



OESG

17—Flaring surplus gas

Features

Flaring involves the controlled burning of surplus natural gas at high temperatures, where the combustion takes place in a 'sleeve' in order to reduce noise and light pollution whilst also safeguarding wildlife. It is most common in the exploration for shale gas, when it is necessary to test the flow from the well but there isn't enough gas, for long enough, to warrant the disruption of laying pipes to get the gas into the national grid. In these circumstances, the test gas is surplus and is discarded.

Advantages

Flaring is chosen as an alternative to simply venting and allows for the safe destruction of surplus gas under controlled conditions.

Benefits

Flaring surplus gas instead of venting it converts the methane to CO₂, which is a less potent greenhouse gas. But because the methane is flammable, destroying it by flaring instead of venting is much safer for workers and the public.

© 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.