



USA tour on
Unconventional Gas Production...

FRACKING

June 20th-28th 2015



Concerned about the Short & Long Term Effect of Fracking ?

Does fracking threaten our health, our businesses and that of future generations ?

Is there an increase in human birth defects in heavily fracked areas ?

Here's a chance for you to see for yourself, ask your questions and get the facts.



Louis Allstadt and I invite you to join others from South Australia (SA), including Troy Bell (Lib. MP for Mount Gambier) on a trip to the USA to see for ourselves the effects of Unconventional Gas Production - FRACKING.



Lou Allstadt, who when he retired in 2000 was Executive Vice President of Mobil, running the company's exploration and production operations in the western hemisphere.

In addition to his own presentation he has organised world class speakers for us to listen to:

Anthony Ingraffea – the fracking process; **Robert Howarth** – methane concerns ; **Sandra Steingraber** – human health; **Jannette Barth** – the socio-economic view; **Michelle Bamberger** and **Robert Oswald** – animal health. Your questions and that of others will put all speakers under the spotlight. For this the venue is Ithaca, with its stunning scenery of waterfalls and gorges at the world famous “Finger Lakes”.

We will visit farms where fracking has occurred, speaking to farmers about their experiences, see first-hand any effect on their lives and that of towns-people. While we are there, we will visit New York's famous attractions including the Empire State Building which provides a panoramic view of New York, travel on the Duquesne Incline (voted one of the top ten sites in the world for viewing a cityscape) and stay the night at one of the world's finest – The Niagara Falls.



I'm not an academic able to draw on an abundance of words and lines to best describe the situation that I, along with thousands others in our region find ourselves in. I'm a third generation farmer, now a grandfather on our modest yet beautiful property with scattered red gums in one of the most productive agricultural areas in South Australia.



Our region is home to a variety of horticulture including the Coonawarra Vineyards that are known around the world, a potato industry, stone fruit orchards, cropping, dairying and the livestock industries that I am involved in..... beef and prime lamb production. These and more in general rely heavily on one of two pristine aquifers that lie beneath the ground for irrigation. This

very water effectively ends up on the table, (possibly your table), in the form of food and wine in homes not only in Australia but around the world. Is there a chance of it being contaminated? In addition townspeople rely on this precious asset including Mt Gambier's residents who draw from the famous Blue Lake. If our ground water was to become contaminated it would have a major effect on our region. Is this likely and if so – for how many generations? You ask the questions.

To research areas that have been fracked over a number of years for SHALE gas (as below our region), I turned to the USA. One farmer I spoke to had stock die after the fracking chemicals (as confirmed by the EPA) came up into the ground water which the stock were drinking [Ref Louis & Donna Meeks]. Another farmer I spoke to had cattle die from brain tumors with his vet tracing the cause to naturally occurring toxic “sulphites” that came up into stock water after fracking released them from a thousand meters or so down [Ref Bill Garland]. That, along with other testimonials has led me to realise the importance of getting a group of people over to the US. There we can see for ourselves whether we could reasonably expect detrimental effects in our region on the flip side of the jobs & royalties. Upon our return you will be invited to report back to the Australian public, including an option to be part of a submission to the State Parliamentary Inquiry into Fracking.

Proposed Itinerary:

- Saturday 20** 6.00am Depart Adelaide Airport. 9.50am Depart Sydney Airport.
- Saturday 20** 5.15pm Arrive JFK Airport - 2 nights in New York.
- Sunday 21** NYC - private ½ day city tour with a guide in the morning.
- Monday 22** 9.00am Meeting with New York Lawyers. NYC to SCRANTON
Meeting with Gas Company Officials. Guided tour of Gas Rig.
- Tuesday 23** 7:30am SCRANTON to PITTSBURGH. Visit farms & towns.
- Wednesday 24** 7.30am PITTSBURGH to NIAGARA FALLS. Visit farms.
Evening presentation “The History of Fracking” – Louis Allstadt.
- Thursday 25** 7.30am NIAGARA FALLS to ITHACA via Seneca Falls,
3.30pm Afternoon session “FRACKING FACTS” Part 1
5:45pm DINNER (Guest speakers invited)
7.00pm Evening session “FRACKING FACTS” Part 2
- Friday 26** 7.30am ITHACA to JFK AIRPORT arriving 2.45pm
6.45pm JFK AIRPORT to AUSTRALIA
- Sunday 28** 7.35am Arrive Sydney - 11.45am Arrive Adelaide

Seats are limited. Accommodation cannot be held without a deposit. Please reply asap as travel costs only go one way. The cost of the trip including transport, will be around \$6,000 to \$6,500 for single accommodation and about \$1000pp less for double/twin share. Prices based on AUD 79c. The land package will be done as a group, however individuals may select different flights – different airlines or travel times..... the sooner the better/cheaper. The above is based on Qantas flights. For further information please contact David Daly at Flight Centre 54, King William St., Adelaide 1300 667 295 david.daly@flightcentre.com.au or myself on 0429393153 (24/7) or email davidsmithUSAtrip@gmail.com

I hope you can join us.

Regards,
David Smith.

*Details depend on numbers of people attending and value of the AUD.
If you know someone who might like to attend please forward this invitation.*