



RESPONSE TO PETITION

No.

5-17(5)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Petition tabled by Mr. Bob Bromley on June 2, 2015

Response by the Honourable David Ramsay
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Fracking Moratorium Pending Comprehensive Regional Review

The GNWT is committed to protecting the health of our environment and creating prosperity for our residents by responsibly and sustainably developing our natural resource potential.

Our commitment to sustainable, responsible development is consistently reflected in our policy framework that includes documents such as the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, the Water Stewardship Strategy and the Sustainable Development Policy. This approach is further informed by extensive research into environmental best practices in other Canadian and international jurisdictions.

NWT co-management Boards are responsible to review project applications and grant and recommend approvals based on their assessment of potential environmental risks. The GNWT continues to participate in review processes consistent with established legislative requirements and roles. The GNWT is confident in its ability to balance economic development with protection of the environment. The government is also confident in the ability of NWT regulatory Boards to responsibly review applications and make decisions regarding potential risks and expected benefits for the people of the NWT.

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It is within this context that the NWT continues to regulate hydraulic fracturing operations and to investigate regulatory improvements.

Each project that is proposed must adhere to NWT regulatory processes. Hydraulic fracturing is a practice that occurs safely in a number of Canadian jurisdictions, particularly Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta. The GNWT is confident that hydraulic fracturing can occur safely in the NWT while protecting human health, safety and the environment.