

THE WEEKLY PROFIT

FROM THE SACRIFICE ZONE

Sue Gilbert
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Without prejudice

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Sky News

<https://news.sky.com/story/shale-gas-radioactive-radon-risk-in-homes-10429761>

By Thomas Moore, Health Correspondent, Thursday 31 October 2013

Shale Gas: Radioactive Radon Risk In Homes

Exposure to the radioactive element, which increases the risk of lung cancer, will be 15 times higher than with natural gas

Domestic gas supplied by the controversial process of fracking will increase levels of radioactive radon in people's homes, public health experts have warned.

A risk assessment by Public Health England (PHE) shows that shale gas would result in individual exposures to radon that are 15 times higher than through existing supplies of natural gas.

<https://www.ukradon.org/information/whatisradon>

Public Health England

The radioactive elements formed by the decay of radon can be inhaled and enter our lungs. Inside the lungs, these elements continue to decay and emit radiation, most importantly alpha particles. These are absorbed by the nearby lung tissues and cause localised damage.

This damage can lead to lung cancer.

<https://www.ukradon.org/information/whatisradon>

Public Health England – UK Radon

Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) and **Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM)** consist of materials, usually [industrial wastes](#) or by-products enriched with [radioactive elements](#) found in the environment, such as [uranium](#), [thorium](#) and [potassium](#) and any of their decay products, such as [radium](#) and [radon](#).^[1]

Natural [radioactive elements](#) are present in very low concentrations in Earth's crust, and are brought to the surface through human activities such as [oil and gas exploration](#) or [mining](#), and through natural processes like leakage of [radon](#) gas to the atmosphere or through dissolution in ground water.

The Times

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sir-jim-ratcliffe-s-firm-ineos-made-threat-over-dirty-air-rules-3qzgwxcg>

Ben Webster. March 23rd, 2019

Sir Jim Ratcliffe's firm Ineos made threat over dirty air rules

A company owned by Britain's richest man asked the government to relax rules at a chemical plant that has repeatedly breached air quality limits.

Ineos, the petrochemicals company owned by Sir Jim Ratcliffe, wrote to Greg Clark, the business secretary, threatening to close the Seal Sands plant near Middlesbrough at a cost of more than 2,000 jobs unless he found ways to help it “defer compliance with the regulations”.

The plant, which produces acrylonitrile, used to make carbon fibre, breached environmental limits 176 times between 2014 and 2017, mainly for air and water quality, according to Environment Agency figures.

Last year Sir Jim, who is said to be worth £21 billion, was criticised over reports that he was moving to Monaco months after being knighted

How can anyone 'defer compliance' with the regulations? Are they not Gold Standard? What of those who are forced to breathe this air and drink this water? What of the wildlife?

The Guardian. Sarah Butler, 17.02.2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/17/brexiter-jim-ratcliffe-uk-richest-man-plans-save-4bn-pounds-tax-monaco-move>

UK's richest man moves to Monaco to 'save £4bn in tax'

The Burnley Express

<https://www.burnleyexpress.net/news/environment/government-s-fracking-policies-challenged-by-pendle-peer-1-9660283>

Dominic Collis 19.03.2019

Government's fracking policies challenged by Pendle peer

The controversial issue of fracking has been challenged by a Lancashire Lord. Pendle-based Liberal Democrat Lord Tony Greaves, who lives at Colne, challenged the Government on their fracking policies when he tabled a Topical Question in the House of Lords following a **High Court decision that the revised planning guidance on fracking issued to local planning authorities is unlawful.**

Lord Greaves said that this was another example where the present Government is **“lacking basic procedural competence”**. He challenged the need for fracking and said: **“It seems rather strange that the Government want widespread extraction of methane from rocks in this country at a time when the climate crisis affecting the world is getting worse.”**

He also asked whether they think it is **“politically sustainable for them to cover large areas of the English countryside, which are often Conservative strongholds, with hundreds and thousands of fracking wells?”**

Lord Greaves said after the debate: **“The fact is that fracking in this country is going nowhere, and the Minister’s rather half-hearted attempts to justify it rather underline that is the case. They don’t want to upset the oil and gas industry by closing down the fracking gas exploration, but they daren’t let them off the leash for fear of a massive public backlash. ”So we have the present stuttering stop-start performance at Preston New Road, Lancashire police have their resources diverted from real crime, and everyone is playing a time-wasting and money-wasting game.**

“It sums up so much in this country at present. It should just be stopped.”



The Guardian

Matthew Taylor 24th March 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/24/fracking-plan-carbon-release-300m-cars-uk-labour-study>

Fracking plan ‘will release same Co2 as 300m new cars’

Labour study comes as UK government faces pressure from courts and councils

The government’s fracking proposals would release the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as almost 300 million new cars, fatally undermining ministers’ obligation to tackle the escalating climate crisis, according to new research.

Analysis by the Labour party shows that the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere if the government’s plans go ahead would be the same as the lifetime emissions of 286 million cars – or 29 new coal-fired power plants.

The findings come as ministers’ efforts to kickstart their fracking proposals face growing resistance, with [defeat in the courts](#), fierce local objections and opposition from [Labour and Tory councils alike](#).

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, who was in Lancashire on Saturday to join the anti-fracking campaign in the region, said a future Labour government would ban fracking “once and for all”.

“The Conservatives’ fracking plans will damage our environment and fly in the face of community opposition,” he said. “There is a clear alternative to fracking. Clean, renewable energy is the future of our economy and will create more than 400,000 jobs as part of Labour’s green industrial revolution.”

The Guardian

Fiona Harvey 6th March, 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/06/high-court-rules-governments-fracking-guidelines-unlawful>

High court rules government's fracking guidelines 'unlawful'

Court finds government failed to consider scientific evidence against fracking

House of Commons

Environmental Audit Committee

Environmental risks of fracking

Eighth Report of Session 2014–15

Summary

Exploratory drilling for shale gas has begun in the UK and the Government is encouraging fracking. It has introduced tax concessions and is seeking through its Infrastructure Bill to ease the process for fracking operations, including through proposals for an automatic right of access to “deep-level land” for exploratory drilling and extraction.

Extensive production of unconventional gas through fracking is inconsistent with the UK’s obligations under the Climate Change Act and its carbon budgets regime, which encompasses our contribution to efforts to keep global temperature rise below two degrees. **Shale gas, like ‘conventional gas’, is not low carbon**, and the objective of government policy should be to reduce the carbon intensity of energy whatever its source. **Shale gas cannot be regarded as a ‘transitional’ or ‘bridging’ fuel.**

Any large scale extraction of shale gas in the UK is likely to be at least 10-15 years away, and therefore cannot drive dirtier coal from the energy system because by that time it is likely that unabated coal-fired power generation will have been phased out to meet EU emissions directives. There is in any case little evidence to suggest that fracking could be undertaken at the scale needed to be commercially viable in the UK or that it will bring gas prices down **It is also unlikely to be commercially viable unless developed at a significant scale, to be able to compete against a growing renewable energy sector, but large-scale fracking will not be able to be accommodated within still tightening carbon budgets. There is in any case little evidence to suggest that fracking could be undertaken at the scale needed to be commercially viable in the UK or that it will bring gas prices down significantly.**

Despite the assurances from some that environmental risks can be safely accommodated by existing regulatory systems, **an extensive range of uncertainties remains over particular hazards—to groundwater quality and water supplies, from waste and air emissions, to our health and to biodiversity, to the geological integrity of the areas involved, and from noise and disruption.**

Uncertainty about their significance is in part a reflection of the fact that fracking operations have yet to move beyond the exploratory stage in the UK.

It is imperative that the environment is protected from potentially irreversible damage.

- Fracking must be prohibited outright in protected and nationally important areas.
- Full containment of methane must be mandated.
- Fracking should be prohibited in all water source protection zones.

We identified necessary safeguards in these risk areas, but also a need for a more coherent and more joined-up regulatory system, and one that needs to be put in place before further fracking activity is contemplated. Permit appraisals must consider the cumulative impacts of fracking. Environmental impact assessment must be mandated for all fracking activity.

Attention must be paid to the way in which the industry and the risks might scale up in future. The necessary regulatory arrangements must be determined and put in place before any further expansion of the industry. There should be a consolidated regulatory regime specifically for fracking.

The current debate on fracking reveals a lack of public acceptance, or ‘social licence’, for it. A moratorium on the extraction of unconventional gas through fracking is needed to avoid both the inconsistency with our climate change obligations and to allow the uncertainty surrounding environmental risks to be fully resolved.

We have resolved to publish this report to inform the Report-stage and Third Reading debates of the Infrastructure Bill on 26 January. Members might consider an Amendment to the Bill, which we discuss in our report, which would allow such a moratorium.

Membership at the time of the report

Joan Walley MP (Labour, Stoke-on-Trent North) (Chair) Peter Aldous MP (Conservative, Waveney) Neil Carmichael MP (Conservative, Stroud) Martin Caton MP (Labour, Gower) Katy Clark MP (Labour, North Ayrshire and Arran) Zac Goldsmith MP (Conservative, Richmond Park) Mike Kane MP (Labour, Wythenshawe and Sale East) Mark Lazarowicz MP (Labour/Co-operative, Edinburgh North and Leith) Caroline Lucas MP (Green, Brighton Pavilion) Caroline Nokes MP (Conservative, Romsey and Southampton North) Dr Matthew Offord MP (Conservative, Hendon) Dan Rogerson MP (Liberal Democrat, North Cornwall) [ex-officio] Rt Hon Mrs Caroline Spelman MP (Conservative, Meriden) Mr Mark Spencer MP (Conservative, Sherwood) Dr Alan Whitehead MP (Labour, Southampton, Test) Simon Wright MP (Liberal Democrat, Norwich South)

The following members were also members of the committee during the parliament:

Richard Benyon MP (Conservative, Newbury) [ex-officio], Chris Evans MP (Labour/Co-operative, Islwyn), Ian Murray MP (Labour, Edinburgh South), Sheryll Murray MP (Conservative, South East Cornwall), Paul Uppal MP (Conservative, Wolverhampton South West)

‘Fracking will concrete over the countryside and impact local communities.

And for what?’

Lee Rowley MP



**End the
Madness
Ban Fracking**

Image Ross.

