

From: [Gerry Wood](#)
To: [fracking inquiry](#)
Cc: [Electorate Nelson](#)
Subject: initial response
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To whom it may concern

I just arrived back from a trip to the US and Canada looking at onshore gas and fracking. I wanted to see communities where gas had been extracted and see what was happening in those communities.

I will be writing up a report for Parliament as soon as I can which will be made public. This will take me some time as I have copious notes to wade through and I will need to check back with the people I interviewed .

I also note that just as I arrived home the preliminary report from the NT Fracking inquiry has been released.

I therefore would like to make a few early comments

- The inquiry should visit Wyoming and meet with Mr Mark Watson from the Wyoming Oil and Gas Association as much of the anti-fracking movement started in a small town in Wyoming called Pavillion
- Should meet with Louis Meeks from Pavillion – his water was contaminated. The interesting thing is that he said to me that this was NOT caused by fracking it was about poor well construction yet his concerns have been used by those against fracking to spread their message.
- Should visit the Jonah field near Pinedale Wyoming which is used to show the negative effect of wells on the landscape – compare, if you are driving, on the whole of the Wyoming landscape which is vast
- Compare the geology of Wyoming that includes the production of oil and condensates which I don't believe is the same in the NT
- Should look at whether gas production has affected agriculture as many farmers grow crops and harvest gas on their farms
- Should visit Ohio Oil and Gas Commission to discuss their regulatory programme and what is more interesting their views on seismic issues in their state and also issues in Oklahoma – this is in variance to what is in your report. Contact Chief Simmons or Steve Irwin.
- Should not visit Alberta but instead the British Columbia Oils and Gas Commission at Fort St John. The Commission said that everyone seems to go to Alberta and then the Alberta send visitors over the border to see how it's done in BC . BC has one of the biggest gas fields (Montney Shale) near Fort St John. I was very impressed by the professionalism of the staff. Contact Phil Ryggs. Also ask about gas development and First Nations or Indigenous peoples.
- Should also look at land tenure in the US, as compared to Canada and Australia, and how that effects regulation
- Should talk to local commissioners of counties where gas is extracted to get a feel of what local people think
- Should look at the economic flow on from gas in a community eg Riverton Wyoming, Carrollton Ohio, Fort St John British Columbia
- Should look at changes to industry and regulations since some of the complaints first surfaced eg multiple well pads

I will be going into more detail in my report but felt that this brief response may be helpful initially as there is a lot to learn from the US and Canada.

Regards

Gerry

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