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VILLAGE OF LYTTON

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Ref: 85764

Her Worship Jessoa Lightfoot
Mayor of the Village of Lytton
PO Box 100, 380 Main Street
Lytton, BC V0K 1Z0

Dear Mayor Lightfoot:

The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, has asked me to respond to your June 25, 2014 letter regarding the Village of Lytton's concerns about hydraulic fracturing in British Columbia.

The Province has been producing natural gas for more than 50 years. Hydraulic fracturing, the technology used to extract a large portion of the Province's natural gas, has been occurring for decades. The technology used for the hydraulic fracturing process is more sophisticated than in the past which has allowed access to the vast unconventional shale gas resources of northeast British Columbia.

The provincial government has extensive experience regulating the oil and gas industry and has some of North America's highest environmental standards. The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) regulates all oil and gas activities in British Columbia, including hydraulic fracturing, exploration, development, pipeline transportation and reclamation.

Water use in natural gas development is extensively monitored and the results of this monitoring are made public. The right to use water can only be granted after an application is reviewed by the Commission to make sure water levels remain sustainable. Water levels in northeast British Columbia can be measured in real-time using the Commission's [Northeast Water Tool](#), which is a resource used by industry, First Nations, and government agencies to measure current water conditions and is available for all British Columbians to access at www.bcogc.ca/public-zone/water-information.

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Minister of
Natural Gas Development
and Minister Responsible
for Housing
and Deputy Premier

Office of the Minister

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Since January 1, 2012, natural gas producers in British Columbia have been required to report all fracturing fluid use in an online registry, available at www.FracFocus.ca. This website provides Canadians with objective information on hydraulic fracturing, the legislation and regulations in place to protect the environment, including groundwater, and transparency on the ingredients of hydraulic fracturing fluids. General information about the hydraulic fracturing process is also available on this website.

Given that hydraulic fracturing is a proven technology and subject to stringent regulations, as well as compliance and enforcement actions by the Commission, it would be inappropriate to consider a ban. My ministry's and the Commission's geologists, hydro-geologists and petroleum engineers strive to continually improve our scientific understanding of the subsurface and any potential interactions and impacts from industry activities, such as hydraulic fracturing. As the industry grows, my ministry will continue to monitor hydraulic fracturing activities in order to ensure that the best standards of environmental protection and appropriate oversight are in place in British Columbia.

The provincial government is committed to ensuring that oil and gas development is environmentally responsible, scientifically safe and properly monitored in order to benefit all British Columbians.

Thank you, again, for writing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rich Coleman', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rich Coleman
Minister and Deputy Premier

pc: Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment