



DOES GAS EXTRACTION IN OUR TERRITORY HAVE POTENTIAL HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS?

Health and safety concerns related to gas development will be different in each community because there are different risks related to pipelines, construction, and extraction (“fracking”). Below are some examples of how the environment could be affected and the impact it would have on land and resources.

Land & Water

Water quality and quantity could be affected by the building and maintaining of pipeline and fracking infrastructures. Blasting, grading and tunnel construction could alter both surface and groundwater flow and expose rock formations, which could potentially lead to contaminated soil and water. To protect our water, Treaty 8 is collaborating with the province of BC to create the “Northeastern BC Water Strategy.” This strategy will protect the health of our water-dependent ecosystems.

Air

Air quality can be affected during construction and by air contaminants from combustion of fossil fuels used for construction equipment and pumping stations. People both near and far from oil and gas drilling are exposed to fracking-related air pollution. The risks are highest for workers and those living in close proximity to wells, but extend to entire regions where there are high concentrations of drilling activity.

Fish & Wildlife

Risks to wildlife can be caused by the removal, alteration, and displacement of habitat, as well as by noise, changing access and sight lines for predators. Activities related to gas projects such as the clearing of vegetation, and the construction and placement of structures in

water, have the potential to affect fish habitat, migration, and fish health and mortality. We must ensure that any development considers sensitive habitats, hunting grounds, and the places that are important to you.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR GAS

For safety, companies are required to inspect their systems regularly using specialized technology. Before actual drilling occurs, years of research is conducted on the area, including ground quality, environmental effects, logistical issues, and a host of other tests that are necessary before moving forward. This is regulated by the BC Oil and Gas Commission.

COMPANY RESPONSIBILITY

Gas pipeline development can have both positive and negative impact on the economic, social, and environmental landscape within our territory. It is the responsibility of the extraction company, construction contractors, and government to manage developments in a manner that minimizes negative impact and maximizes sustainability in our territory. It is a process in which our communities must also be involved with.

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