



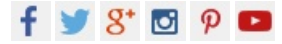
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Fracking Triggers 90% of Large Quakes in Western Canada



A pump jack operates at a well site leased by Devon Energy Production Company near Guthrie, Oklahoma Sept. 15, 2015. | Photo: Reuters

Fracking has also caused much backlash from local communities for its detrimental impact on the environment and personal health, yet it continues.

More than 90 percent of large earthquakes in western Canada were triggered by fracking operations, according to a new paper conducted by the Geological Survey of Canada.

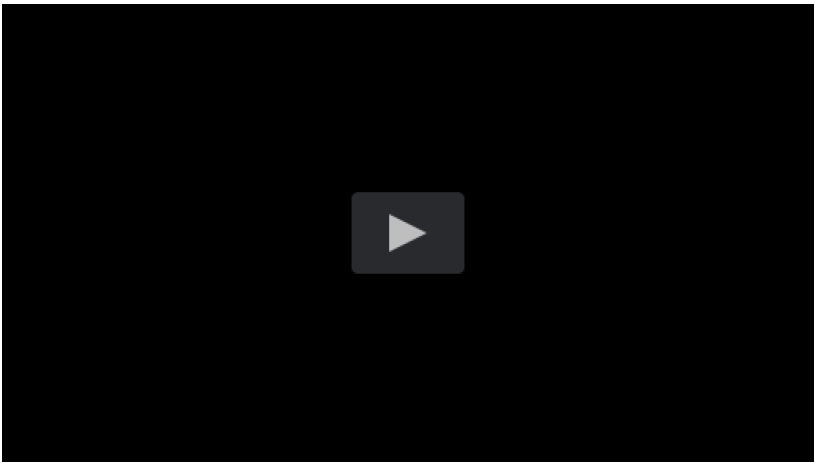
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"It is important for us to realize that indeed hydraulic fracturing can induce earthquakes," said Honn Kao, one of the co-authors of a study, scheduled to be published in the May-June issue of the journal of the Seismological Society of America.

The new research confirmed a definitive link between hydraulic fracturing and almost every large induced earthquake recorded in B.C. and Alberta's oil and gas patches since 1985.

However, the study's findings also differed from other research carried out in the central U.S., where scientists have mostly blamed the earthquakes on the injection of wastewater back into the ground after the recovery of oil and gas.

WATCH: Fracking Continues Unabated in the US



“There are more earthquakes in western Canada that are more related to hydraulic fracturing than wastewater injection by a factor of about two,” David Eaton, a University of Calgary geophysicist and a co-author of the study.

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The study does not examine why induced seismicity would be linked to different processes in the central U.S. and western Canada. However, some oil and gas fields in the U.S., especially Oklahoma, use "very large amounts of water" in their operations, compared to Canadian fracking sites, said Gail M. Atkinson of Western University.

The process of injecting wastewater from oil and gas drilling has already been found to cause earthquakes in California, Colorado and Oklahoma.

Fracking has caused much backlash from local communities for its detrimental impact on the environment and personal health.

U.S. opposition in the to the practice of hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" has increased to 51 percent from 40 percent, according to a Gallup Poll released Wednesday.

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