risks of coal seam mining

. to identify best practice methods for baseline monitoring of health impacts, water resources, air quality, and fugitive emissions

. to identify areas of NSW that should be off limits to coal seam gas, due to unacceptable risks and impacts

. to review the impacts of coal seam gas on agriculture and other affected industries

. to review the impact of coal seam gas on agriculture and other affected industries such as tourism and manufacturing.

In order to address the Terms of Reference of your inquiry, I have done the following research:

AGL's GLOUCESTER COAL SEAM GAS (Barrington....Stroud Preservation Alliance):

Coal Seam Gas is mainly Methane which is highly explosive when mixed with air – the recent coal mine disaster in NZ followed an explosion of coal seam gas underground.... explosions can follow leakages from pipes.... at processing plants.

GAS ESCAPE – Geological faults and fractured seams allow gas and water to flow in an unexpected direction. Our valley has complex geological faults and mining exploration over decades has left hundreds of unplugged bore holes.

WARNING – Initial drilling by Lucas at Stratford in September 2004 was closed down when gas escaped unexpectedly from the 3 old coal bore holes 300 meters down.

ALL DRILLING IS TO USE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACCING)—pumping a mix of water sand and a mix of chemicals under pressure into a coal seam. This

cracks the coal seam and the sand holds the cracks open to increase the gas flow rate, The chemicals facilitate this and the mix may vary.

WATER CONTAMINATION & DISPOSAL – Pumping releases large quantities of underground water – the deeper the water the more salt and the more dangerous the ground chemicals that come with it. “We anticipated between 0.5 and 2 megalitres of water will be produced daily”. (Lucas estimate for 100 wells). Some options for its disposal – desalination by reverse osmosis – but this is expensive and the cost would have to be passed on....

HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS – Gas escape, contaminated water (salt and/or chemical pollution), damage to aquifers. Fine particle dust from heavy vehicles and flaring gas.

Stress – noise, unsightly landscape, disruption to farming activities, property devaluation. These all affect the health and well-being of residents (especially children), livestock, crops, flora and native fauna.

FRACCING -- ....drilling in the Gloucester basin does not go.... deep.... so the risk of damage to surface water is even greater.... in the Gloucester-Stroud Valley.

AGL Documents make the following claim: “BTEX Chemicals (benzene, tolulene, ethylbenzine, and xylenes).... are not used in Australian fraccing operations”.

I respectfully submit that it would be in the interests of your report to determine compliance with this claim.

From IESC (Independent Expert Scientific Committee):

Advice.... on Coal Seam Gas Project.

Proposed action, Gloucester Gas Project (EPBC 2008/4432):

. danger to Grand Barrel Frog and vulnerable Green and Golden Bell Frog

. surface water and sallow aquifer connectivity between deep aquifers and shallow aquifers. [This leaves open the possibility of contamination]

. general hydraulic connectivity to 1000m in depth

. presence of numerous faults that could result in movement of groundwater and/or gas.

I wish you every success with your inquiry.

PETER J. BROWN

peterlemontree@bigpond.com