

Committee: Environment

Topic: Question of hydraulic fracking

Submitted by: State of Kuwait

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Declaring the State of Kuwait as being a state member in the Basel Convention, an international agreement that parties to Hazardous Wastes and states: "The Convention has 175 Parties and aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, management, transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous and other wastes.",

Deeply concerned by the environmental impacts and impacts on human health these gas and oil extraction techniques imply,

Declaring fracking wells release compounds into the air,

Having studied drinking water wells close to natural gas wells, the scientists at Duke University found the levels of flammable methane gas were increasing to dangerous levels,

Believing methane concentrations are seventeen times higher in drinking water wells near fracking sites,

Keeping in mind methane has twenty five times more greenhouse effect than CO₂,

Contemplating chemicals released after fracking may harm human reproduction and development as so is suggested by over 150 studies,

Bearing in mind the study done in 2012 by researchers from the Colorado School of Public Health showing air pollution caused by hydraulic fracturing could contribute to immediate and long term health problems for people living near fracking sites,

Noting the State of Kuwait also parties to the Environmental Modification Convention, a convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques,

Aware of the severe degradation of the landscape involved in hydraulic fracturing,

Taking into consideration only 30-50% of the fracking fluid, which contains water, sand and chemicals, is recovered and is not biodegradable,

Fully alarmed by the drop in oil prices as a result of the surging production in the US, being now the world's largest oil and natural gas producer due to the use of fracking,

Recognising the meeting held in Vienna by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) having as a result an agreement of the state members

in not declining the oil production and in letting the market establish itself,

Observing OPEC members are declaring war on frackers by allowing prices to fall to a level at which a lot of American fracking companies would lose money,

Taking into consideration the Chinese market crash and the dollar appraisal dropped oil prices to under \$50 a barrel in January,

Noting with deep concern Russia and Iraq need to sell at over \$100 a barrels to balance budgets,

- 1-. Asks the UN to conduct an exhaustive exam on the impacts of fracking techniques on health and environment and contamination;
- 2-. Calls for a study of the contamination in drinking wells in nearby fracking areas;
- 3-. Designates the approval of an international law which obligates fracking companies to publish a list of chemicals and quantities used in their fracking wells;
- 4-. Expresses its hope governments will make people aware of the fracking impacts;
- 5-. Urges to ban hydraulic fracturing wells close to urban areas;
- 6-. Considers setting conditions that states:
 - a-. A safety ratio that prevents fracking close to urban areas
 - b-. A maximum number of times a well can be fracked
 - c-. A minimum of 65% of fracking fluid must be recovered
 - d-. Waste products must be stored in an environmentally friendly way
 - e-. Methane concentration in the air must be under 2%, keeping in mind levels are over this average
 - f-. Formation water needs to be treated and radiation free;
- 7-. Requests the UN to set inspections of every fracking well every year and close those which do not achieve the conditions set.