

Features

Shale rock is porous but largely impermeable. The gas it contains is stored in tiny pores, and it is necessary to connect them in order to allow the gas out. This is done by pumping in fluid at high pressure to create tiny fractures in the shale. Grains of sand, added to the fluid at the surface, are used to prop open these induced fractures.

Advantages

Hydraulic fracturing is used in sandstone and limestone rock to stimulate the flow of oil and gas, even those these rocks are much more permeable. In shale rock, creating fractures is the only way to unlock the hydrocarbons they contain and offers the advantage of being able to release otherwise trapped natural gas using a tried-and-tested method.

Benefits

By using hydraulic fracturing to tap our domestic resources of shale gas, it is possible to produce more home-grown British energy, making us less reliant on imported foreign gas whilst supporting British jobs in the supply chain and wider economy.

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