

Environmental disasters in the USA

Fracking Land Burned

The wave of bankruptcy follows the environmental catastrophe: Two million drill holes in the USA are not securely sealed – climate-damaging methane escapes.

BERLIN taz|

An environmental disaster is looming in the USA. Due to the bankruptcy of fracking companies, countless boreholes left orphaned by the large quantities of the particularly dangerous climate killer

Emitting methane – raw natural gas.

After the New York Times made its front page in July about the dangerous legacy of the Fracker had reported, now the Democratic presidential candidate attacked

Joe Biden raised the subject.

Biden spoke of “millions of abandoned oil and gas wells across the country.” These threatened “the health and safety of our people.”

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Fracking, which is particularly harmful to the environment, is no longer worthwhile due to the low oil price. To the industry nonetheless, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has only last week further environmental requirements from the time of President Barack Obama. Methane emission regulations for pipelines, oil and gas.

Gas fields have been painted. Up to now, the industry had to drill holes and install installations twice a year on investigate possible leaks and environmental hazards.

That’s over now.

According to the New York Times, the US government estimates that more than 3 million drill sites have been abandoned have been. Of these, 2 million are said to be unsecured and to emit methane at a rate of which is equivalent to the exhaust fumes of 1.5 million cars.

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The German fracking specialist Werner Zittel sees the bankruptcy wave as a logical consequence of an industry that has Years ago, only accumulated debt. Zittel’s long-time co-author Jörg Schindler points to satellite measurements, which show a strong increase in methane emissions over the US fracking zones. Schindler: “Through Fracking has not only burned an infinite amount of money, but now you’re leaving an endless mess. “