

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 19, 2008

FORCE TAKES ROUND ONE
ERT IS WILLING TO CONSIDER JURISDICTION

St Marys Should Stop Test and Respect the ERT

Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) has taken the first round in their battle with St Marys CBM over its Permit to Take Water (PTTW).

Following FORCE's filing of its Notice of Application for Leave to Appeal to the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) on July 18, the ERT said it was willing to consider jurisdiction of the matter. FORCE has until July 25 to file submissions with the Tribunal. St Marys and the MOE are invited to make submissions in response by July 30. FORCE is to make any reply submission by August 1. The Tribunal will then review the submissions before making its determination on jurisdiction and FORCE's application.

St Marys had announced plans to start its PTTW testing as early as July 21.

"No testing should occur until the ERT addresses the issue of jurisdiction," said Graham Flint, Chair and Spokesperson of FORCE. "St Marys may think it can ignore FORCE and the community as it has for the past two years, but we believe they should respect the ERT and its democratic process."

The letter from the ERT and the response from FORCE's lawyers, Davis LLP, are attached.

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