

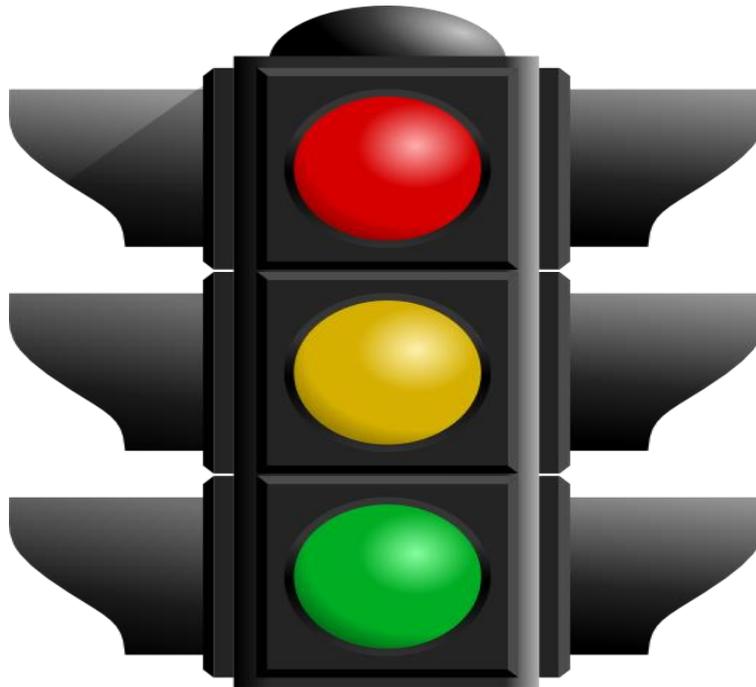
THE WEEKLY PROFIT

FROM THE SACRIFICE ZONE

Sue Gilbert
Issue 46

Without prejudice

19th February 2019



The Guardian

Government's fracking policy will cause energy crisis, says UK's richest man

Adam Vaughan 04.02.2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/04/ineos-chairman-jim-ratcliffe-criticises-government-fracking-policies>

Ministers are playing politics with the country's future, says Ineos boss Sir Jim Ratcliffe

The Guardian

UK fracking push could fuel global plastics crisis, say campaigners

Matthew Taylor 22.08.2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/22/uk-fracking-push-could-fuel-global-plastics-crisis-say-campaigners>

Government aim to end plastic pollution undermined by keen support for fracking, says Campaign to Protect Rural England

The petrochemical giant Ineos is a major plastics producer with plants in Grangemouth in Scotland and Norway, and is at the forefront of the push for fracking in the UK.

It currently imports feedstock (the raw materials for making plastic) from the US, but on its website the company – owned by Jim Ratcliffe, the UK's richest person – says fracking in the UK would allow it “to secure a supply of competitive energy and feedstock for its UK petrochemicals businesses.”

The firm has taken a robust and sometimes controversial approach to exploration, clashing with councils and appealing to authorities to force the National Trust to allow it access to their land.

Sorry, I do not understand.

Do INEOS want the shale gas for feedstocks or energy security for the nation?

Government reports tell us our energy supply is secure.

The Daily Mail, James Wood 17.02.2019

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6713413/Billionaire-Brexitteer-Sir-James-Ratcliffe-relocates-Monaco-bid-save-4bn-tax.html>

Britain's richest man quits the UK: Billionaire Brexitteer Sir James Ratcliffe 'relocates to Monaco in a bid to save £4bn in tax'

- Ratcliffe is chairman of chemicals company Ineos which has turnover of £45bn
- He and two senior execs are reportedly set to benefit from tax avoidance plan
- Monaco, famous for its yacht-lined harbour and casinos, is well-known tax haven
- Plan could see Treasury lose out on around £400m and £4bn, should it go ahead

A prominent Brexitteer and Britain's richest man, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, is set to quit the United Kingdom in a bid to save billions in tax, it has been reported.

The 66-year-old, who was knighted less than a year ago for his services to business and investment, is reportedly planning to save up to £4bn with a move to Monaco.

The country - famous for its yacht-lined harbour, upscale casinos and the prestigious Grand Prix motor race - is a well-known tax haven.

And Ratcliffe has been working with PwC on a tax avoidance plan, which could also benefit two senior executives at his chemicals company Ineos.

That's according to [The Sunday Times](#), which has claimed that Ratcliffe, Andy Currie and John Reece could all legally share between **£1bn and £10bn of tax-free cash**. **Should the plan go ahead, it could deprive the Treasury of between £400m and £4bn** - a move which a source at the newspaper labelled 'egregious', should the upper end be chosen.



Do you feel that Mr Ratcliffe has his countrys' best interests at heart?

WHY IS FRACKING OUR FUTURE? IS METHANE CLEAN? DOES IT HALT CLIMATE CHANGE?

SIGHTLINE INSTITUTE

METHANE'S 20- AND 100-YEAR CLIMATE EFFECT IS LIKE 'CO₂ ON STEROIDS'

<https://www.sightline.org/2019/02/12/methane-climate-change-co2-on-steroids/>

It traps atmospheric heat 87 times more effectively than CO₂, then it becomes CO₂ itself.

Author: [Tarika Powell](#)

(@) on February 12, 2019

Methane, the primary component of fracked gas, is a highly questionable solution for decarbonization or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Fracked gas is commonly purported to be a “cleaner” alternative to other fossil fuels but that notion comes from looking at only a pixel in the full emissions picture. **Our common understandings are inaccurate. When researchers examine the full climate impact of natural gas, many conclude that it is not substantially better than other fossil fuels and under some circumstances may even be worse.**

It's true that fracked gas does reduce non-greenhouse gas (GHG) pollutants like particulate matter and sulfur dioxide. But we have to challenge the notion that we should build more large-scale fracked gas infrastructure instead of choosing solutions that reduce those pollutants without introducing more methane—“CO₂ on steroids”—into the atmosphere.



Will fracking protect the insects? After all, no insects – no us.

The Guardian

Plummeting insect numbers 'threaten collapse of nature'

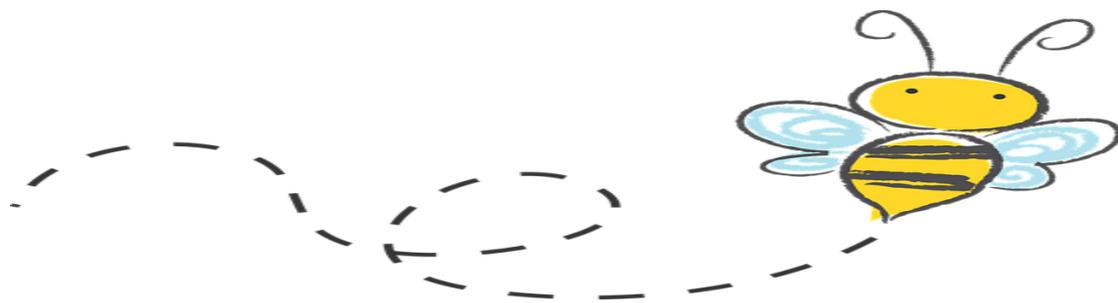
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>

Damien Carrington. 10.02.2019

The world's insects are hurtling down the path to extinction, threatening a “catastrophic collapse of nature's ecosystems”, according to the first global scientific review.

More than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered, the analysis found. **The rate of extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles.** The total mass of insects is falling by a precipitous 2.5% a year, according to the best data available, suggesting they could vanish within a century.

The planet is at the **start of a sixth mass extinction** in its history, with **huge losses already reported in larger animals** that are easier to study. But insects are by far the most varied and abundant animals, **outweighing humanity by 17 times**. They are “essential” for the proper functioning of all ecosystems, the researchers say, as food for other creatures, pollinators and recyclers of nutrient



Is fracking our best option?

The Ecologist

Chris Saltmarch 13.02.2019

Fracking was always doomed to fail

<https://theecologist.org/2019/feb/13/fracking-was-always-doomed-fail-writes-chris-saltmarsh?fbclid=IwAR3ReVBEEqWmPQWOfOyYbnSXgzu3PEckQo92SxINWT4KyirnsJ71LGMfZp>

The fracking industry was doomed to fail from the start and now activists are putting the final nail in its coffin.

The end is nigh for fracking in the UK, not that it ever particularly got started.

Regulators at the government's Department of Business, Energy, Innovation and Skills (BEIS) recently [denied fracking pioneer Cuadrilla's request to raise earthquake limits](#).

This is a hammer blow to the company's prospects of profitably extracting shale gas at their Preston New Road (PNR) site in Lancashire.

There is little more that Cuadrilla could do to portray itself as the arch-villain of the climate movement as they demand the Government allow them to induce more earthquakes at their site between Blackpool and Preston. All to make a quick profit.

Their demand comes after [fracking just 5% of the well at PNR](#) since beginning horizontal drilling on 15 October 2018. They have [induced 57 earth tremors](#) between then and February 2019.

BEIS state that while they support fracking, they have set existing regulations in consultation with the industry.

You can't help but expect that even this callous Tory government have woken up to the deep unpopularity of fracking.

Are Seismic surveys harmful to wildlife?

Sea Voice News

Seismic Surveying For Oil Causes 46 Sea Turtles To Wash Ashore, Only 15 Survive

January 23, 2019 - by Alex Larson

<https://seavoicenews.com/2019/01/23/seismic-surveying-for-oil-causes-dozens-of-sea-turtles-to-wash-ashore-only-15-survive/>

Marine **seismic surveying** done last week by an Italian company off the shores of Israel has caused dozens of injured sea turtles to wash ashore. The purpose of the seismic surveying was to find offshore oil and natural gas reserves.

Israel's Sea Turtle Rescue Center was called into action as dozens of the turtles were found on Israel's beaches. In total, 46 sea turtles were found in a three day span.

Dozens of volunteers came out to help search the beaches and carry the injured turtles to be transported, many of which suffered from lung and stomach cavity damage. According to center director Yaniv Levy, **many of the sea turtles had fluid, including blood, in their lungs.**

An investigation by the Nature and Parks Authority was able to determine that the cause of the mass killing was due to seismic surveying by the company from Italy. **Over a period of 24 hours, roughly 20 explosions were set off every nine seconds**



31 Turtles Killed 😞

Am I correct in my belief that the current limit on seismic events was set at 0.5 in full agreement with the Fracking Industry?

Drill or Drop?

BY [RUTH HAYHURST](#) ON [NOVEMBER 12, 2018](#)

<https://drillordrop.com/2018/11/12/guest-post-save-the-fylde-keep-the-earthquake-safety-limit-at-0-5/>

Guest Post by Chartered Electrical Engineer, **Michael Hill**,

Cuadrilla's request to relax the rules over earthquakes caused by fracking appears to be based very much on commercial viability and should be refused. The operator must demonstrate that there is a safety reason for doing so or that safety will not be compromised in anyway.

The company has apparently asked for the threshold for seismic activity at which fracking must pause to be raised from a local magnitude (ML) of 0.5 to 2.0.

The industry and government had agreed in 2012 that the 0.5 ML limit was necessary for safety. But following the recent series of earthquakes linked to fracking, Cuadrilla is clearly unable to operate consistently within that limit. The public are very concerned about what has happened and the government has said it will not raise the limit, despite its support for the shale gas industry. So we have a collision of interests between public safety, politics and finances.

Either the limit is raised to allow for the commercial viability of fracking in the UK or **safety will take precedence over financial considerations and the science and engineering that led to the introduction of the 0.5 ML limit will be respected.**



Senior officials failed to give clear answers on decommissioning of fracking wells – MP

DRILL OR DROP? BY [RUTH HAYHURST](#) ON [FEBRUARY 11, 2019](#)

<https://drillordrop.com/2019/02/11/senior-officials-failed-to-give-clear-answers-on-decommissioning-of-fracking-wells-mp>

A Conservative MP said this evening he was disappointed with the response of senior civil servants to his questions on the decommissioning of shale gas wells.

Lee Rowley, who has a prospective Ineos shale gas site in his North East Derbyshire constituency, wanted to know what would happen if shale gas companies went out of business before land had been restored.

He said the questions had still not been answered, many years after the start of attempts to frack.

Mr Rowley raised the issue at Westminster during a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee. It was taking evidence from Alex Chisholm, the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Emily Bourne, the department's Director for the Energy Development and Resilience Directorate.

Mr Rowley told the civil servants:

“The reason I ask you is because this has not been adequately answered anywhere and I want an answer to it.”

Mr Rowley added:

“Landowners are potentially being forced to allow fracking to happen on their land, contrary to their wishes. Ineos threatened to take the National Trust to court for that, for example, under the 1966 Mines Act.

“How can it be the landowners' responsibility for something that has occurred on their land that they didn't want to happen?”

After the meeting, Mr Rowley said:

“I am disappointed that the department and the OGA were unable to give clear answers on the pressing questions around decommissioning.

“Whatever one's thoughts on the fracking industry as a whole, it cannot be right that these questions, which could lumber the country with hundreds of millions, or even billions of pounds of liability, are unanswered now many years into attempts to frack.

“I will continue to pursue this.



Image Dawn Collier

The world, and our earth, have called for an end to fossil fuels – NOW.

Yet the UK seems bent on starting another fossil fuel industry. Without public support. Why?

Our children and grandchildren are protesting to save the world they will inherit, are you listening?

Fracking wastes millions of gallons of fresh, clean water that all life desperately needs. Why is this allowed?

Please do not increase the traffic light limits for fracking, this was set for safety reasons and agreed with the industry.

There is a reason why the earth reacts so badly to fracking. Will you listen to the earth?

Please End the Madness

Ban Fracking