

Fracking Gas Also Fuels Global Warming

As nuclear power has become progressively more financially risky, utilities such as Duke Energy and Progress Energy are hedging their bets toward natural gas instead of efficiency, cogeneration, solar and wind. Long called a “cleaner fuel,” natural gas has recently experienced downward price trends due to a rapid increase in supply.

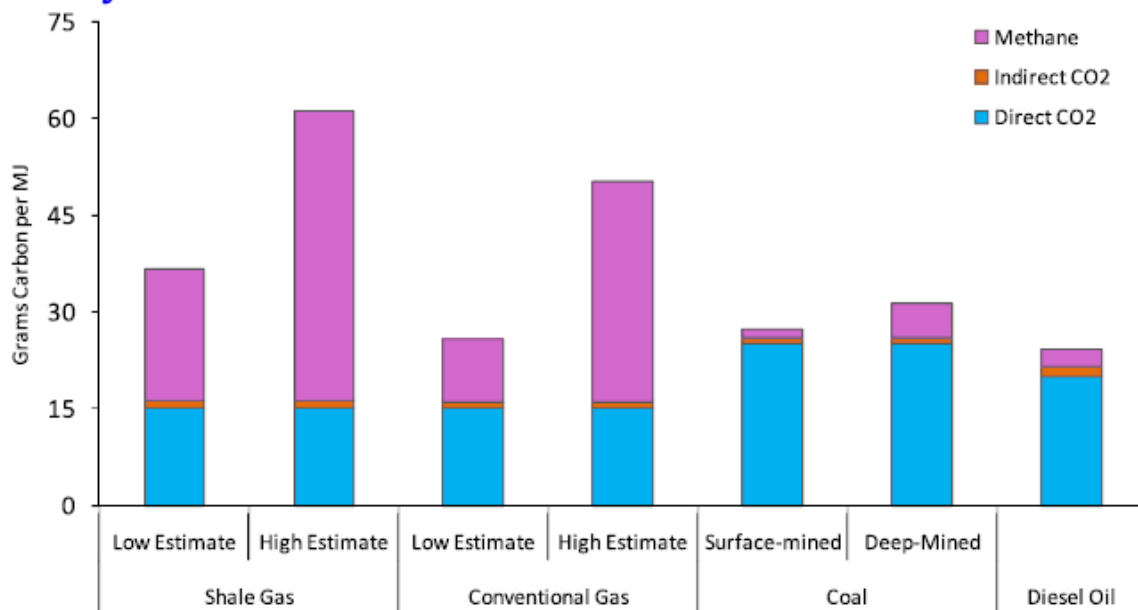
A mining technique that releases natural gas from shale formations, “fracking,” is highly controversial due largely to groundwater contamination and its huge usage of fresh surface water.

In addition, the long-held claim that natural gas produces only half the amount of greenhouse gases as coal is now being vigorously challenged, although not by the news media.

Cornell researchers found that leaking methane at various steps of the fuel’s life cycle — when extracted via fracking — leads to greenhouse gas emissions at least 20% greater than coal-fired electricity over a 20-year horizon.

NC WARN salutes our front-line allies in the fracking fight.

A. 20-year time horizon



Fracking (“Shale Gas”) results in a greater amount of total emissions in a 20-year horizon than other dirty energy sources such as gas, coal, or oil. (Cornell University, 2011)