

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

APR 15 2014

His Worship Robert Bratina  
Mayor of the City of Hamilton  
Office of the Mayor  
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

The Office of the Prime Minister forwarded to me a copy of your correspondence of February 18, 2014, concerning a motion approved by the Hamilton City Council supporting a province-wide and national moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. I regret the delay in responding.

Oil and gas exploration and extraction primarily fall under provincial jurisdiction, except for federal lands. I encourage you to contact the appropriate provincial department so that they are aware of the motion approved by the Hamilton City Council. On federal lands, the National Energy Board is responsible for regulating the exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas. As the Board reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources, I am forwarding a copy of our correspondence to the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Natural Resources, for consideration.

Environment Canada's authority to regulate the environmental impacts of oil and gas development throughout Canada is pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* and the *Fisheries Act*. The Department also provides expertise and advice under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* for provincial environmental assessments on matters which fall under federal jurisdiction, including aspects of water quality, air quality, migratory birds, species at risk and chemicals management.

Under the ecoEnergy Innovation Initiative, two projects led by Environment Canada are investigating the environmental impacts of shale gas development in Canada, in conjunction with provincial governments. The first will establish baseline surface water quality information in the Petitot River Basin in northeastern British Columbia, in co-operation with the province's Ministry of

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Environment. The second will determine chemical and physical indicators of the impacts of shale gas development on groundwater quality in conjunction with the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Alberta and British Columbia.

Environment Canada has also worked with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Petroleum Services Association of Canada, and other industry stakeholders to verify which chemicals are used in hydraulic fracturing fluids in Canada. The Chemicals Management Plan, jointly managed by Environment Canada and Health Canada, assesses human health and environmental risks associated with chemicals used in Canada, and leads to the development of rules for their use.

At the request of Environment Canada, the Council of Canadian Academies is currently conducting a science-based assessment of the environmental impacts of shale gas development and production, as well as mitigation options. For more information, visit the Council's website at [www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/in-progress/shale-gas.aspx](http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/in-progress/shale-gas.aspx).

I trust that the information provided is helpful, and I extend my best wishes.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of the Environment

c.c.: The Honourable Greg Rickford, P.C., M.P.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
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