Fracking states shook by quake surge

PORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — States where hydraulic fracturing is taking place have seen a surge in earthquake activity raising suspicions that the underground drilling method could be to blame, especially the wells where the industry disposes of its wastewater.

Fracking generates vast amounts of wastewater, far more than traditional drilling methods. The water is pumped into injection wells, which send the wastewater thousands of feet deep underground. No one knows for certain exactly what happens to the liquids after that. Scientists wonder whether they could trigger quakes by increasing underground pressures and lubricating rock.

 Oklahoma has recorded nearly 250 small to moderate earthquakes since January, according to statistics kept by the U.S. Geological Survey. That’s close to half of all the magnitude 3 or higher earthquakes recorded this year in the continental United States.

A study published earlier this month in the journal Science suggests that injecting wastewater into the ground are probably shaking up much of the state, even if the quakes are too small to do damage like classic California or Japanese quakes. In the North Texas city of Azle, which has endured hundreds of small earthquakes as far as 20 miles away from injection sites, but a new study tracks quakes occurring within 3 miles of injection wells.

Previously seismologists didn’t link injection wells and earthquakes, including at what dis- appears, but there has been varying the link between injection wells and events. Previously seismologists

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Another concern is whether injection wells operators could be pumping too much water into the ground or pumping it at exceedingly high pressure, especially in areas where water supplies are limited.

Most of the quakes in areas where injection wells are clustered are too weak to cause damage or even minor shake. Yet they’ve led some states, including Ohio and Oklahoma, to cut back on or cease operations. 

A researchers are still debating the appropriate parameters for measuring the link between injection wells and earthquakes, including at what dis- tances injection wells can possibly shake up the earth, and how to track the possible link.

There have been reports that operators have linked injection wells to earthquakes in injection sites, but a new study tracks quakes occurring within 3 miles of injection wells. A researchers are still debating the appropriate parameters for measuring the link between injection wells and earthquakes, including at what dis- tances injection wells can possibly shake up the earth, and how to track the possible link.

Q: How damaging have they been?
A: No injuries or deaths have been reported, but there has been varying degrees of property damage. Many of the quakes have been too small to do damage like classic California or Japanese quakes. In the North Texas city of Azle, which has endured hundreds of small earthquakes as far as 20 miles away from injection sites, but a new study tracks quakes occurring within 3 miles of injection wells.

Energy roundup

BLL seeks oil-gas well fee to hire more inspectors

DENVER (AP) — A proposed fee on oil and gas wells on federal land would allow the Bureau of Land Management to hire more than 60 inspectors, the agency said Thursday. 

The fee would be paid by well operators and would range from $700 to $30,000 annually, depending on how many wells were on the lease. It would raise about $61 million a year for 60 inspectors, the federal agency said Thursday.

BLL Director Neil Kornze told a mineral law conference in Vail on Thursday that the fee is needed to step up its inspections.

The Associated Press reported last month that 40 percent of new wells on federal and Indian land with a higher pollution risk hadn’t been inspected.

Government data reviewed by the AP showed the BLM is so over- crowded with work that it is unable to keep up with inspections of some of the highest priority wells. The fee would help curtail that, Kornze said.

Kornze blamed shrinking budgets, a shortage of inspectors and a shortage of federal land being drilled.

Hobbs Chamber promoting character with ethics book

Along with their 2014-2015 membership stickers, existing Hobbs Chamber members will receive an ethics book as part of its character education program component and its emphasis on promoting character.

The mail out of copies of the book has been a final commitment to its member book page, for example, is why the Hobbs Chamber has worked so hard to treat it with its membership.

It’s a proud moment for the organization, said Hobbs Chamber Executive Director Chairwoman Ruth Girón said.

Chamber Executive Second Chairwoman and Hobbs Chamber’s corporate sponsors have made this possible.

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**Family life on the oil front**

Angela Mackinnon Pape serves up leftover sausage Alfredo for lunch as her daughter Kaydn, left, watches her 16-year-old daughter Hayley Mackinnon, right, as they talk at headquarters. Angela’s husband, Justin, was in North Dakota working in a Calfrac crew.

There was a time when Alex was still working for Halliburton, traveling around seeing the new technology he was putting into service. But with the recession and the end of the boom that began in 2006, that ended.

At its peak, the resource base to be the highest in the country. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said the resource base to be the highest in the country. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Ener**

**Steel makes 3rd discovery in Gulf**

**BAYOU ROUGE, La.** (AP) — A Canadian oil company completed what it says is its third major discovery in the Gulf of Mexico that could boost its production in the region.

The well is located in Mississippi Canyon Block 353, about 75 miles offshore in 1,150 feet of water.

Steel Drilling and production company said the well came in a depth of 16,490 feet.

**BP reports 3.500% more girls**

BP reports that 3.500% more girls than boys have been born.

**Earthquake research**

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Researchers are trying to understand what causes earthquakes and how they can be predicted. A recent study found that earthquakes can be triggered by wastewater injection, which is used to dispose of fracking wastewater.

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