



WAR on the LAND

Robin Whitlock discovers the danger from hydraulic fracturing (fracking)

As a freelance journalist with a great many interests I am always keeping an eye on what is going on in the country and, given that I also write articles for renewable energy websites, one of the issues that I've regularly and constantly kept an eye on is the process of hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking' as it is popularly known.

Most people who follow the news would agree that prior to the outbreak of war in the Ukraine and the Israeli bombing of Gaza, fracking was, and perhaps still is, one of today's Number 1 'hot' issues. News stories regarding protests against the process in previously quiet rural areas with very little else going on seem to have been a regular feature on our television screens over recent years.

Fracking is all about extracting hard to reach oil and gas resources trapped in layers of shale rock underground. It was first developed and adopted in the United States where it has achieved some success at boosting American energy supplies and reducing household bills,

which over the last few years have been rising dramatically due to the rise in global natural gas prices, itself a product of rising oil prices due to depletion (popularly known as 'peak oil').

The process involves the pumping of water mixed with various chemicals deep underground where it is used to split shale rock, thereby releasing oil or gas supplies contained within it. The oil or gas then migrates to the top of the well where it is recovered.

From a conventional environmental and renewable energy perspective, there are already numerous deeply serious problems with this process. To begin with, the government's own Climate Change Committee (CCC) strongly doubts that the UK will be able to repeat the US success, as it looks likely that there just isn't enough shale oil and gas to sustain more than a temporary supply of energy. Even the US shale oil and gas sector is now being described in terms of a temporary boom or 'bubble'. In essence, not long after it began, US shale energy resources are already beginning to deplete.

Secondly, shale oil and gas are fossil

fuels, and therefore the problems with emissions of greenhouse gases associated with these fuels are maintained, albeit reduced to some extent. However, there are additionally numerous concerns that fracking operations may leak methane into the atmosphere, in which case any perceived advantage gained from this process is negated due to the much more dangerous status of methane as a greenhouse gas.

Water problems

Numerous oil and gas drilling operations have been associated with the creation of minor earthquakes, and this has been exacerbated by fracking sites. The problems are largely generated by the injection of water underground during the drilling process. This tends to increase pressure on seismic faults and render them even more likely to slip. So far, such earthquakes have been of relatively low magnitude – about 2.3 on the Richter scale.

The use of water in drilling operations creates various other problems. It could potentially deplete groundwater sources in areas where water is already in

short supply. In the UK there is already concern about this particular aspect with regard to the south east of England, for example in the Weald, where test drilling operations have been proposed. There are also concerns around the leakage of toxic chemicals used during the drilling process into the water table, and also around the leakage of methane into water supplies. Numerous claims by US citizens regarding foul tasting and discoloured water are now on record, and even the occurrence of water supplies that can be ignited.

There is an ongoing debate between the industry and those opposed to fracking over these various issues and numerous papers are being published examining the evidence on one side or the other seeking to prove or disprove the various claims and allegations. However, there does seem to be more than enough evidence to generate significant concern about the effects fracking operations will have on the land, on our water supplies and our lives in general.

Sacred earth

But then on top of all that, turning to a spiritual and 'earth energetic' perspective, there is the subtle damage: the damage to the land as a spiritual and harmonic entity with which we all engage in everyday life as part of our being. It is mostly those people, including myself, who have a deep spiritual and energetic connection to the land, who understand this and who are therefore concerned about it. To anyone who has engaged in dowsing at particularly energetic power spots on the land, as I have, or maintains an awareness of the importance of earth energy lines, water courses and sacred springs and wells with traditions that go back centuries before industrialisation, even before recorded time in some instances, the threat from fracking is deeply troubling.

Sandra Kendrew is a Geopathic Stress Consultant, Author of *The Power of Conscious Living – How to Recreate Your Life & Find the Key to True Happiness* and a member of the Professional Register of the British Society of Dowzers. She also is deeply concerned about the effects of fracking on the land and on its energetic properties.

'There are natural rays emanating from the earth which can be balanced good energy, or because of earth disturbances, may be out of balance, causing discomfort to anyone living above them or in their

path', she says. 'Depending on the strength and character of the earths' energies present, a location may carry beneficial energy or potentially be very harmful to some people. The earth, like all living things, has an energy field and is covered by a system of grid lines. This becomes a problem if you live or work above this non beneficial energy, lowering the immune system, therefore contributing to ill health.'

Sandra explains that the inherent frequency of the earth is 7.8 hertz (Hz), a frequency known as the Schumann's Resonance. There is an energetic connection between living beings and the resonant energy of the earth and therefore a person's brainwaves also resonate with that same frequency.

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radiation which rises up and can become distorted by weak electromagnetic fields from underground water, fault lines, construction, quarrying, earthquakes and certain minerals,' she continues. 'Strong geopathic stress can vibrate as high as 250Hz and in Germany and Austria, many people are provided with a certificate to say their home is geopathic stress free. In Bali, many bless the land before building on it. Unfortunately the majority of people do not have this inherent connection.'

Sandra's original interest in geopathic stress emerged over 25 years ago, when in her natural health practice she realised that the conditions among a number of clients weren't improving. She wondered whether geopathic stress was to blame for this. Co-incidently at the same time she had moved house and had become quite stressed, suffering from lack of sleep and developing Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). She invited Dr Arthur Bailey, a physicist, to visit her home and perform some earth acupuncture to her property. This was a complete revelation and completely changed the energy of her home and also that among her family.

'Even if you cannot comprehend how the earths' energies can affect a building,'

she says, 'we all know the feeling when you go into a property – you either love being there or can't wait to escape!'

What's more some people are always ill. The World Health organisation states that at least 30% of properties have 'sick building syndrome', although personally having dowsed, I feel this has increased much over the years. Geopathic stress can contribute to lowering a person's immune system, cancer, heart disease, ME, relationship issues, stress, insomnia, asthma, bipolar disorder, miscarriages, depression, hyperactivity, infertility, cot death and so on.'

Sandra's view is that fracking has great potential for undermining the earths' energies and because of the accessibility of the fracking to the water aquifer level and reservoirs, the possible contamination is definitely greater through fracking as shown with the USA's experience. Therefore because underground drilling and exploration is going on, the quality of the water has to be protected.

'As a Geopathic Consultant, my personal views and intuition point to it being inevitable there will be much disruption and non-beneficial energies near to properties where fracking takes place,' she says. 'It will not only contaminate the earth, but any major construction such as this creates fault lines. This leads to more Geopathic Stress!'

The earth can of course heal itself, but Sandra considers the damage being done by fracking to be rather like a person being punched in the face. She believes it will take a long time for the land to recover, let alone those who are affected by the detrimental energies and chemicals in drinking water. Sandra explains that geopathic stress can extend for miles across the land after fracking operations have taken place.

Earth rituals

Danu Forest has been involved in numerous attempts to counter the threat from fracking on the land through ceremony and ritual. She has been a Druid and Witch in the Celtic tradition for 27 years, leading ceremonies on environmental issues in particular for over thirteen years.

She believes that from a spiritual point of view, fracking will be a terrible thing akin to the Arthurian concept of the wasteland. This is an interesting observation in that, in the Grail mythology, the land only becomes a wasteland when