

THE FAULT LINE

What's all the fuss about?



Aerial view of coalbed methane gas field in Colorado, USA

Pembina Institute, Canada

Coalbed Methane typically has a larger environmental footprint than conventional gas. In order to be viable, there must be more wells, spaced closer together, than in conventional production. This increases the amount of environmental impact per cubic foot of gas produced.

Powder River, Wyoming, USA

Domestic and stock water wells are drying up or becoming contaminated with gas or other development-related constituents. Over 400 miles of power lines were constructed last year to serve the CBM wells and compressor stations, with over 400 miles projected for construction each year for the next 5 or 6 years. Compressor stations are often powered by jet engines whose noise shatters the solitude of rural living. Hundreds of semi-trucks and pickups driving to and from methane sites kick up clouds of dust, resulting in increased respiratory problems for livestock and humans.



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Coalbed methane gas wellhead

The incredible boom in coalbed methane — 3,500 wells drilled by the end of 2004 and close to 7,000 by the end of 2005 — has some rural Albertans concerned about their water supplies.

Small fenced enclosures are springing up across central and southern Alberta, each protecting a wellhead and sometimes a compressor. Many of these new wells are producing coalbed methane or, to use the name favoured by the Alberta government, natural gas in coal.

What can we do?

Become an active member of WAGE at www.wage.org.au or sign up at the Wollombi General Store or at Laguna Wine Bar.

Do not allow anyone from Sydney Gas, AGL Energy & AJ Lucas onto your land



Do not sign anything they put in front of you