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STUDIES EXAMINE A Possible Relationship Between Fracking And Seismic Activity In Texas

Since 2011, earthquakes strong enough to be felt at the Earth's surface have increased dramatically, especially in areas where fracking has occurred.



 [Texas Standard](#)  SOUNDCLLOUD

Studies Examine A Possible Relat...



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By Alexandra Hart | November 16, 2018 2:22 pm
[Energy & Environment](#)



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Fracking has added billions of dollars to the Texas economy, but the process requires pumping large amounts of wastewater into the ground. New research has strengthened linkages between water management from oil and gas, and seismic activity. [Bridget Scanlon](#) and [Peter Hennings](#), both researchers for UT's Bureau of Economic Geology have studied the connections.

Hennings says that in Texas, an earthquake that registers in the low twos or above on the Richter scale can be felt at the surface. And they're growing more common.

"The historic average for felt earthquakes is two to three per year, but, beginning in about 2011, that rate increased dramatically, especially in the



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change in pressure could be resulting in seismicity.

Different studies on the topic have produced different conclusions about water management and seismic activity. The rate of water injection, accumulation of volume in the region and the distance from the crystalline basement to disposal wells have all been studied individually. Scanlon's study indicates that all three factors are important.

Written by Alexia Puente.

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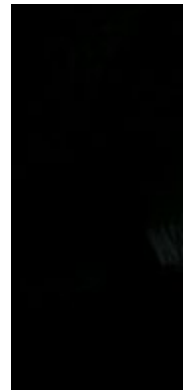
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