

B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
British Columbia's Community Water
Supply Sources

Email – info@bctwa.org

Website – www.bctwa.org



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Submission: Proposed Water Sustainability Act

British Columbia in Crisis: The Contradiction of Fracking as Public Water Stewardship in BC's Laws and Proposed *Water Sustainability Act*

Truly, it [the Water Sustainability Act] is about our generation's duty and obligation to be water stewards for generations that follow us. (Quote from Mary Polak, BC Environment Minister, BC government press conference video, October 18, 2013)

The BC Tap Water Alliance is opposed to the use and practice of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in British Columbia, and believes that fracking cannot be safely regulated.

As such, we oppose the use of any of BC's water sources for fracking purposes, or any other water sources outside of BC diverted for those purposes within BC's boundaries. Likewise, any and all of BC's waters (surface and subsurface) should not be used, diverted and transported for such outside of BC's political boundaries.

Not only is somewhere between 30 to 100 percent of water used for fracking operations removed from the hydrologic cycle, it is being altered and poisoned.

As we understand it, the practise of fracking has nothing to do with "sustainability" or with "stewardship:" those are contradictions of terms.

Because the BC government is nevertheless advocating the purpose and practice of life-cycle fracking, we are opposed to the concept and regulation of 'renting' or conditionally 'owning' water through 'licensing' for fracking purposes.

As an alternative interim remedy towards the ultimate and speedy goal of outlawing fracking practices in British Columbia, we believe the BC government should introduce and institute a new concept and modus operandi of financial "penalties." A given company / corporation, etc., which uses any water for fracking purposes, does not and cannot assume any rights to the use of said water, merely the user should pay a significant monetary "penalty" for harming the said water. An additional, and more significant, penalty should be incurred for removing the said and altered water from the hydrologic cycle.