

# Unconventional Gas

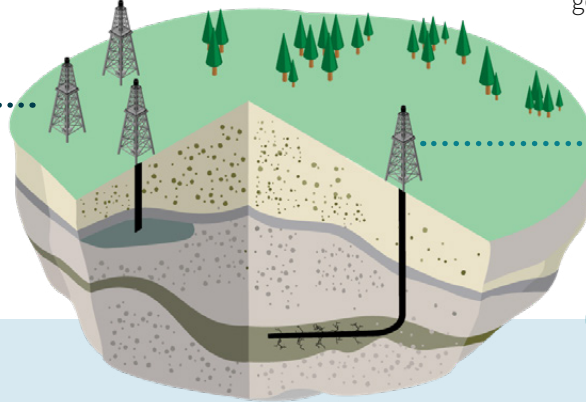


## What is Unconventional Gas?

Natural gas is formed over millions of years by the combination of pressure and heat on organic material trapped in shale-type rock. After natural gas is formed, the earth's pressure and differences in fluid densities slowly migrates the gas into more porous formations, accumulating in trapped pools. Gas extracted from the source shale and tight rock formations without the porous texture necessary to allow movement is referred to as unconventional gas.

## Why Use Hydraulic Fracturing?

Production of unconventional gas requires a stimulation technique called hydraulic fracturing. Commonly called "fracking," it transmits pressure by fluid to create cracks or open existing cracks in deep geological formations to allow natural gas to flow into the wellbore. Hydraulic fracturing stimulation provides economic productivity from unconventional reservoirs.



2007

- 85 per cent of wells targeted conventional gas
- Wells were primarily vertical
- Single-well pads increased surface disturbance
- Difficult to predict location of wells
- Reserve life was highly variable
- H<sub>2</sub>S (sour) gas present in many sources
- Conventional resources were declining
- Development predictability was low

2024

- Over 99 per cent of new gas production wells source gas from the unconventional Montney formation
- All new wells producing from the Montney formation are hydraulically fractured
- Horizontal drilling technology used
- Multi-well pads mean lower total surface disturbance
- Flexibility in site location
- Longer reserve life of 20 plus years
- Low H<sub>2</sub>S (sour) gas in most shales, decreasing public safety risk
- Increased provincial production, focus on exporting
- Greater development predictability

## Key Facts About Unconventional Gas Operations

Extracting natural gas from unconventional formations is fundamentally different in method, size and scale than from conventional formations.

Surface impact is lessened by drilling more than one well directionally from a single surface location (wellpad).

Horizontal and directional drilling can access additional reservoir and increase gas recovery per well.

Unconventional development patterns tend to be more predictable, which presents the opportunity to achieve better environmental and social outcomes through more comprehensive, cumulative effects analysis and planning.

Stimulation of shale and tight gas formations is key to developing these resources by opening up the pore spaces through fracturing and advanced drilling techniques.

### Public Concerns and Complaints

**1-250-794-5200** (24-hour public number)  
**1-877-500-BCER (2237)** (24-hour toll free)  
Report concerns such as odours, spills or noise.

### Incident Reporting for Industry

**1-800-663-3456** (24-hour emergency number)  
Report oil and gas related incidents.  
[www.bc-er.ca](http://www.bc-er.ca)