

**UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION
ARE THEY
MAD
STUPID
OR JUST
DESPERATE?**

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF AT

FRACK-OFF.ORG

**WHAT THE HELL IS
UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION?**

In simple terms, Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) involves setting fire to coal underground, partially burning it and extracting a synthetic gas, composed of carbon monoxide, hydrogen and methane.

Sounds crazy huh? A bit like hell on Earth?

The tidal wave of extreme energy methods (like fracking) that are bearing down on all of us, are a desperate attempt to sustain a system that demands infinite growth on a finite planet. Nothing embodies this desperation better than UCG. Since this insane method of fossil fuel extraction was first proposed in 1868, attempts to implement it have resulted in explosions and massive contamination with highly toxic chemicals, leading to the eventual abandonment of testing.

Underground Coal Gasification utilises advances in horizontal drilling normally associated with oil and gas extraction to exploit coal that is considered unmineable by conventional means. A pair of wells are drilled down to a coal seam, oxygen is pumped down one well and the coal seam is set on fire. The fire is then starved of oxygen and the resulting partially burnt gasses flow up the second well to the surface.

They wouldn't, would they?

In the UK, 27 UCG licences have been sold just offshore to a variety of start up companies created to develop the technology. An application for an onshore licence in the Warwickshire countryside, was withdrawn after loud and visible community opposition.

Many of the licences are next to major population centres; Edinburgh, Newcastle, Liverpool and Swansea. Previous tests have occurred in low population density areas (usually desert) and never as close to so many people. The most advanced UK projects are near Newcastle and in the Firth of Forth, Scotland

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

A strong, grass-roots, community-led campaign is needed to stop UCG before it becomes established. Only by acting together as a network of organised community groups, can we successfully defend ourselves from this industry.

To find out more and to get involved go to: frack-off.org/ucg

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