

GAS WATCH 254.

The Coal Seam Methane extraction industry has never had a plan for disposal of contaminated fracking water, or the resultant salt and other contaminants.

AGL continues to stumble from one experiment to the next in its quest for extraction of coal seam methane gas from under prime agricultural land. And each of these experiments threatens fresh water and agriculture.

The Sydney Morning Herald reports today that AGL Energy has had yet another processor of its contaminated fracking water from the AGL Gloucester Gas Field refusing to accept further water shipments.

And this current fracking water is from only 3 wells. If AGL can't cope with the fracking water from 3 wells, how will it cope with the fracking water from 110 wells, or 300 wells, as it proposes.

AGL's own figures for the proposed Gloucester gas field are that several hundreds of millions of heavily salted water, brine, will be produced over the life of the project.

Indeed 100,000,000 (one hundred million) litres of water will be required just for the initial fracking of the wells.

AGL says in its EWMS for its Gloucester operations that one of the options, other than shipping out the contaminated water to processors, is a Water Treatment Plant at Gloucester which would result in 1,500,000 litres of "treated" water being dumped into the Avon River every day, 130,000,000 litres per year. And this is water which now two water treatment processors have now refused to touch. So much for the plan to tip it into the Avon.

The contaminants in the water include pH, Calcium, Magnesium, Silica, Manganese, Potassium, Iron, Strontium, Boron and various suspended solids, let alone some carcinogenic BTEX chemicals which AGL says are found naturally in coal seams and will be brought to the surface with the fracking water.

AGL is unable to detail in its Gloucester EWMS what it is going to do with the contaminated fracking water. Only some vague suggestions, two of which have now been exposed as being unavailable to them. AGL clearly has no plan and doesn't know what it is doing in relation to this water.

The Chief Scientist says that the Coal Seam Methane industry can be made "manageable", however even the Chief Scientist didn't thoroughly address the question of disposal of fracking water and salt.

And the CSG industry clearly has no idea as to what can be done with the contaminated water. This methane exploration must cease until there is scientific proof that there is no risk to the environment from any step in the exploration or extraction process – if that is possible at all.



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