



Coalbed Methane

7 Questions to Answer
BEFORE
Coalbed Methane proceeds in the
Bulkley Valley



1. Will coalbed methane change the landscape?

Answer: YES



Wells and Infrastructure in Wyoming



Aerial view of EnCana wellsite near Fernie

Landscape Changes

- Well pads, roads, compressors, pipelines will all be required over time
- No environmental assessment
- No consideration of cumulative effects
- No requirements for long term development plans

2. Will coalbed methane change
my community?

Answer: YES



Noise and dust from constant traffic on access roads in Wyoming



Compressor stations hum around the clock in Wyoming

Community Changes

- Impacts on property values
- Well setbacks as near as 80 metres from homes

3. How many wells will there be?

Answer: WE DON'T KNOW



Coalbed methane wells in Colorado

Number of Wells

- No limit on the number of wells that can be drilled
- Wells can be drilled “to any density”

4. Will my drinking water be safe?

Answer: WE DON'T KNOW



This pond on a Wyoming ranch is now contaminated with methane gas

Close up, the sign
reads
Danger, No
Smoking,
Matches or Open
Lights



Drinking Water Issues

- Methane gas can migrate along coal seams
- Cases in Alberta and USA of landowners lighting tap water on fire
- Companies are paying for water in some communities in Alberta

5. Will the law protect our water?

Answer: NO



Legal produced water discharges into streams
will change fish habitat

Produced Water Code of Practice

- Encourages surface disposal, not re-injection
- No site specific permitting, unlike Alberta
- Government doesn't engage unless company reports a problem

Water Issues

- Complex - need to understand surface hydrology and subsurface hydrogeology
- Water quality will change over time
- Produced Water Code of Practice is Inadequate

6. What toxics will be used and how will they be disposed of?

Answer: WE DON'T KNOW

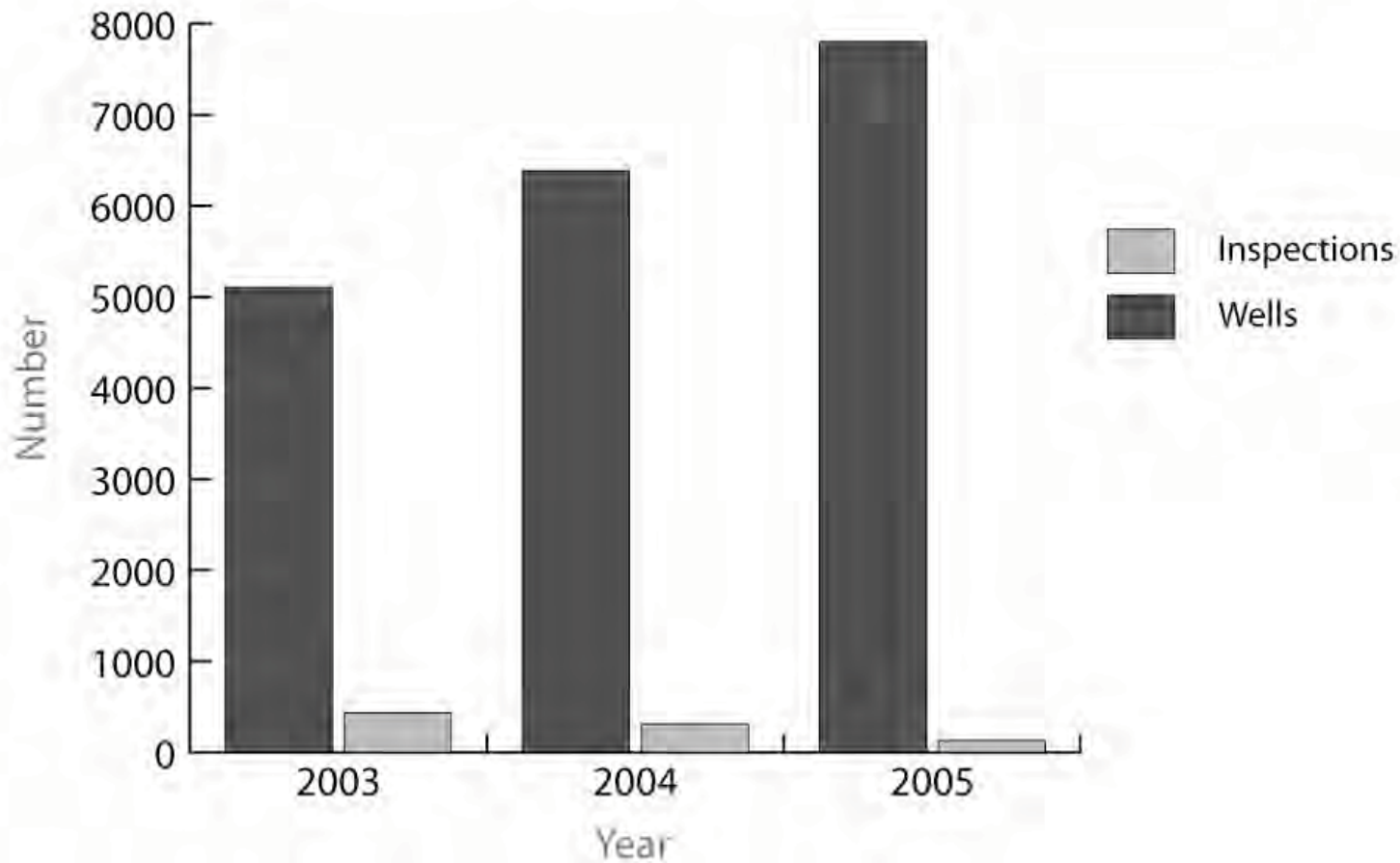
Use of Toxic Substances

- Oil and gas production is a toxic process
- Egs: drilling muds; fracking; venting; flaring
- Companies are not required to either truck waste materials off site or fence off from wildlife
- Flaring is a regular occurrence, and not well tracked by government

7. Will the government take care of
you?

Answer: DON'T COUNT ON IT

Comparing number of gas wells with number of compliance inspections in British Columbia: 2003-2005



Government Oversight

- Chronic non-compliance is an issue
- Problems with understaffing and high turnover rate
- Activity on the land is increasing; number of inspections is decreasing



Responsible corporate conduct is an issue; companies must respond to private and community concerns



SEVEN QUESTIONS ANSWERED

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