

7.30 REPORT – Friday 14.03.2014

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-14/uranium-isotopes-in-aquifers-raises-csg-debate/5322652>

Uranium isotopes in aquifers raises CSG debate

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A leak of pond-water is prompting a renewed political and scientific debate over the risks presented by uranium isotopes leaked by CSG plants into freshwater aquifers near Narrabri.

Quentin Dempster:

(7.30 Report Presenter)

“As contamination goes it’s alarming isn’t it?”

Professor O’Kane:

(NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer)

“On the surface its very alarming and I’ve asked for a full report from the EPA over the incident and exactly what is that measurement is it, its just extract, is it a constant because the waters concentrated in some way.”

James Baulderstone:

(Vice President of Santos)

“It’s really important to get the right science with any project. That’s why it was very important that we had the opportunity of drilling these current pilot wells so that we can act with absolute certainty around the geological formations underlying the surface. We believe that the Narrabri area is the best area in this State for producing natural gas. Going forward we’re extremely confident that we can operate safely and sustainably and with state of the art treatment facilities that will be in operation in about a months time. We are very confident that the public can look at those facilities and see that what we say is backed up by fact.

Quentin Dempster:

“From Seven Thirties report last year we know that the Narrabri project will produce a lot of briny water along with the coal seam gas. The extraction of salt and its removal will be a significant risk.

James Baulderstone:

“The amount of water and salt produced from the Narrabri gas project ah in context is quite small um the new facilities we’re building is about a 600 meg dam again in context in the farming community that’s quite a small pond if what other operators use. The amount of salt we’re talking about on average over the life of the project, it’s about 50 tonns per day, so you’re talking about an amount of salt around the