

Natural Resources GP

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'Hydraulic Fracturing and the Growth of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Internationally'

A New Study by Natural Resources GP

The staff of Natural Resources GP and Vasili Nicoletopoulos take pleasure in introducing their study on Hydraulic Fracturing and Shale Gas/Oil.

The Topic

Hydraulic fracturing [fracking] is a well stimulation process used to maximize the extraction of underground resources - including oil, natural gas, geothermal energy, and even water. The oil and gas industry uses hydraulic fracturing to enhance subsurface fracture systems to allow oil or natural gas to move more freely from the rock pores to production wells that bring the oil or gas to the surface.

The main application of fracking is in shale oil and shale gas. Shale is a fine-grained sedimentary rock that forms from the compaction of silt and clay-size mineral particles that we commonly call 'mud'. This composition places shale in a category of sedimentary rocks known as 'mudstones'. Shale is distinguished from other mudstones because it is fissile and laminated. 'Laminated' means that the rock is made up of many thin layers. 'Fissile' means that the rock readily splits into thin pieces along the laminations.

The last few years have seen important developments in shale gas which, along with tight gas sands and coal-bed methane, has emerged as a new major gas resource in the lower 48 states of the USA over the last 10 years, and is now expanding into Europe and elsewhere. Many areas in Europe contain prime targets for shale gas exploration.

Shale, along with new finds of conventional gas, will allow many more countries to produce their own gas and make available gas for export from a lot more places, many of which are less difficult to deal with than some oil-producing countries. With shale gas, the current natural gas producers would find it much harder to dominate the global market.

As with many other natural resources, public policies and legislation in this case are concerned with the following issues: environmental and licencing; protection of public health and safety in general; enhancing & protecting natural resources; price volatility; investment uncertainty; and tax policy.

Furthermore, in the specific field of energy and especially unconventional oil and gas extraction through hydraulic fracturing, two other important issues are at play: Securing energy independence; and the cartelization of gas markets.

The Study

This modern document by Natural Resources GP includes all geological, technical, commercial, environmental, financial and strategic aspects of the controversial method of Hydraulic Fracturing and the revolution of Shale Gas and Shale Oil worldwide. It also contains international developments , public policy issues and geopolitics in the oil and gas field.

Who it is addressed to

This study could be of use to companies, agencies and individuals that are, or intend to be involved in hydraulic fracturing and shale gas/oil, in a technical, commercial, financial, academic or policy capacity.

About the author

Mr V. Nicoletopoulos is a business consultant with his own company Natural Resources GP that specializes in mining and energy industries and policies. He is also Director of International Development and Sales, Premier Magnesita LLC, USA and member of the Board of renewables companies.

Vasili has graduated from the National Technical University, Athens, and then from Stanford University, U.S.A. with a M.Sc. in Engineering - Economic Systems. After working in consulting in California, he returned to Greece for a career with Grecian Magnesite SA and also served as Vice-President of Magnesitas Navarras in Spain, Ellamag in Greece and as CEO of ERGOSE SA.

He has also acted as President of Euromines, member of the Executive Committee of Eurometaux, General Secretary of the Greek Mining Enterprises Association, member of the General Council of the Association of Greek Industries, member of the board of Hellenic Petroleum and Thrace Gold Mines [Eldorado Gold Group, Canada] and of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Nicoletopoulos has authored three books and several booklets and articles in Greek and international journals and financial newspapers and has lectured extensively in many countries on mining, energy and public policy. He speaks Greek, English, French and Spanish.

Vasili's unique perspective is, thus, one of combining high academic credentials; analytical skills and publications; a diverse and international business and lobbying background; past and present duties in European mining and metals Associations, and current activities in international mining companies and business consulting.

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