

# FRACKING MYTHS AND FACTS

## MYTH #1: “FRACKING WILL PROVIDE ENERGY SECURITY FOR THE UK”

**FACT:** The UK is part of an integrated European Energy market. This means all the gas produced in the UK is traded on the open Market and sold to the highest bidder. The UK currently exports 30% of the Gas it produces. Also despite what politicians tell us 97% of our imports come from Norway, Qatar and Holland.

## MYTH #2: “FRACKING WILL LOWER UK ENERGY PRICES”

**FACT:** DAVID KENNEDY head of the Committee on Climate Change “It is highly unlikely to happen here. There isn't enough shale gas on the UK and in Europe to change the European Price. LORD BROWN “we are part of a well connected European Gas Market, it is not going to have material impact on price.

## MYTH #3: “FRACKING HAS BEEN GOING ON IN THE UK FOR DECADES”

**FACT:** According to the Dept. Of Energy and Climate Change “Cuadrilla is the only operator in the UK to use *High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing*- this technique was used on the Preese Hall well in 2011!” (where it created earthquakes)

## MYTH #4: “FRACKING POSES NO RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH”

**FACT:** In the USA it has been found that fracking activities have been associated with a 27% increase in cardiology hospitalisations, increased numbers of skin conditions, high risk pre-term birth and low birth weights.

## MYTH #5: “THE UK HAS GOLD STANDARD FRACKING REGULATIONS”

**FACT:** The regulations were created for the *conventional oil and gas industry and not for the very different and as yet untried technology*. The Environment Agency is the main body for policing the industry, the same EA that has failed to maintain flood protection and is suffering huge budget cuts. How could they possibly manage to monitor thousands of new fracking wells?

*“Would I let my family live in a community with fracking? The answer is NO!. The potential risks of fracking are too great. In fact they are not even fully known.”*

Dr Howard A Zucker NY State Health Commissioner.



*“If you were looking for a way to poison the drinking water supply, you couldn't find a more chilling and effective way of doing so than with Hydraulic Fracturing”*

Dr Paul Hetzler NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

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## **MYTH #6: “FRACKING WILL NOT AFFECT HOUSE PRICES.”**

**FACT:** The Shale Gas Rural Economy Paper (released July 2015) stated “house prices in close proximity to the drilling operations are likely to fall by 7%”. A study in the USA showed house prices within 1km of fracking wells fell by 12.9%. Furthermore two thirds of Insurance Companies will not insure against damage caused by fracking.

## **MYTH #7: “FRACKING HAS NEVER CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER”**

**FACT:** There are hundreds of cases of people having their water contaminated. A recent study in the USA found that the Department of Environmental Protection has been routinely covering up complaints about contamination caused by leaks, chemical spills, blowouts, waste disposal and underground methane and other toxic chemical migration.

## **MYTH #8: “FRACKING IS A BRIDGE TO A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY”**

**FACT:** Burning gas in power stations does produce less CO<sub>2</sub>. But a far more dangerous greenhouse gas is methane- the main gas produced by fracking, which is 86% more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20 year time frame. Studies vary in their methods and measurement of leaking methane, but up to 10% may be lost during exploration and production.

## **MYTH #9: “A FRACKED WELL CAN PRODUCE GAS FOR OVER 20**

**FACT:** A conventional well can produce gas for about 20 years whereas most fracked wells will only produce commercial quantities for 1-3 yrs. This is why companies have to keep drilling more and more wells just to stay in business.

## **MYTH #10: “FRACKING WILL CREATE OVER 64,000 JOBS”**

**FACT:** This figure continues to get quoted but they don't tell you where it comes from. It relates to 4000 fracking wells in 2024/26. However only 6,100 jobs would be direct the extra 55,400 are described as indirect or induced., With very little info as to how the figure is arrived at. At the same time the Government's figures show at least 27,000 jobs would be lost in the Solar Industry alone.

*To recover 15% of shale gas in Lancashire would need 33,000 wells. To be independent of imports we need to continue drilling 1,000 wells every year.*

Andy Aplin Professor of Unconventional Petroleum at Durham University

*Cases of drinking water contamination by drilling operations and waste disposal are now proven.*

Physicians for Social Responsibility. Oct 2015