Yukon

Community opposition to fracking was spurred by an application submitted by the Chinese company Northern Cross for an environmental assessment in 2010. There is currently no fracking in the Yukon, but Northern Cross has been conducting 3D seismic testing.

The Council of Yukon First Nations, an organization of 14 First Nations, unanimously passed a resolution in July 2013 declaring traditional territories “frack-free.” Shortly after, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation voted to ban fracking until it could be proven safe. Kaska First Nation has also come out against fracking. Even some businesses in the tourism industry are opposed to fracking.

The Yukon legislature has created an all-party committee on hydraulic fracturing and will be holding public consultations on the issue followed by a report in spring 2014.

The Yukon government recently endorsed Yukon Energy Corporation’s move to “invest in the electricity supply option of Liquefied Natural Gas to replace some of its aging diesel generators.” Once this infrastructure is in place, a steady supply of (fracked) natural gas would be required.5

The shale basins in the Yukon include the Liard Basin and the Eagle Plain Basin in northern Yukon. There are coal methane reserves in the Bonnet Plume Basin and Whitehorse Trough.6 A temporary moratorium on shale gas development was implemented in the Whitehorse Trough in 2012.

5 www.yukonconservation.org/energy_climate_change.htm
6 www.emr.gov.yk.ca/oilandgas/exploration.html#Yukons_Unconventional_Resources

RESOURCES AND REGULATIONS

Energy, Mines and Resources
www.emr.gov.yk.ca

Yukon Water Board - Issues water approvals
www.yukonwaterboard.ca

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolution
www.vgfn.ca/ga-2013.php

GROUPS WORKING ON FRACKING

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
cpawsyukon.org

The Council of Canadians Whitehorse Chapter
www.canadians.org/fracking

Yukoners Concerned about Oil and Gas Development

Yukon Conservation Society
www.yukonconservation.org

Five Finger Rapids, in the Whitehorse Trough.