

Scientific Palo gas plan Patxi Lopez in Euskadi

The 'fracking' contributes more to global warming than coal

MA DURBAN (Special Envoy) | 12/10/2011 11:45 |



A new scientific study shadowy plan announced last October in Dallas (Texas) the lehendakari Patxi Lopez to operate a megayacimiento 180,000 cubic meters of shale gas in Euskadi. Unlike conventional gas, stored in bags underground shale gas permeates the clay materials at depths of up to two kilometers. To extract to inject a jet of water and chemicals with a high risk to aquifers. This technique is known as hydraulic fracturing, or *fracking*.

Besides the threat to groundwater, its impact is unaffordable if you want to prevent climate change, according to a new study, published in the journal *Climate Change*. "The shale gas causing greenhouse emissions greater than those of coal in the short term, no matter what is given to use natural gas," explains the work, which has had access to *the Public*. In the two weeks after *fracking*, methane released in the process rises to the surface and escapes into the atmosphere.

In the U.S., where this technique is becoming increasingly widespread, methane now accounts for 44% of the total emissions of greenhouse gases within 20 years, according to the ecologist Robert Howarth, Cornell University (USA) author of the study. One unit of methane contributes to global warming 105 times more than the same unit of CO2 within 20 years.

"Spain should follow the example of France and not allow this destructive practice," says Howarth. France banned the *fracking* June 30 for its potential dangers. In Spain, the scan for shale gas is imminent in Subillana-Gasteiz (Araba), in charge of Hydrocarbons society Euskadi and Cantabria in cities such as San Vicente de la Barquera and Cabezon de la Sal, by Trofagas subsidiary of the California oil BNK. In November, Secretary of State for Energy, Fabrizio Hernández, considered "desirable at European level is a more formal look to encourage the commitment to this gas." Spain issued 22% of greenhouse gases since 1990. The Kyoto Protocol allows only a 15% increase.

This technology was first used ten years ago. Outside Texas, operation has been undertaken since 2008. "Only in the last two or three years are no studies on the problems of shale gas," laments Howarth. "And science now speaks out," he adds.

The ecologist and published in April in the journal *Nature* a study on the effects of *fracking*, which was refuted by other scientists. "We maintain our findings," says the article. "The *fracking* is not only bad for the water and health is bad for the climate," Dominic Frongillo rivets, also of Cornell University, present at the UN climate summit in Durban (South Africa).

<http://www.publico.es/dinero/411354/palo-cientifico-al-plan-gasista-de-patxi-lopez-en-euskadi>