

GAS WATCH 259.

AGL Gloucester methane gas project in trouble again, and again, and again.

Gloucester incidents, so far:

1. On 2nd April a methane gas leak was detected at one of the three Gloucester CSG wells recently fraced by **AGL**.
2. There is a methane gas build up in each of the well heads recently drilled and fraced by **AGL**, so it won't be long before the other two start leaking, if they haven't already.
3. **AGL** has sought and received approval to release a build up of methane gas from the well heads. **How dangerous is this? Will they explode? We don't know. AGL has not said.**
4. Methane gas is more than 20 times worse than CO₂ as a global warming blanket.
5. **AGL** will attempt to burn the built up methane from the well heads emitting CO₂ into the atmosphere as well as the releasing the methane leaking from the well.
6. Fracing water contaminated with toxic, cancer causing **BTEX** chemicals has been detected at the fracing site as a result of the fracing and the Government has suspended methane exploration until an investigation is completed.
7. Fracing water sent for treatment by **AGL** on the basis that the treated water was not to be dumped into the Hunter Water sewerage system, was dumped into the sewerage system. The treatment plant has refused further shipments.
8. Then, fracing water sent for treatment by **AGL** to the Hawkesbury area of Sydney was refused by the treatment plant after one shipment.
9. **AGL** has no plan for the disposal of the fracing water and nowhere to send it or put it. In the past they have just sprayed it, or pumped it, onto pasture killing the pasture.

A recent CSIRO study found that 93% of all CSG wells are leaking methane gas, and these were wells handpicked by the CSG miners. 43 wells were tested and only 3 were found to be NOT leaking.

The Chief Scientist has made 16 recommendations that she believes are necessary before the CSG industry could become "manageable". These recommendations have not yet been enshrined in legislation, nor have they been tested to see if their adoption could result in the industry indeed becoming manageable.

On top of that it appears quite clear that **AGL** does not have the expertise to conduct CSG operations and should stick to its core business of providing electricity and gas to consumers. Perhaps its shareholders should be concerned as to **AGL's** continued problems and licence breaches with mining methane from coal seams.

The Government cannot continue to allow continued experiments by an industry desperate to mine for methane, prepared to risk the environment, to risk sustainable agriculture, to risk contaminating or diminishing ground water and aquifers, to risk the health of humans and animals.

Same old **AGL**.



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