

Corporate Attacks: Energy

Case Study: Fracking

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) grants corporations shocking powers to attack the laws we rely on for a clean environment, financial stability, affordable medicines, safe food and decent jobs. ISDS empowers multinational corporations to sue our governments before panels of three corporate lawyers. The corporate lawyers can award the corporations unlimited sums to be paid by America's taxpayers, including for the loss of expected future profits the corporations claim they would have earned if the domestic law was never enacted. The corporate lawyers' decisions are not subject to appeal and the amount they can order taxpayers to give corporations has no limit.

Lone Pine v. Canada

Case Pending

In September 2013, Lone Pine Resources, a U.S.-based oil and gas exploration and production company, [launched a \\$241 million challenge against Canada under NAFTA](#) to challenge Quebec's suspension of oil and gas exploration permits for deposits under the St. Lawrence River as part of a wider moratorium on the controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. The provincial government had [declared a moratorium in 2011](#) so as to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the extraction method widely known for leaching chemicals and gases into groundwater and the air.

Lone Pine had [plans and permits to engage in fracking on over 30,000 acres of land](#) directly beneath the St. Lawrence Seaway – the province's largest waterway. [According to Lone Pine](#), the moratorium contravened NAFTA's protection against expropriation and guarantee of a "minimum standard of treatment." The case is pending.