

# Why Oppose 'Unconventional Gas'?

EA Support to the identification of potential risks for the environment and human health arising from hydrocarbon operations involving hydraulic fracturing in Europe

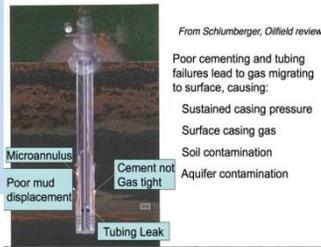
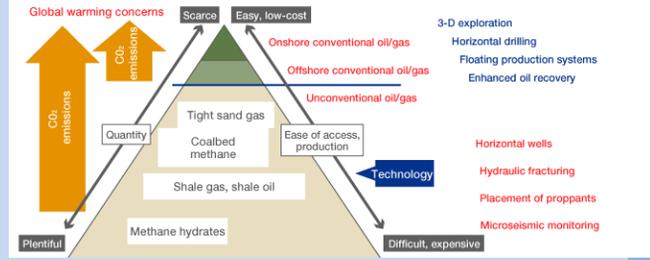
Table E51: Summary of preliminary risk assessment

Environmental impact	Site identification and preparation	Well design and siting, casing, cementing	Project phase				Overall risk across all phases
			Fracturing	Well completion	Production	Well abandonment and post-abandonment	
<b>Individual site</b>							
Groundwater contamination	Not applicable	Low	Moderate-High	High	Moderate-High	Not classifiable	High
Surface water contamination	Low	Moderate	High	High	Low	Not applicable	High
Water resources	Not applicable	Not applicable	High	High	Moderate	Not applicable	Moderate
Release to air	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Land take	Moderate	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Moderate	Not classifiable	Moderate
Risk to biodiversity	Not classifiable	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Not classifiable	Moderate
Noise impacts	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Not classifiable	Low	Not applicable	Moderate-High
Visual impact	Low	Low	Low	Not applicable	Low	Low/moderate	Low
Sensitively	Not applicable	Not applicable	Low	Low	Not applicable	Not applicable	Low
Traffic	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Not applicable	Moderate
<b>Catchment</b>							
Groundwater contamination	Not applicable	Low	Moderate-High	High	High	Not classifiable	High
Surface water contamination	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Not applicable	High
Water resources	Not applicable	Not applicable	High	High	Not applicable	Not applicable	High
Release to air	Low	High	High	High	High	Moderate	High
Land take	Very high	Low	Not applicable	Not applicable	High	Not classifiable	High
Risk to biodiversity	Not classifiable	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Not classifiable	High
Noise impacts	Low	High	Moderate	Not classifiable	Low	Not applicable	High
Visual impact	Moderate	Moderate	Not applicable	Low	Low/moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Sensitively	Not applicable	Low	Low	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Low
Traffic	High	High	High	Moderate	Low	Not applicable	High

Not applicable: Impact not relevant to this stage of development  
Not classifiable: Insufficient information available for the significance of this impact to be assessed

This list of hazards is from the European Union Website – the British Government opposed tighter regulations of fracking from Europe – including proposals for Environmental Impact Assessments that they said would be too expensive to implement – even though this was recommended by a Royal Society/Royal Academy of Engineering report on fracking

Fossil fuel resources are natural gas, oil, or other hydrocarbon energy deposits occurring in "economically recoverable" concentrations and locations. However, many deposits once excluded by that definition have proven economically recoverable when oil prices rose high enough.



From Schlumberger, Oilfield review

Poor cementing and tubing failures lead to gas migrating to surface, causing:  
Sustained casing pressure  
Surface casing gas  
Soil contamination  
Aquifer contamination

## Fire and Explosion.

Gas fields leak. Mixed with air gas is a serious fire and explosion risk.



Leaked methane is also a powerful greenhouse gas

## Industrialisation of landscape



- Well pads, access roads, pipelines and compressor stations fragment and change huge areas and are not easily compatible with other land uses – agricultural, leisure, nature reserves, residential.
- There is a lot of traffic, noise, activity and light 24/7/52 with exhaust fumes from pumps, flaring etc
- Reductions in the quality of life get reflected in falling house prices. As an area becomes less desirable people are prepared to pay less to live there. Insurance premiums are likely to rise.

## Spin – the 'Public Health England' Report on Fracking

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Press release  
**Shale gas extraction emissions are 'low' risk to public health**

Organisation: Public Health England  
Page history: Published 31 October 2013  
Policy: Planning for health emergencies  
Topics: Public health, - 2 others

The risks to public health from exposure to emissions from shale gas extraction are low if operations are properly run and regulated, according to a PHE report.

## British Medical Journal Editorial on 'Public Health England' Report

"...the report incorrectly assumes that many of the reported problems experienced in the US are the result of a poor regulatory environment. This position ignores many of the inherent risks of the industry that no amount of regulation can sufficiently remedy, such as well casing cement failures and accidental spillage of waste water. There is no reason to believe that these problems would be any different in the UK and the report provides little evidence to the contrary...."



Drilling requires the clearing of land which alters the landscape. Here, trees have been cleared to build a road to reach the drilling site.

## Air Contamination

"Environmental exposures include outdoor air pollutants i.e. volatile organic compounds, tropospheric ozone, and diesel particulate matter... Known occupational hazards include airborne silica exposure at the well pad." *The Lancet* 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014

