



OESG

14—Seismic monitoring

Features

When hydraulic fracturing takes place, seismic activity can occur. This is very rare, with only a handful of cases worldwide where minor earth tremors have been linked to hydraulic fracturing. Using a combination of techniques, it is possible to continuously monitor and detect small tremors before, during and after hydraulic fracturing has taken place, and this is now what will happen in the UK.

Advantages

Continuous seismic monitoring will enable operators to very quickly detect tremors that might be linked to their hydraulic fracturing activities, giving them the opportunity to pause and investigate—perhaps then redesigning their hydraulic fracturing programme where necessary.

Benefits

Early warning of seismic activity that could be linked to hydraulic fracturing will significantly reduce the likelihood of felt earth tremors being detected, and reduce the likelihood of damage to the construction and integrity of shale gas wells—both of which have been a source of anxiety for public stakeholders.

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