



EDITORIALS

JANUARY 14, 2016 5:23 PM

Seismic study should get to cause of quakes

HIGHLIGHTS

Rash of earthquakes in areas of North Texas

Legislature approved \$4.5 million for comprehensive study

Link to oil and gas drilling activities is contested





A Southern Methodist University researcher checks seismic equipment monitoring North Texas earthquake activity last year. Hillsman Stuart Jackson

THE EDITORIAL BOARD



You'd think scientists would be able to figure out for sure whether the rash of North Texas earthquakes in recent years has a definite link to oil and gas drilling activity, including waste injection wells.

In fact, some scientists believe they have figured it out, and they say there is a link.

But at least one key scientist, Texas Railroad Commission geologist Craig Pearson, has been reluctant to agree. That's important, because the Railroad Commission regulates oil and gas drilling in the state.

If the three-member commission doesn't go along, scientists strung end to end across the state could all agree but wouldn't bring about changes in how drilling or injection wells operate.

So, what it comes down to is that definitive research is necessary to convince Pearson and, eventually, the three commissioners.

Fortunately, the Legislature stepped up last year and approved \$4.5 million for a comprehensive earthquake study.

It has taken a while to get that study underway, but Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin [said this week](#) that researchers are about ready to deploy 22 permanent seismograph stations and 36 portable stations.

A project director has been hired and will start work in February.

The new equipment will augment the 16 seismograph stations already in place in Texas.

This is not easy science. Cliff Frohlich, associate director and senior research scientist at UT's Jackson School of Geosciences, said there are 10,000 wastewater injection wells that, so far as we know, have not caused any earthquakes.

But sometimes, Frohlich said, the two are linked. That means the task is to determine how and why earthquake activity happens near some wells but not others.

Answers won't leap out of the seismic measurements. Of the \$4.5 million allocated for the study, \$2.47 million is dedicated for equipment, and a full \$2 million will go toward studying what the measurements mean.

The Bureau of Economic Geology will operate the system of monitoring stations, which will be called TexNet.

The Texas Railroad Commission is not known as a stern regulator of the oil and gas industry. In fact, some commissioners seem to believe their role is to protect and defend the industry from all detractors.

All the more reason to do this study, get to the bottom of what's causing these quakes, and figuring out ways to interrupt the cause at its source.

It won't be easy, but the people of North Texas deserve answers.

MORE EDITORIALS

YOU MAY LIKE

Sponsored Links by Taboola



Next Big Thing in High-Tech Stocks to Watch

VentureCapital News

These are the Reasons to Finish Your Degree

St. Edward's University

5 Helpful Security Tips for Your PC

www.ZoneAlarm.com

"Normal" Belts Are Going the Way of the Dinosaur. Here's Why.

SlideBelts

COMMENTS

7 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...



Jerry Lobdill · Owner-operator at Cross Timbers Press

Another waste of money and time. The Startlegram has been pro-gas drilling from the get-go. The industry is, and always and everywhere has been so. This is just another diversion that will go nowhere and end in yet another call for more research. We are not the phools you think we are.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 15, 2016 3:37pm

[Gene Campbell](#)



Not so, Jerry. The ST has slammed 'fracking' - and encouraged heavy regulation of it - from day one!

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 16, 2016 12:10pm



Steven Berrones · Works at ESS

I live in Azle. I was on the bus ride that went down to Austin to address our concerns to the TRR. The studies done by both SMU and USGS did confirm that the quakes were indeed connected to a wastewater injection site north of us.

As a result of our "afront" to the state they (the state) hired a "priest" whose job is to absolve them of their sins.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 15, 2016 5:12pm



Gene Campbell

No, Steve, they "confirmed" nothing. Numerous serious studies, some requested by the State, have found no "connection" at all. Don't be another anti-oil 'Chicken Little.'

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 16, 2016 12:14pm



Steven Berrones · Works at ESS

Gene Campbell I see that you are totally unfamiliar with the past studies done.

A suggestion, research the injection sites at DFW airport and Cleburne. You might include those up north in Oklahoma.

But to start with the Japanese study done in the late '70's is a good primer.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 16, 2016 2:34pm



Richard L Guldi · Dallas, Texas

Gene Campbell Which fracking company do you work for? It's hard to be objective when your income depends on not being objective.

Like · Reply · Jan 20, 2016 2:40pm



Kim Triolo Feil · Works at Anti-Urban Drilling Specialist

Oklahoma had 30 quakes in the last 20 hours and during the city meeting about the quakes, I heard they sat through five of them...now should the quakes start up like that over here in north Texas, we need to shut er down asap...fracking, injection ...the whole thing... Lake Lewisville and the other dams in peril could give way and then the whole loss is realized too late....additionally if we limit or eventually ban injection wells here in Texas, plan B and plan C really sux ...if plan B is to use the above ground storage ponds for all that toxic, radioactive brine, then the leaks could ruin d... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 15, 2016 7:18pm



Debi Garza · Owner at Beijaflor Jewelry Designs

Over & over again, all studies have concluded that there is NO link between facing & drinking water contamination. There is also no relation between facing & earthquakes. I suppose next, you will claim "the sky is falling", because of fracking.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 15, 2016 8:02pm



Gene Campbell

Sorry, 'Henny-Penny,' but OK has ALWAYS had numerous quakes, and as I stated above, so has most of Texas. They happen way up in the Texas Panhandle where their only source of water is the underground aquifers. Incidentally, man is incapable of causing global climate change, either. Sorry about that, too...

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 16, 2016 12:24pm · Edited



Kim Triolo Feil · Works at Anti-Urban Drilling Specialist

Debi Garza Ms Houston resident, me think U work in the oil patch? Or your dear sweet hubby?

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 16, 2016 12:23pm

Show 1 more reply in this thread ▼



Shane Morrison · Owner/Pilot at Morrison Motorsports

Y'all are just following the finger pointers!! The earthquakes are coming from depths deeper than we can drill due to granite washes. I was working for Sandridge in OK and Kansas and had to work directly with OCC and KCC and the scientific studies were proven to be caused by the years of droughts we went thru that dried up the aquifers under ground and since... When it rains, it pours now causing billions of gallons of water at 8.34 PPG returning to the aquifers things are gonna start moving and shaking.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jan 16, 2016 2:14am



Richard L Guldi · Dallas, Texas

Shane, it doesn't help anyone to repeat industry propoganda. TX, OK, and other states had only a very few earthquakes each year before fracking started, and look at what we have now.

Like · Reply · Jan 20, 2016 2:46pm

Gene Campbell



Much ado about very little. Texas has ALWAYS had little quakes. Back in the late '80s or early '90s (long before 'fracking'), a Texas Panhandle property owned by me suffered some minor damage from one.

Like · Reply · 2 · Jan 16, 2016 12:06pm



Richard L Guldi · Dallas, Texas

Texas has not had 40 earthquakes in a single month until frackers started overdumping fracking waste into Azel disposal wells.

Like · Reply · Jan 20, 2016 2:47pm



Shane Morrison · Owner/Pilot at Morrison Motorsports

Richard, we also had the worst drought in record history and I'm not leaning towards propaganda at all... I was there when they did the studies that proved that's why they are occurring! We can't drill as deep vertically as the quakes are coming from.

Like · Reply · Jan 20, 2016 6:04pm



Emily Elizabeth Windsor-Cragg · Tech Rep & Tech Trainer at Xerox

Scientism would display more real knowledge of the configuration of this planetoid if they were to study its history in the Sumerian cuneiform tablets, translated. But they prefer their ignorant dogma, the spherical earth, pushed by political elites. IF THEY KNEW the earth was slammed headon by Nibiru and broke in half, that what we live on is a HEMISPHERE's face filled with seawater and some islands sticking up; if they knew about the gold veins that serve as shock absorbers that were removed in extensive gold mining for 200,000 years, THEN scientists would have a handle on why our planet is shaking now, due to fracking and oil-drilling. Duh.

Like · Reply · Jan 17, 2016 1:58pm



Richard L Guldi · Dallas, Texas

The Texas Railroad Commission regulates fracking by issuing new permits provided that a few boxes are checked on their application form. That takes about 10 seconds for each permit. After that, the RRC is diligent to prevent any other regulation that might cost frackers money. However, our wonderful Texas legislators assure us that the RRC regulates fracking for our own good. Seems to me that we need to get a government that represents human beings. How many disasters do you think this will take?

Like · Reply · Jan 20, 2016 2:52pm

Facebook Comments Plugin

United States drivers with no tickets in 3 years must read this

SPONSORED [Provide-Savings Insurance Quotes](#)

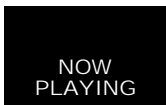


VIDEOS



about 17 hours ago

First Fridays Respite Program Gives Special Needs Parents A Night Off



about 17 hours ago

First Fridays Respite Program Gives Special Needs Parents A Night Off



about 18 hours ago

Video: Buzzer beater "oldest trick in the book" actually works for Rochester's Basketball

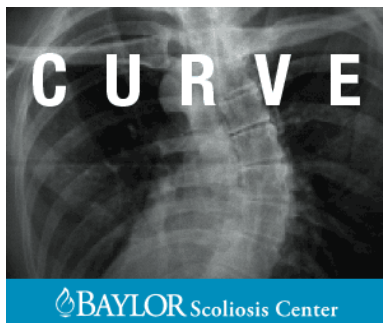
team



about 20 hours ago

It's all in the eyes at 4th Annual Kids Vision Fest

[VIEW MORE VIDEO](#) □



LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Plumbing

All Purpose! Sr/Military Disc. Free est. 682-472-3997 Plumbing

Appliance Service & Repair

Maytag GE Whirlpool Most brands fixed same day. 817-903-2100 Appliance Repair

Moving & Storage

RV & BOAT storage. Covered, starts At \$50/mo. 817-202-9799 RV Storage

Plumbing

Central Plumbing - plumb/sewer \$55. Slab leaks & more m16483 817-657-3005 or 817-492-6886 Plumbing

18 dedicated years o

18 dedicated years of teaching! 6 openings ages 3-4yr (817) 983-6372 Child Care

MORE EDITORIALS

Gates, Burnam best for Railroad Commission

33rd District still benefits with Veasey

For sheriff: Anderson a success worth keeping

'Operational error' blamed for water crisis

Ever Googled yourself? Do a "deep search" instead

SPONSORED BeenVerified

Forecast: Sunny, warm and a Stock Show record



EDITOR'S CHOICE VIDEOS

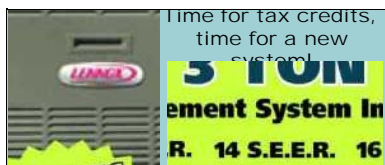
Brain Injuries

Force WWE's Daniel Bryan to Retire

Veuer

 A video player interface with a black background. At the top right, the text "Brain Injuries" is displayed in blue. Below it, the main title "Force WWE's Daniel Bryan to Retire" is shown in white. Underneath the title, the name "Veuer" is written in blue. In the center of the player is a white play button icon inside a circle.

More videos:



CLUES
 of the Year
m System S
 As As Low As A:
 817-270-5909
hanical Air Sol
 ality Air Conditioning Done

HORNED FROGS
 BASKETBALL
TCU VS 
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH | 7:00 PM
 COME SEE THE NEW SCHOLLMAIER ARENA!
 TO PURCHASE TICKETS [CLICK HERE](#)

I Hate Social Security ✕
 Born before 1969? You can get
 an extra \$4,098 monthly with
 this

CURVE  

Star-Telegram

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Digital Subscriptions

[Home Delivery](#)

[Digital Replica Edition](#)

[Vacation Hold](#)

[Pay Your Bill](#)

[Press Pass](#)

SITE INFORMATION

[Customer Service](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)

SOCIAL, MOBILE & MORE

[Mobile Options](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Google+](#)

[Newsletters](#)

ADVERTISING

[Information](#)

[Place a Classified](#)

[Find&Save Local Shopping](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Commenting Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Service](#)