

Submissions 374176 & 374168 (duplicate)

On Shore Gas Mining Regulations - Submission

The use of directional drilling makes it possible for drill lines and pipelines to radiate out many kilometres from a specific drill pad location.

This has the potential to compromise the agricultural integrity of farming operations many kilometres from the drill site.

Toxic chemicals are required to lubricate drill heads etc to enable this process to take place. This produces a combination of chemicals used in the drilling process plus naturally occurring toxic compounds, currently safely locked deep underground which are brought to the surface, or potentially mixed into underground aquifers.

Drill lines will inevitably pass through aquifers which may become contaminated. These aquifers are fundamental to the future of agriculture. As Climate Change begins to impact more and more, surface water run-off will significantly reduce. Farmers' ability to access safe uncontaminated underground water for livestock and other uses will become critical to their future operations. Increasing seasonal variability is predicted to increase. In years where run off is depleted more use will need to be made of our aquifers.

Regulations must include-

Regulations must provide for adjoining landholders who will have drill lines and potentially pipelines snaking underneath their properties and through the aquifers to give their approval.

There must be transparency so that the details and agreements made and compensation paid for access and hosting drill pads be public documents.

Miners need to provide legal indemnity for farmers whose operations may be compromised by the threat of contamination. It needs be remembered that farmers must provide contaminant free food.

Adequate and enforceable financial bonds for the clean-up need to be required for when operations cease in the future.