

## Exploratory Gas Drilling in Ireland 1962 - 2001

There have been 10 exploratory gas drilling sites in the Republic of Ireland since 1962 in counties Cavan, Leitrim, Meath, Cork, Clare and Kilkenny. All were vertically drilled up to depths of 8236 feet (2510 metres), which is over a mile and a half.

3 of these were conventionally fracked. They were Dowra-1 re-entry (1981), Dowra-2 (2001) (both outside Glangevlin, Co. Cavan) and Thur Mountain-1 (2001), outside Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim. From Dail questions in March 2012 we know the chemical mixes used were as follows, Dowra-1: **15% HCl, A200 Inhibitor, F75N Surfactant, Ball Sealers, U42 Chelant, WF-15-10, Nitrogen, YF 1.5 PSD fracturing fluid and sand**. The operator was Marinex aka Aran Energy. At Dowra-2 and Thur Mountain-1 it was **Fresh Water, 15% HCl, Nitrogen Foam (Fracturing Fluid), Guar Gellant, Foam Surfactant, Breaker E Enzyme Breaker and X-cide 207 Bactericide**. The licence holder in this case was Evergreen Resources Inc.

In Northern Ireland there have been 9 exploratory gas wells drilled in the same period. At least 4 of these were conventionally fracked in 2001 by Evergreen Resources Inc, presumably using the same chemicals listed above.

As there are also chemicals used to aid the drilling head there will always be some contamination as it passes through the water table during any initial drilling phase. This is before a pipe can be inserted or a cement layer poured to protect the local aquifer. We can then assume that this unavoidable level of contamination would have occurred at all sites drilled here between 1962 and 2001.

More detailed information on this subject is available at  
[www.engagecollective.wordpress.com/stephen-rennicks](http://www.engagecollective.wordpress.com/stephen-rennicks)