

STOP

AU GAZ DE
SCHISTE

Juin 2012



STOP ! AUX GAZ & HUILES DE SCHISTE

SPECIAL VIGILANCE

La loi du 13 juillet ?

La fracturation hydraulique est autorisée ...
voir page 2

Véhicules, camions ou travaux suspects ?

Voir page 5

Vigilance 06 23 66 15 51

Faire un don

Voir page 6

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WHAT NEXT ?

The end of the fight ? Far from it !

Everything we foresaw has come to pass : an inadequate law lulls public opinion while, in the Ain department, drilling needs only the prefect's signature to begin. Worse, the first "scientific" fracking authorized by decree will almost certainly take place at the end of this year near Paris. Polluted air and water, destroyed landscapes guaranteed. The question is : **when will drilling start here ?**

Luckily, if the general public feels the threat less urgently today, many concerned people stay active in various associations, meeting regularly to consider the best ways to defend their region.

The Ardèche Collectif 07 has used this time to consolidate and help other regions get organized in their turn. The great majority of us have gone back to everyday life, but we know that each and every one can be called on if necessary. We need your help for VIA, **Vigilance Information Alert**, a network that guarantees fast response when the call comes.

WE MUST BE READY !

Last April, VIA supporters organized a trial run to block a drilling company truck. When the real thing happens as it almost certainly will, huge numbers of volunteers will be needed ! Telephone pyramids to alert the population must be strong and effective (see page 5 : VIA).

We must show them that we have not given up!! It is vital to win this second battle as we did the first, by once more joining together as concerned citizens of all persuasions.

We have already laid the first stone, and this victory remains, today, unique in France.

Yan Chauwin Commission VIA

THE LAW PASSED TO FORBID HYDRAULIC FRACKING IN FACT PERMITS IT FOR "SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH"

Thanks to strong local opposition, oil companies withdrew and a moratorium was imposed. It was shortly followed by the law of July 13 2011, designed to appease opposition. On October 3 : - Repeal of the permits to drill at Villeneuve-de-Berg et Nant in which the industrialist Schuebach was nonetheless proposing hydraulic fracking !

- Repeal, surprisingly, of the permit for Montelimar. TOTAL claims no fracking was intended and wishes to hold onto this permit while waiting for other options.
- All of these repeals are today contested in the courts by the original permit holders.

THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN ! WHAT ARE THEIR WEAPONS ?

• In the media : late 2011/early 2012,

Counter-offensive by the oil companies in all the media. Insistence on the advantages of shale gas and oil exploitation with no mention of its economic, environmental and health ravages now acknowledged worldwide, even by the American Environmental Protection Agency.

• **Judicial** : Schuebach Energy has lodged a claim with the administrative tribunal of Lyon to throw out the repeal of the two permits "Nant" and "Villeneuve de Berg" and receive damages of 14 million euros !

• Administrative :

- In December 2011, TOTAL launched an administrative appeal to fight the abrogation of its permit in Montelimar.

- The DREAL* of Rhône-Alpes and Midi-Pyrénées have been receiving from the Ministry of Ecology numerous requests to open instruction again for permits for these regions.

- Investigation of 14 new permit requests for the Paris region, Lorraine and Aquitaine is nearing completion.

- As of March 31 2012, (BEPH 03-12), 92 new permits are under consideration. When will they come to public notice ?

• **Closer to home** : decrees allowing drilling in the surroundings of the city of Alès were made public in April 2012, so that declarations of intention to drill may now be registered with the mayors of 11 townships in the Ardèche and 56 in the Gard.

BEWARE, WORDS CAN BE TWISTED !

**COMMERCIAL "EXPLOITATION" OR "SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION" ?
WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, IT MEANS FRACKING !**

• **March 13, 2012** : publication of the final sections of the CGEDD/CGIET* report : "Bedrock Hydrocarbons in France". This report advises that the exploration of shale gas and oils be continued. It posits a timetable whereby the law of July 13, 2011 will be revised late in the first half of 2013 so that hydraulic fracking may begin in the second half of 2013.

• **March 21, 2012**, publication of a decree creating a national orientation commission to study and evaluate the techniques of testing and extracting hydrocarbons as both oil and gas, in which a predominant place is given to oil industry representatives.

* DREAL : Regional Office for Environment, Development and Housing. * CGEDD : General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Growth. * CGIET : General Council for Industry, Energy and Technology.

THE COLLECTIVE 07 "STOP SHALE GAS AND OIL !"

Refuses any and all testing, exploration, and extraction of hydrocarbons from bedrock: shale gas and oil, coal gas, heavy oils...or any other hydrocarbons requiring any form of stimulation, fracking or the fissuring of bedrock.

- A few figures about the Collective Association 07 : 125 widely based organizations, 2500 registered newsletter readers, 18 000 demonstrators mobilized at Ville-neuve- de-berg on February 26, 2011.

An adapted strategy based on collective reflection, research and consensus.

National Coordination is not an official structure but an informal union of French collective associations who exchange, debate and participate on common projects. Above all, on the country-wide network **VIAN** : **V**igilance, **I**nformation, **A**lert, **N**ationwide.

- A non-political , non violent organization run by democratic participation.
- Supported by numerous commissions: Scientific, Alternative Energies, Communications, Legal and by the VIA...
- Supporters include the Elected Representatives' Association, Ardèche General Council, Rhône Alps Regional Council.
- An adapted strategy based on collective reflection, research and consensus.

ALL OVER EUROPE... GRASS ROOTS OPPOSITION

The same strategy appears on all fronts: a moratorium is granted during which official commissions with dubious connections are imposed. Given the oil companies' interest in winning over the public and locally elected representatives, these commissions may become the chief means for diffusing misinformation to lull local populations into consent, ignoring the certain risks of air and water pollution, seismic tremors and ravaged landscapes.

- **European Parliament** : in April 2012, a coalition of 40 NGOs requested that the parliament forbid the exploitation of shale gas anywhere in the European Union in an effort to thwart the report of Polish eurodeputy Boguslaw Sonik who claims that 1) the Union needs no new regulations because 2) fracking comports no environmental risks ! 3) he sees no European opposition and proposes that each country may decide for itself.

• In the different European countries (see map below) :

Poland, where drilling is already underway, is the main defender of fracking in Europe.

Hungary has granted permits for exploration and exploitation.

Roumania and the **Czech Republic**, after first moving towards approval, have imposed a moratorium under pressure from public opinion.

Bulgaria, although dependent like Poland on Russian natural gas, has forbidden hydraulic fracking, as has **Sweden**.

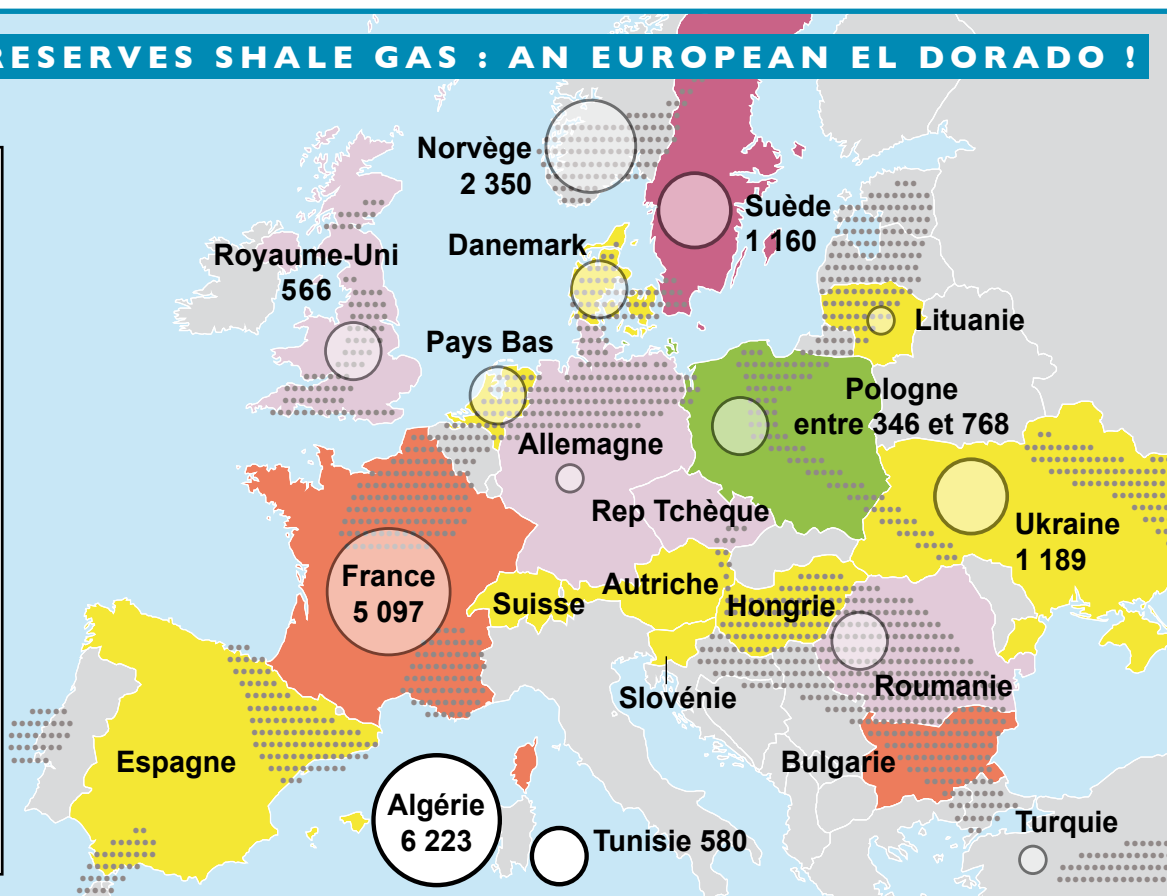
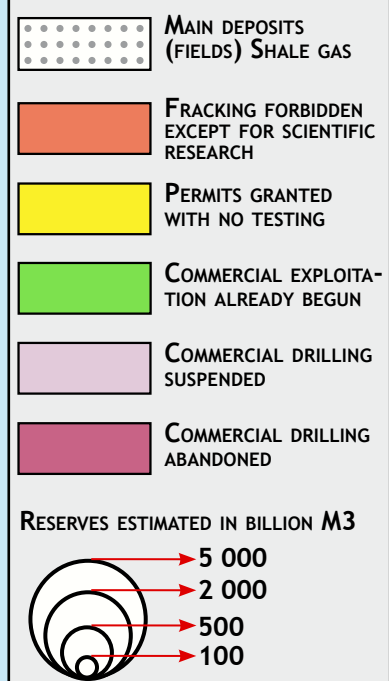
In the **United Kingdom** as in **Germany**, work has stopped pending the findings of a research group uniting scientists, industrialists and government representatives.

Elsewhere in Europe, other countries, follow the example of **Austria**, the **Netherlands**, **Denmark**, **Spain** and **Ireland** and remain open to exploration.

In **Switzerland**, where fracking is not illegal, only the canton of Freiburg (1 of 26) suspended all research on hydrocarbon extraction on its territory, indefinitely. Drilling already begun south of Lake Lemman (by the Pétrovibri Company) has now also been suspended by the authorities.

ZOOM ON THE RESERVES SHALE GAS : AN EUROPEAN EL DORADO !

Source : Le Monde Planète 19/04/2012



VIA : VIGILANCE - INFORMATION - ALERT

The industrialists are preparing their attack. They know how to enlist strong administrative support at many levels, obtain DREAL permits and advertise effectively. We are clearly reaching the time when real action will be required to block the passage of company trucks and prevent the installation of actual drilling platforms.*

This is the number one goal of **VIA** :

Vigilance / Surveillance - Information - Alert / Action

• **Vigilance/Surveillance : everyone can help...**

constant awareness to collect information about what is happening in your area :

- spot large convoys and any unidentified construction work near you
- try to take photos of trucks and license plates, noting their exact location and direction
- Phone **VIGILANCE** immediately to know what to do next.

• **Telephone alert pyramids (to guarantee effective mobilisation)**

- Locally organized networks of 10, 20, 100 people or more.
- Each alert pyramid is administered by several volunteers in cooperation with VIA,
- Each alert pyramid can maintain efficiency by regular testing and rehearsals (thus updating telephone numbers).
- Once the alert has been given, the members of each registered pyramid will be informed by the Watch Committee of the VIA. This will launch the actual mobilization.

• **Massive mobilization for non violent blockage.**

Sheer numbers of participants count above all in non violent blocking actions :

- to prevent the arrival and installation of equipment and the start of drilling ...
- to give maximum support to negotiators representing the Collectives.
- To prove our determined commitment to the media and to the authorities.
- To publicize as much as possible united local opposition.

The mobilization alert will be launched by local "telephone alert pyramids". All practical information (time, place, action to take...) will be confirmed on : www.stopaugazdeschiste07



N° de VIGILANCE :

04 75 36 72 83

06 23 66 15 51

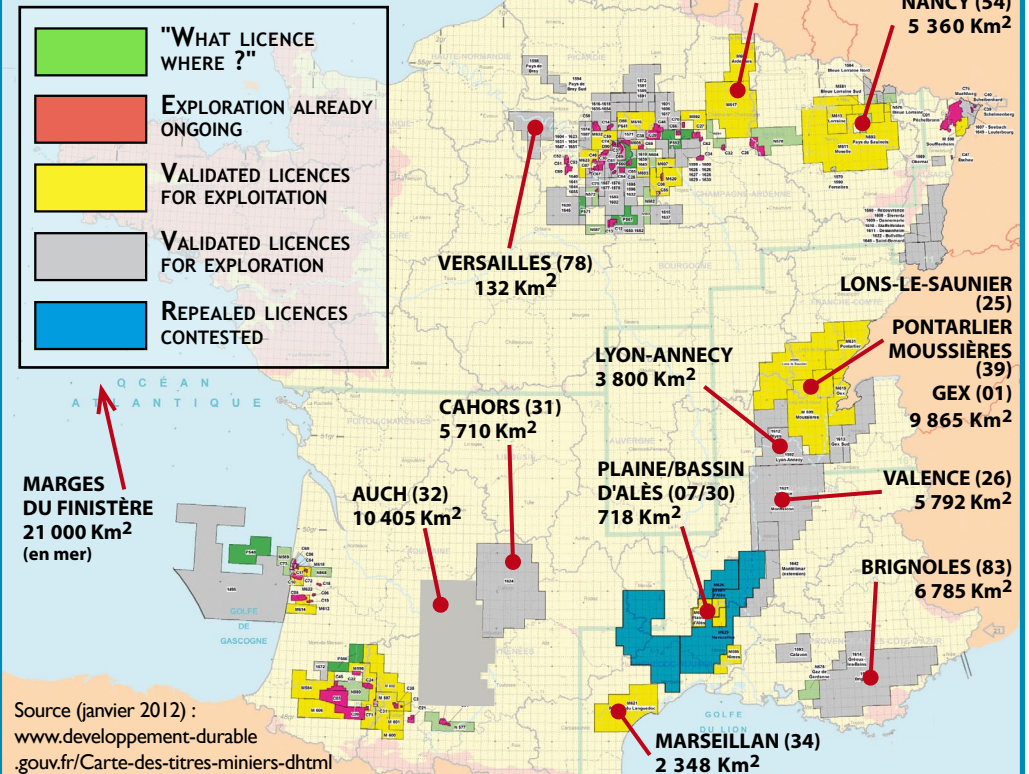
* DREAL : Regional Office for Environment, Development and Housing

254 COLLECTIVE ASSOCIATIONS IN FRANCE AS OF MARCH 2012

in the regions threatened by research permits, we keep watch and ready for action :

- In the regions of **Rhône-Alpes, PACA, Languedoc-Roussillon, Midi-Pyrénées, Champagne, Lorraine, Alsace**, and also in the **Nord Pas-de-Calais**, the **Jura...**
- Near **Paris**, building sites have already been blocked by opponents to shale oil exploitation. The oil company Toredor-Hess has announced new prospection in another sector, at Doue and at Jouarre.

HYDROCARBON LICENCING



What to do ?

Each citizen can sign up with his or her local Collective Association. On the website of the Ardèche collective, check "boite à outils" for petitions and suggestions of things you can do. If you have no internet access, phone 04 75 36 72 83.

Sign up on our site for a regular newsletter.

YOUR participation can make all the difference.

Make a donation ! Support the efforts of the Collectif 07

Faire un don

With **Paypal** : on our website

Or send a check made out to :

"Stop aux Gaz et Huiles de Schiste 07"

39 rue Jean-Louis Soulavie - 07110 Largentière - www.stopaugazdeschiste07.org