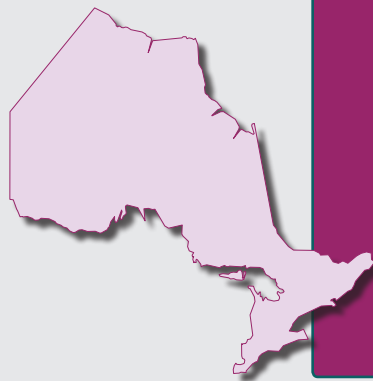




Ontario

The province’s shale gas reserves are located in southern Ontario. In 2010, Ontario’s Ministry of Natural Resources released an aerial survey of shale formations in the province to assist gas companies in exploration.



GROUPS WORKING ON FRACKING

The Council of Canadians Ontario-Quebec-Nunavut Regional Office
www.canadians.org/fracking

Don’t Frack Around London
www.facebook.com/groups/123980827684196/

Stop Fracking Ontario
stopfrackingontario.wordpress.com/

The Ontario Geological Survey (OGS), part of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, released a report in November 2012 highlighting the shale gas potential in the Ordovician Shale formations in southern Ontario. In this second survey program, the OGS drilled in 11 locations, including the areas of St. Joseph, Little Current, Wiarton, Bruce, Chatham, Port Stanley, Halton, Mount Forest, Pickering and Russell. The 2012 report highlights certain formations of the Ordovician shales – particularly the Rouge River Member of the Blue Mountain Formation and the Collingwood Member of the Cobourg Formation – as having “the best potential for shale gas productive units.”

Ontario borders four of the five Great Lakes. Developing these shale formations could have serious implications on the waters of Georgian Bay, the Great Lakes as well as local watersheds. (See p. 31 for more on fracking in the Great Lakes Basin).

Alberta-based oil company Mooncor Oil & Gas has leased more than 12,000 acres of land in this area, and Dundee Energy Limited (formerly Eurogas) boasts of having the “largest accumulation of oil and gas producing assets in Ontario.”

Former Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said the province wouldn’t allow fracking unless it was safe. Representatives of Ontario’s natural resources and environment ministries stated

that “the public interest warrants a review” and have committed to conducting a review.¹¹

Even though there are currently no immediate plans for fracking in Ontario, the Great Lakes are still being threatened by fracked gas from the Marcellus and Utica shales. Union Gas and Enbridge are trying to convince the Ontario Energy Board of the need for new and expanded natural gas infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area and throughout the province. The companies are proposing that expanding this infrastructure will diversify supply, lower upstream risks and reduce supply costs. The approval could open the door to more fracking of the Marcellus shale, which would pose serious risks to the Great Lakes Basin with massive water withdrawals, potential water contamination, pipeline leaks and hazardous waste risks. Upstate New York already imports and disposes of radioactive fracking waste from Marcellus shale projects in Pennsylvania, putting local watersheds, Lake Ontario and the Great Lakes Basin at risk.

¹¹ www.thestar.com/business/economy/2013/01/30/ontario_will_review_fracking_rules.html

RESOURCES AND REGULATIONS (Ontario)

In Ontario, landowners own mineral rights including oil and gas. Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources regulates oil and gas drilling in the province.

www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/OGSR/2ColumnSubPage/STELo2_167099.html and www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/OGSR/2ColumnSubPage/STELo2_167098.html

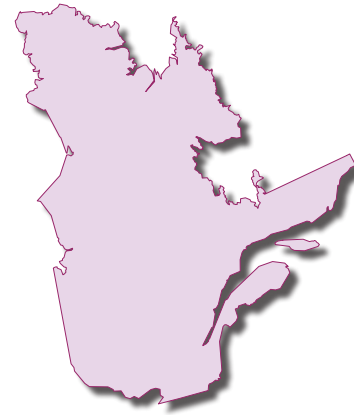
If a company wishes to withdrawal more than 50,000 litres of water, it must apply for a permit to take water. Companies pay \$3.71 per million litres of water in Ontario.

www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/industry/assessment_and_approvals/water_taking/STDPROD_075554.html

Permits to take water must be posted for 60 days on the Environmental Registry.

www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/

Quebec



In May 2013 Quebec's Environment Minister tabled Bill 37, which, if passed, would see a moratorium on fracking in the Lowlands of the St. Lawrence River for up to five years. The proposed legislation would revoke all drilling licences in the area and prohibit new ones. The legislation also includes fines of up to \$6 million for companies that attempt shale gas exploration. The Parti Québécois minority government needs opposition support for the legislation to pass. The Quebec government also held a consultation process to obtain public input on major energy issues facing Quebec in the fall of 2013.

While opposition parties are withholding support for the bill, many feel the bill would not go far enough as it would not apply to all of Quebec. For example, the proposed legislation would not stop shale oil exploration in the less densely populated Anticosti Island.

Bill 37 follows years of opposition to fracking in Quebec. In 2008 there was a burst of exploration activity in the St. Lawrence River Lowlands for the Utica shale formation, with 31 wells fracked.¹² This kindled significant local outrage and opposition, with dozens of municipalities passing resolutions banning fracking in their communities. The Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement held hearings on fracking, which were well attended and controversial. The hearings resulted in a strategic environmental assessment on shale gas. Forced to respond, the then-Liberal Quebec government declared a provincial moratorium on fracking in 2012 until further study could be conducted. The environmental assessment is ongoing, and is expected to conclude in 2014.



Climate Justice Montreal set up a fracking site outside of the Queen Elizabeth hotel, site of the Quebec Association of Oil and Gas Producers 2010 conference. Photo courtesy of Climate Justice Montreal.

¹² business.financialpost.com/2012/09/20/quebec-hints-at-long-term-shale-gas-ban-citing-ecological-risks/