



Shale Gas and Fracking: The Science Behind the Controversy

By Michael Stephenson

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Shale Gas and Fracking: The Science Behind the Controversy explains the relevant geological principles before examining the peer-reviewed evidence and presenting it through a simple and compelling illustrated narrative. Each chapter focuses on a particular controversy, such as contamination of well water with gas from fracking, and follows a similar format: starting with the principles; then detailing peer-reviewed case studies for earthquakes, radioactivity, and climate change; and concluding with a judgment of the general risks involved.

Shale Gas and Fracking: The Science Behind the Controversy provides readers with the unbiased information they need to make informed decisions on the controversial issue of fracking.

- Presents a clear and unbiased view of the pros and cons of fracking in Europe and the US, through a simple and compelling narrative from an informed publicly-funded scientist
- Includes full-colour diagrams, photographs, and maps to present information clearly and simply
- Focuses on peer-reviewed, documented examples, particularly of earthquakes and groundwater contamination due to fracking

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Editorial Review

Review

"...an up-to-date review of this new energy source from a UK perspective...This honest attempt at describing the shale gas opportunity/threat scientifically should be read by all..." --**GEO ExPro**

"...one of the best introductory references available on the subject of shale gas and fracking...strongly recommended for introductory courses on unconventional energy production and discussion seminars...Summing Up: Highly recommended." --**Choice**

"...an unbiased and highly readable overview of fracking...an important book that should be read by anyone concerned or interested in shale gas or the issues surrounding fracking..."

"*Shale Gas and Fracking: The Science Behind the Controversy* is an important book that should be read by anyone concerned or interested in shale gas or the issues surrounding fracking. Accessible and informative, this book is perfect for general readers, industry and environmental professionals, regulators, politicians, community leaders, business people, students, and anyone else who might be impacted by the production and use of shale gas - which in the coming years is likely to be everyone!" --**Rochelle Caviness, Tundraco**

"For both its content and accessibility, this book deserves to become the 'go-to' volume on shale gas and fracking for policy-makers, economists as well as geologists, NGOs and local communities. Thanks to the writer's skill as a science communicator, this book is for everyone and anyone interested in geoscience and how it can galvanise a society." --**John Midgeley, Geoscientist Online**

About the Author

Mike Stephenson is an expert on Energy and Climate Change and has a unique mixture of modern climate/energy science and policy experience in 'deep time' climate change, and coal/petroleum geology. He has published two books on related subjects and over 80 peer-reviewed papers. His recently published book *Shale gas and fracking: the science behind the controversy* (Elsevier) won an 'honourable mention' at the Association of American Publishers PROSE awards in Washington DC on 4th February 2016.

He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Elsevier Journal Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology. In addition, as Chief Scientist of the British Geological Survey Mike Stephenson has represented UK science interests in energy, as well as providing extensive advice to the UK Government. For example, in October 2013 he was shale gas and carbon capture and storage (CCS) advisor to Sir Mark Walport, Chief UK Government Scientific Advisor, on a fact-finding mission to Texas and Alberta. He gave verbal evidence to the UK House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs inquiry into shale gas on 15 Oct 2013.

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