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Texas study links fracking, Permian quakes

🕒 October 17, 2019 📁 Crude Oil, Government, Natural Gas, News, North America, Unconventionals 💬 0



A new study from the University of Texas at Austin shows some of the recent earthquake activity in the Permian Basin of West Texas/southeast New Mexico may be related to hydraulic fracturing, or fracking,

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made earthquakes, in Texas to fracking, the scientists said.

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The study dispels the widely held view in Texas that wastewater disposal wells were solely responsible for the man-made earthquakes. Such so-called frackquakes have also been reported in Oklahoma, Ohio, Canada and China.

China
doesn't
need

The report was published earlier this week in the *Journal of Geophysical Research, Solid Earth*. The research was funded by the state of Texas.

foreign tech,
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decarbonize

Scientists from the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program reported some earthquakes in Reeves, Pecos and Culberson counties in the Permian's Delaware Basin may have been caused by fracking, which pumps water, sand and chemicals under pressure deep underground to crack shale rock and unlock oil and natural gas.

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"The research done through the new study in West Texas, using a statistical approach to associate seismicity with oil and gas operations, suggests that some seismicity is more likely related to hydraulic fracturing than saltwater disposal," said Alexandros Savvaidis, a research scientist and manager of the seismic monitoring program, in a statement.

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The TexNet program was assisted by the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research in the Bureau of Economic Geology at the university's Jackson School of Geosciences.

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The two programs have conducted a number of studies on induced seismicity, or earthquakes caused by human activity.

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such quakes. The TexNet program with a system of 100 seismometer stations has recorded 209 earthquakes in 2019 across the state that are a 2.0 magnitude or greater.

The strongest quake was a 3.8 magnitude on Oct. 1, near Snyder. That was strong enough to be felt by humans.

The program recorded 192 quakes in Texas in 2018.

TexNet was created in 2015 following a series of small earthquakes in the Barnett Shale in North Texas.



DELAWARE BASIN

EARTHQUAKES

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

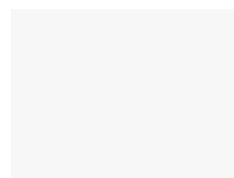
PERMIAN BASIN

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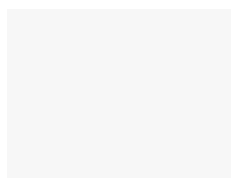
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