



OESG

07—Horizontal wells

Features

The thick deposits of shale rock lend themselves to being accessed using sophisticated directional drilling of horizontal wells deep underground. These wells can stretch for several kilometres but are only about 8 inches in diameter.

Advantages

By using horizontal wells it is possible to access larger sections of rock than is possible using just vertical wells—making it possible to drain a much wider area of gas.

Benefits

Horizontal wells eliminate the need for lots of vertical wells, which means much less noticeable drilling activity at the surface. Combined with multi-well pads, many fewer sites will be required overall, which means the activities of extracting gas can be carried out less intrusively. Wytch Farm oilfield in Dorset is a great example of horizontal drilling.

© The Onshore Energy Services Group 2015. All rights reserved. This factsheet is provided as a general guide only. Although reasonable endeavours have been used to verify the accuracy of the information it contains, users are urged to check independently on matters of specific interest. The Onshore Energy Services Group accepts no liability for any loss or damage howsoever arising as a consequence of using information supplied in its factsheets.