



OESG

15—Reuse of Flowback

Features

After hydraulic fracturing has taken place, the well is depressurised to allow freed gas to flow to the surface for collection. With it, some of the injected fracturing fluid returns too, and is referred to as ‘flowback’ fluid. In some circumstances, and with the right technology, it is possible to reuse this fluid after it’s been cleaned up where the fluid is re-injected as part of subsequent hydraulic fracturing operations. This is not the same as injection for disposal, which is not permitted by European and UK regulations.

Advantages

On-site clean up of flowback for reuse offers a number of advantages. Principally speaking, it will cut demand for mains water and substantially reduce the amount of wastewater that requires removal from site by road.

Benefits

The reuse of flowback, following rudimentary clean up on site, will mean that more water is kept available for other business and household customers, whilst lessening local transport impacts—both of which are often cited as concerns amongst public stakeholders.

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