

2013

Theft of Austerity Britain's Coal

UCG Licenses, Lies & Insatiable Greed of the 1%



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Executive Summary

MP's are quietly licensing a new dash for gas technology, known as underground coal gasification (UCG), which burns coal underground to make gas. This method is still at the trial stage around the world yet it is being very quietly licensed right now across the UK.

The DTI estimates, at present consumption rates, there are enough UK onshore coal reserves to feed the new UCG industry for the next 300 years, with geologists estimating there are also [enough UK coal reserves in the North Sea to power the whole of Europe for 1000 years](#), making the resurrection of Old King Coal an energy and wealth generating option which will make the North Sea Oil look like a resource that paid the nation mere pocket money.

UCG trials have demonstrated, UCG is a much cheaper method of producing gas from coal, which should provide, much needed, reduced gas and electricity bills across the UK, but more importantly, a new public UCG industry could provide a colossal flow of income into the treasury, which could wipe out the deficit and £300 billion plus PFI debt, roll back austerity, restore much needed public services and make Britain one of the wealthiest and energy rich nations in the world.

The gas from UCG can also be used to produce oil and diesel, with Linc Energy in Australia making bold claims that their UCG Gas-To-Liquids (GTL) process, at their trial Chinchilla plant, can produce oil at \$30 a barrel and diesel at 19c a litre, again good news, surely, for Austerity Britain, although these figures have been challenged.

So why are MP's and MSP's not sharing the news with the nation, of the benefits to be gained for the nation, from investing in the new UCG technology and our coal reserves, and instead Tory, Liberal and Labour MP's recommending we invest at least £50 billion in HS2, which does not have a clear economic case, with [David Cameron telling nation, even with HS2 investment, they must continue to](#)

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[endure austerity until 2020 at least](#) and continue to face huge cuts in services, wages, pensions and benefits, lose their homes, their hospitals, police and fire stations and increasingly rely on food parcels because there is no alternative?

The word theft is understood to mean taking another person's property, without their knowledge or consent, with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of the benefits the property brings.

And that is exactly what is happening to the British nation's coal reserves right now, just when technology may be available to create cheap gas, oil and diesel to generate great wealth for the British nation and the exchequer.

MP's have already, quietly, issued 24 UCG licenses to private companies, who have absolutely no experience using the unproven UCG technology, with each license signing over the rights and interests, for at least 1 billion tons of the nation's coal, to the private companies, without consulting the nation. There is no obvious record of any of the new companies paying a single penny for the coal.

This is being done, very quietly, to ensure the 1% secures the rights and interests to the nation's coal for themselves - before the 99% find out the immeasurable wealth UCG technology and the resurrection of Old King Coal could bring our austerity, debt ridden nation if the UCG technology can be made safe.

Despite licensing UCG across the UK, to ensure private companies grab the rights and interests to the nation's coal now, MP's and MSP's are keeping equally quiet about the major risks posed by using current UCG technology as, recent small scale UCG trials around the world have caused major groundwater contamination, surface and underground subsidence and explosions.

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Despite UCG trials resulting in major groundwater contamination, the twenty four UCG licenses already issued in the UK are for the Thames, Humber and Dee Estuaries, the Firth Of Forth, near the river Leam in Warwickshire, the North and Irish Seas, with licenses for the River Esk in Dumfries and Galloway and Swansea Bay currently also up for grabs – as the UCG process, like fracking, needs water.

As well as the major risk of groundwater contamination, the new UCG and fracking industries will both demand huge amounts of water, with Westminster MP's responding with their 2011 "Water for Life" document, making it clear, as far as they are concerned, "in future there will be less water for people" as the nation's water resources must be prioritised to improve "economic growth", with plans to totally deregulate the use of water for "some industries".

The Scottish Executive has already changed Scotland's water laws in early 2013, with MSP's unanimously voting to give ministers the right to choose who can use water and how much.

And while MSP's continually repeat the claim "Scottish Water will not be privatised", this is just a deliberate play on words as every MSP knows a private water market in Scotland went live in 2008 and eight of England's private water companies have already been issued licenses in Scotland, in time to make huge profits, from Scotland's water resources, which will be required for use by the new UCG and fracking industries.

A March 2011 Climate Change Committee document reveals Quadrilla will be "using mains drinking water, supplied by United Utilities" for its fracking operations in the North West of England. United Utilities also have a private water license in Scotland, issued on 9th October 2012.

And while it is claimed gas from UCG is a "clean coal" option, as the CO2 will be captured, the government have already introduced a

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non-capture loophole, which only requires CO2 capture when the UCG syngas is used for power generation.

At least one of the new UCG companies, Cluff Natural Resources, plans to produce oil and diesel, ensuring none of the CO2 (which is 35% of the UCG gas produced) would be captured from burning the coal or creating these products from the gas used – which will save the company huge sums of money in carbon capture costs, while further fuelling climate change.

The private UCG companies are already considering using the UCG cavity, left behind after the coal has been burned, as a cheap CO2 underground storage option, after the recent Norwegian trial to develop safe underground CO2 storage was abandoned in September 2013, because the costs and the technology were proving to be financially prohibitive.

One study, by independent academics, predicted if the CO2 leaks from the UCG cavities it could cause explosions, asphyxiate humans and animals while destroying ecosystems and offshore leaks will make areas of the sea unfit for normal use.

Rather than tightening air quality monitoring laws, with the advent of UCG and fracking, MP's and MSP's are actually moving to try to stop councils monitoring air quality, with the Scottish Executive also trying to remove the expected pollutants from the UCG process from the current monitoring list, meaning we will never know the extent of the air pollution, caused by this unproven UCG technology burning billions of tons of coal, once full scale production starts.

The Westminster government is also trying to protect the new Fracking and UCG industries further, before they are fully up and running, by going to court now in Scotland, to try to set the precedent company bankruptcy law should override Scottish environmental laws, as currently happens in England & Wales.

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This will leave the way clear for UCG and fracking companies, as well as the open cast coal mining industry, to escape liability for cleaning up the toxic land, rivers and sea from their redundant mining operations, and legally transfer all the costs to the austerity laden taxpayer who will likely never be able to afford to clean up the sites, leaving the polluted land and rivers in this state forever.

In December 2012, George Osborne also announced huge tax breaks for the new “unconventional gas industries”, to ensure taxpayers fund much of their infrastructure and exploration costs, and, at the same time announced his approval for 30 new gas power plants, which will make the UK the most gas dependent country in the world – the government creating a guaranteed market for the new private fracking and UCG industries, whether we want them or not, as North Sea Gas production is expected to continue to fall while gas imports are expected to rise, before we even add a further 30 new gas plants.

Yet, surprisingly, at the time, George Osborne and Ed Davey, the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), made absolutely no reference to their new private UCG industry - demonstrating the government's desire to keep their new private UCG industry off the public radar for now.

Can we trust the new UCG industry in the hands of the new private UCG companies, who have absolutely no UCG experience?

John Bishop, the chairman of an Australian company, Riverside Energy, is already bragging his UCG license will allow his company to power the whole of Scotland for 150 years, telling Sydney investors he “was born in England” but “as a colonial now, he can sock it to the English and that feels good”.

With Riverside Energy paperwork giving details of their plan to charge the nation five times what it costs to produce the gas, using

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their UK UCG license, this demonstrates why John Bishop ends his presentation to Sydney investors, stating “a lot of people can make a lot of money” – but thanks to MP's it definitely won't be the British nation, despite it being our coal reserves.

John Bishop, who's company holds UCG licenses for the Firth of Fourth Estuary and the Thames Estuary, also tries to dismiss the deliberate cover up of major groundwater contamination in an Australia trial in 2010, claiming he thought “it is likely the company did not contaminate the water, they just handled it wrong” – when the company involved, Cougar Energy, later admitted their guilt in court.

Former Tory Party fundraiser and chairman of another new UCG company, Cluff Natural Resources, claimed in a Fife newspaper in August 2013, “Unlike fracking, UCG does not use water”. Yet he tells investors repeatedly “oxygen and steam” are used in the UCG process. Why mislead the people of Scotland – is it because they are a very defensive nation when it comes to their water resources?

Cluff has also stated his desire to connect his offshore UCG sites to the existing gas pipelines, (rather than his company spend money investing in their own infrastructure) despite the fact, if water gets in to the UCG cavity, it can cause an explosion, which rips right up the pipes extracting the gas, as happened in the only EU UCG trial, which could put the entire gas pipeline infrastructure at risk.

The directors of another new UK UCG company, Five Quarter, claim on their website, UCG does not harm the environment or the climate, despite papers, written by the same directors, when they were independent academics, detailing the risks of UCG and potential harm to the environment – before they got taxpayers money to set up the company and a license for 2 billion tons of the nation's coal.

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How can this highly co-ordinated duplicity to deny a nation the wealth to be had from their coal reserves, enough to power the whole of Europe for a thousand years, with gas, oil and diesel, to create instead a guaranteed market for the new UCG industry who are now in possession of the coal reserves, which will increase gas and electricity prices and pollute our water and the air we breathe, while private investors sock it to a nation, making them, instead of the British Nation, a lot of money while the nation is faced with unbearable austerity for years to come be summed up?

The word theft is understood to mean taking another person's property, without their knowledge or consent, with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of the benefits the property brings.

With [Article 3 of the American constitution defining](#) "in law, [treason](#) is the crime of disloyalty to one's nation or state. A person, who betrays the nation of their citizenship and/or reneges on an oath of loyalty and in some way wilfully cooperates with an enemy, is considered to be a traitor."

Government Licensing Of Underground Coal Gasification

Geologists estimate, there is enough coal offshore, in the North Sea alone, to power the whole of Europe for 1000 years, with the DTI estimate there are 300 years of coal reserves onshore too.

The government has already issued 24 licenses for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), without consulting the British nation. Each license signs over the rights and the interests to at least a billion tons of the nation's coal to newly formed private companies – none of which have any experience using UCG technology – to ensure private companies (the 1%) profit from the nation's resources rather than the 99% currently facing austerity.

What Is UCG

UCG stands for [Underground Coal Gasification](#), a process where a well is drilled down to the coal and the coal ignited underground, with oxygen and steam pumped down, to control the burn, to release gases from the combustion chamber, up a second parallel well. This process produces more CO₂ than other coal to gas methods.

UCG has been attempted, unsuccessfully, many times since 1868, but it is hoped new horizontal drilling methods, used in fracking, will finally make it feasible and economic to finally produce gas using UCG.

The word “hope” is used as, despite years of intensive UCG trials in Australia and other countries across the world, using world leading technology, there have been numerous problems which have resulted in [the Queensland government continuing a ban on](#)

[industrial commercial UCG, in July 2013, as the full process is still not safe.](#)

The Risks

[Major Groundwater Contamination & Carcinogenic Chemicals](#)

[1993, 2011, 2012](#) reports from UCG trials in Australia, America and India all detailed UCG trials resulted in major groundwater contamination with [benzene](#), [toluene](#) and [ethyl benzene, xylene \(BTEX\)](#) and [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons \(PAHs\)](#). Here is the story of just one recent Australian UCG trial by a private company.

[Cougar Energy, spent two months deliberately covering up their UCG trial had caused major groundwater contamination.](#) In August 2010 reports came out in the Australian press that [traces of toxic chemicals benzene and toluene were detected in cattle](#) on a farm just less than 2km from the Cougar KIngaroy UCG trial plant. In January 2011 the Queensland government shut down Cougar's \$550million UCG trial.

In an attempt to continue with their contamination cover up and try to recoup their shareholders losses, Cougar Energy made a huge play of their decision to sue the government for shutting down their UCG trial, but [in July 2013 Cougar Energy dropped the lawsuit without receiving one cent from the government.](#)

On August 19th 2013, Cougar Energy announced it was changing its name to Moreton Resources as ["its current name is strongly linked to UCG and may be disadvantageous for attracting and retaining the support of investors in the future"](#).

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[On 24th September 2013](#) Cougar Energy was fined £75,000 in an Australian court after they admitted they were guilty of releasing a cancer-causing chemical into groundwater from their trial UCG project in Queensland.

Subsidence & contamination of deep, underground aquifers

Major groundwater contamination, reported from trials around the world, is not the only risk of UCG. A DTI report, "[Review of the feasibility of Underground Coal Gasification in the UK.](#)", gives details of Independent academics assessments, and trials, which proved there are also major subsidence risks, both above and below ground, from the UCG process.

Conventional mining methods ensure the cavities, left behind by the coal mining process, are left fully supported but, in the underground coal gasification process, as the coal is burned, on an industrial scale, the huge cavities are left totally unsupported, meaning the cavities will [inevitably collapse](#), sooner rather than later, causing subsidence, not only below ground, but above ground too.

The real danger posed by this underground subsidence, is, it will allow the toxic mix of carcinogenic chemicals, left behind by the UCG process, to mix with previously unconnected underground water flows, changing the course of the water to unknown destinations, which could result in unsuspecting farmers irrigating crops, watering livestock (that we eat) and local people drinking and bathing in the contaminated water.

What is worse, no one can stop it happening, no one can predict where the water will flow, due to the underground subsidence changing the course of the water, no one will be able to warn us when it does happen, and, as anyone who has watched the film [Erin Brockovich](#) will know, the impact on the people of a town when

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carcinogenic chemicals get in to water supplies, without the population's knowledge, is men, women, children and animals all suffering painful, slow death from various forms of cancer.

Taking the Cheap Carbon Capture Option

Another major risk posed by the UCG process is, already, the new private UCG companies are planning to use the UCG cavities underground, as cheap CO2 carbon capture storage facilities, to cut costs, due to the massive amounts of CO2 produced by the UCG process and the huge costs involved, to develop safe, industrial scale, underground and surface carbon capture facilities.

[It has been stated](#) "If an additional 4 of the 14 trillion tonnes of coal, across the globe, were extracted without the use of carbon capture or other mitigation technologies atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels could quadruple--resulting in a global mean temperature increase of between 5 and 10 degrees Celsius."

[In September 2013, the Norwegian government abandoned plans to store CO2 underground](#), despite spending 924 million Euros between 2007 and 2012 in their trial, citing "the development of technologies to capture and store CO2 underground had taken longer, been more difficult and more costly than expected" and that "applying the technology developed for their Mongstad trial at other sites would also have been difficult".

Independent academics, from Newcastle University in the UK, assessed the "theoretical" risks of storing the CO2, produced by the UCG process, in the UCG cavities left behind. No full scale trial using the UCG cavity as a CO2 store has been undertaken as yet, [with Linc Energy in Australia signing a contract with a Germany company in 2010 to research and possibly develop UCG cavity storage of CO2](#), based on the academic research of the possibilities.

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The academic paper, "[The groundwater hydrology of underground coal gasification coupled to carbon capture and storage](#)" explains UCG cavities will not be able to hold all of the CO₂ produced by the UCG process.

The academic experts suggest the good news is the subsidence of the cavity "could" provide the benefit of making the rock in the roof above the cavity "more permeable" (fractured) - up to 60 times higher than the cavity itself.

As they "estimate" the UCG cavity will only be able to hold approximately 30% of the CO₂, they "hope" this "possible" scenario will enable the rock above the cavity to store the remaining 70% of the CO₂, produced by the UCG process and, as UCG cavities can be just 350 metres below the surface, this brings 70% of the CO₂ stored much closer to the surface. So what are the risks?

The academic paper goes on to explain there is a real risk if the CO₂ leaks from onshore UCG cavities, reporting "[leakage into the atmosphere or the shallow subsurface can cause asphyxiation to animals or humans, or affect plants and underground ecosystems](#)"

["If the leakage is offshore, it can affect the living organisms in the water column and the seabed and interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea."](#)

If the new UK UCG industry does go for the cheap, UCG cavity CO₂ storage option, as Linc in Australia appear to be hoping to do, as the Norwegian experience demonstrated, the safe underground storage of CO₂ is still not a cheap or viable option, this could prove disastrous should the masses of CO₂ stored close under the surface start to leak, onshore or offshore.

Air Pollution – Why UCG Is Not a Clean Coal Option

While the government and the new UCG companies claim UCG is a clean coal option, as the CO₂ will be captured, a carbon capture loophole has already been introduced in the UK. [The CO₂ only needs to be captured if the syngas produced by the UCG process is to be used for power generation.](#)

If the syngas is to be used e.g. to make [gas to liquids \(GTL\), fertilizer/methanol or used in iron and steel manufacturing or enhanced oil recovery in mature oil fields](#) then the CO₂ does not have to be captured.

The gas to liquids (GTL) reference above actually means burning the coal to make syngas, then converting the syngas into oil and diesel.

Linc Energy, in Australia, claimed they had made a major, game changing, breakthrough during their Chincilla UCG trial, set up in 2008, to convert UCG gas into oil and diesel.

Linc Energy, claim [1 ton of coal can produce 1.5-2 barrels of clean fuel equivalent at \\$30 per barrel](#) or 19c per litre of diesel. These figures and their “much less pollution” claims [were challenged in February 2013](#) by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) who stated Linc had based their figures on an old 2001 CSIRO report and not a CSIRO assessment of their current trial plant's production methods.

Despite the dispute over the exact figures, this demonstrates the ability for UCG production processes to not only create syngas, but for the private UCG companies to then use this gas to produce oil and diesel.

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[Cluff Natural resources plan to produce oil and diesel from the syngas](#) they produce, as well as using it for power generation, and, as they have six UCG licenses, with plans to apply for many more, to burn billions of tons of coal, this means there will be masses of CO₂ produced that will not be captured, by this one company alone, thanks to this clever little loophole, which does not require the CO₂ to be stored if companies opt to use the syngas to make oil and diesel.

So while ministers and new UCG entrepreneurs hide behind the “clean coal” claims they make no reference to the UCG company plans to produce oil and diesel from the syngas and use the loophole, kindly provided by MP's, to save the new UCG companies huge sums of money in carbon capture storage costs, for colossal amounts of CO₂, which is 35% of the gases produced by UCG, despite the damage this will do to the climate, the environment and people's health.

And worse, both the Westminster and Scottish parliaments are attempting right now, before UCG is rolled out, [to strip councils of their powers to monitor air quality locally and are also attempting to remove gases produced by the UCG process from the existing air quality monitoring lists](#).

Explosions

[The EU underground coal gasification trial ended in disaster](#), after the pipe feeding the combustion products to the underground combustion chamber got blocked and, with no way to fix the blockage, this resulted in a methane explosion, which ripped up to the surface via the gas extraction pipeline, spilling pollutants on the site, resulting in the abandonment of the trial.

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The British government's [Department Of Energy & Climate Change](#) (DECC) Coal Authority website claims this trial proves the technology "is feasible", while giving absolutely no details of the disaster on their Underground Coal Gasification page – [with other trials also causing explosions](#).

Despite this, Algy Cluff, the director of one of the new UCG companies, which has already got six UCG licenses, states in a Reuters report on 1st October 2013 "underground coal gasification sites [could use much of the pipeline infrastructure already in place to transport the gas](#) and would be much less disruptive to rural communities than fracking for shale gas".

Algy Cluff's statement actually exposes the real risk of connecting UCG pipelines to the UK's existing gas pipeline infrastructure as, UCG explosions would not then just be limited to the UCG site, but travel from the UCG pipeline all the way through the existing gas pipelines, feeding the country much needed energy. Demonstrating the new UCG companies are already hoping to cut corners and costs on the investment they should be making in their UCG infrastructure, to increase their personal profits, without any thought for the real risks that represents to our existing infrastructure, other industries and taxpayers.

UCG & Fracking: The Flooding Risks

As floodwater roared through the state of Colorado, recently, nature exposed the coalition government's deeply flawed "dash for gas" energy policy as reports arrive from America that [fracking fluid has been released into the environment by the floodwaters](#). A spokesman for the Colorado Oil and Gas Association confirmed thousands of Oil and Gas wells were affected by the flooding.

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According to [a Reuters report](#), water polluted by the fracking process, is brought back to the surface and stored in lined pits or closed tanks for “recycling” or “injection” into underground storage.

One of the private drilling companies in the state, Encana Corp has confirmed flooding has dislodged storage tanks and other confirmed reports have warned in a least one site [a fracking pipeline is also ruptured and leaking](#), with a nurse posting [photographs](#) online of flooded wells.

The fracking fluid used by Encana in Colorado is made with a long list of chemicals, including benzyl chloride, which the US Environmental Protection Agency explains [causes lung and neurological problems as well as experiments causing tumours throughout the body in mice](#).

In February 2013, in an attempt to promote fracking, the governor of Colorado, Frank Hickenlooper said to a Senate Committee he had sat round a table with [Halliburton executives drinking the company's fracking fluid](#), “almost ritual like”, as the company claims the fluid is perfectly safe and “sourced from the food industry”.

Yet just three months later [Halliburton told North Carolina's environment regulators their new rule to force the disclosure of the chemicals in fracking fluid had gone too far](#). The regulators withdrew the new disclosure rule in May this year. Why the pressure if their fracking fluid is sourced from the food industry?

[Other states are trying to introduce their own disclosure laws](#), with regulators in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Texas having all ruled fracking chemicals should be disclosed.

But the USA does not yet have to worry about UCG on an industrial scale, across a wide area of the country but the UK does – so what risks are there, to the new combined UK UCG and fracking industries,

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being rolled out across the UK, from the increased large scale flooding incidents being experienced due to climate change?

All the UCG licenses issued so far, both onshore and offshore, are all sited next to or underneath water. UCG trials have already demonstrated, if excess water gets into the underground UCG combustion chamber in an operational UCG mine, this can cause explosions and the destruction of the UCG infrastructure, with the real possibility of this also releasing UCG toxic waste into the groundwater.

If UCG cavity subsidence makes the rock above more permeable, will this change the flooding dynamics in the UCG areas, allowing the rock above the cavities to supply new drainage paths for the floodwaters, directly into the UCG combustion chamber, capturing the highly soluble CO₂ as it goes when the UCG cavity has been left behind as a cheap and nasty UCG CO₂ store?

Adding severe floodwater to the UCG and fracking mix, in such a small island, and each flood could feasibly become a triple flooding, fracking, UCG disaster as floodwaters consume fracking and UCG mining operations, as happened in Colorado, with the UK having the added concern of UCG toxic waste, explosions and disturbance of UCG cavity CO₂ chambers added to the equation, as well as fracking fluid.

And while Colorado is similar in size to the UK, the population of Colorado is only about 4.5million people, while the UK has over 65 million people squeezed into an area much the same size, putting many more people at risk, than in Colorado, if flooding causes a triple flooding, fracking, UCG disaster.

Has anyone in the Department of Energy And Climate Change even thought to commission a risk assessment, for the new UK fracking and UCG industries, on this tiny island, after the devastating floods in

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Colorado exposed the serious threat to the environment and human life and health, if the ever increasing, severe floodwaters in the UK overcome the dash for gas fracking and UCG mining industries being rolled out by the coalition government?

No UK Based UCG Trials Undertaken

Despite all the recent reports on UCG trials, across the world, reporting major groundwater contamination with cancer causing chemicals, major subsidence, the dangers of underground CO2 storage onshore and offshore, explosions and the Queensland government banning industrial scale UCG in July 2013, until the problems can be resolved, the UK government has licensed this “dash for gas” technology to be rolled out across the UK now, without any UK based trials, despite the part UK funded EU UCG trial in Spain ending in disaster.

One of the new UCG companies, Cluff Natural Resources, reported in September 2013 they were [gearing up to full scale production](#), before most of the British nation has even heard of UCG or the risks.

The company has absolutely no UCG experience using the unproven technology.

UCG, the Benefactors – and it's not the 99%

Without consulting Austerity Britain, Tory MP's in have already overseen the issue of 24 UCG licenses by the Department of Energy And Climate Change (DECC)'s Coal Authority, with **each license transferring the rights and interests for at least a billion tons of the Nation's coal to private companies**, for their profit, to power the

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whole of Europe, the private companies hope, for the next 1000 years.

[The Underground Coal Gasification Association](#), of which the DECC Coal Authority, that issues the UCG licenses, [“is an associate non-shareholder member”](#), make it clear they don't see the British nation as playing any part in their UCG plans, as they do not include the British nation in their list of [“potential stakeholders for UCG”](#), despite the fact there can be no UCG industry without the coal reserves of the British nation.

[Dr John Bishop: Riverside Energy](#)

[In a video on You Tube](#), John Bishop, the director of an Australian company, Riverside Energy, boasts to Sidney investors in 2011, “you cannot walk into Australia and get your hands on the coal, it's all pegged”, yet he has walked into Britain and “been handed a license for 1 billion tons of Scotland's coal”, before an independence vote, and he tells Sidney investors, in the video, it is “enough coal for his company to power the whole of Scotland for the next 150 years”.

His company has also just also been issued another licence, in the Thames Estuary, with a further 3 licences in England and another in Scotland, giving Riverside 6 UK licenses, each for a minimum billion tons of the nation's coal, for Riverside investors' profit.

He ends the presentation stating “a lot of people can make a lot of money” from his UK UCG licenses (but it won't be the British exchequer or the British people) and despite “being born in England”, [John Bishop of Riverside Energy goes on to gloat in the video on you tube](#) “us colonials can sock it to the English ...I tell you it's a good feeling”.

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And he sure does intend socking it to the people of England and Scotland in “Austerity Britain”, as a document from his company reveals their [“rough financials”](#), to charge the people of Austerity Britain five times what it costs their company to produce the gas, from burning the nation's coal, using unproven UCG technology banned in Australia – technology this company has no experience of using.

Despite all the reports of trials around the world, confirming the UCG process causes major groundwater contamination, John Bishop tries to dismiss this when talking to investors stating, “he won't go in to the details” but “he thinks Cougar Energy did not contaminate the water” in their Australian trial and they just “handled it wrong”. Cougar Energy admitted their guilt in court in September 2013!

Can this man be trusted, with UCG licenses in the Firth of Forth Estuary and the Thames Estuary, when he is so willing to try to dismiss a scandal where another Australian UCG company covered up their UCG trial, causing major groundwater contamination when trying to woo Sydney investors?

[Algy Cluff: Cluff Natural Resources](#)

Another benefactor of Labour, Tory and Liberal MP's largesse with the nation's coal reserves is a [former Tory party fundraiser, Algy Cluff](#), who had been living in Africa for years, making money from gold mining. Algy Cluff stepped down from his gold mining company, Cluff Gold in May 2012 (he has retained nearly 2 million shares in the company).

Within weeks, Algy Cluff had listed a new company in England, Cluff Natural Resources, set up on the 22nd May 2012.

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His new company boasts on their website [“Cluff Natural Resources will benefit from the many government and business contacts made by Algy Cluff over the course of his career”](#) – and that statement has proven to be totally true as the Department of Energy and Climate (DECC), managed by Tory MP's, is showering the former Tory Party fundraiser's company with UCG licenses.

Despite only being listed on Aim on the 22nd May 2012, on the 24th January 2013 it was announced Cluff Natural Resources had been awarded two UCG licenses, securing the company the rights and interests to billions of tons of the nation's coal – again, despite the fact his company has absolutely no UCG experience, with Algy Cluff [stating](#) “I am delighted to be able to announce the award of these licences which represent a “low cost entry” into underground coal gasification which is becoming a burgeoning industry” and 'These are the first of a series of projects we are looking to acquire. In line with our strategy we remain in discussions regarding a number of suitable natural resource projects, as we look to build a portfolio of highly prospective assets that we will look to develop and, in the process, generate considerable value for shareholders.'

Of course the portfolio of “assets” Algy Cluff refers to are actually the British nation's coal reserves, which he looks forward to developing to generate considerable wealth for shareholders – rather than Austerity Britain, thanks to MP's giving him the assets and a low cost entry into a new industry set to generate immeasurable wealth for everyone except the UK nation.

Algy Cluff's company has been handed a further 4 licenses in the past 8 months, bringing his share of the nation's coal reserves to 6 licenses which secure his new company and its investors, the rights and interests to an average billion tons of coal for each license – with the company hungry for more.

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Cluff Natural Resources have [Keith Leighfield](#) in their team, who just happens to be the first director of licensing at the Coal Authority within the DECC – the section that issues the UCG licenses.

When Algy Cluff came to Scotland, to meet with Scottish Energy Minister Fergus Ewing, in August 2013, [the Fife Courier reported](#) Algy Cluff saying of UCG, in response to UCG critics, “We would introduce **oxygen into the coal seam** and the coal gas would be piped out onshore”. And “There would be **no introduction of water** or chemicals, unlike fracking.”

Did Algy Cluff deliberately mislead the people of Fife when faced with their concerns regarding UCG, when he claimed the UCG process did not use water, unlike fracking, as in January 2013 and September 2013 Algy Cluff repeatedly told investors water **is used** in the UCG process as he states both times [“The seam is then injected with oxygen and steam](#) to create a synthetic gas which is recovered to surface.” Is steam not boiled water?

Why mislead to the people of Scotland regarding the use of water in the UCG process? Is it because the people of Scotland are very defensive of their water resources?

Cluff repeatedly tries to claim the UCG process is safe – failing to mention the evidence from UCG trials reporting major groundwater contamination, subsidence, air pollution and issues regarding where to store the masses of CO₂ produced by the UCG process!

If the man gets confused, (or is deliberately lying to the people of Fife when concerns were raised) about the UCG process is he fit to hold a license for unproven technology his new company has absolutely no experience using – especially with the risks involved?

So now we have directors from two of the UCG companies, set to use unproven technology across Scotland, England and Wales, being

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economical with the truth regarding the UCG technology and the risks to water, air, environment and health. Can any of these private companies be trusted with the UCG licenses, when they are being economical with the truth, before they even start?

Surely the independent UK “academic experts” in Newcastle University’s Sir Joseph Swan Centre, who have been studying and reporting on the worldwide trials, and experimenting with UCG technology will warn the British people regarding the risks posed by the rollout of Industrial scale UCG across the UK now, using unproven technology?

Five Quarter: Buying the Silence of Independent Academic Experts

The coalition government has handed the “independent academic experts” from Newcastle University £15million of taxpayers’ money to set up their own UCG private company, Five Quarter, and a license for 2 billion tons of the nation’s coal. Five of the seven directors of Five Quarter are former or current employees of Newcastle University. Now instead of writing papers warning us of the risks, their company website states UCG poses no risk to the environment or the climate.

That makes it directors from all three new UCG companies, investigated so far, being economical with the truth – can we trust anyone regarding UCG?

One of the Five Quarter directors, [Professor Paul Younger, is not only on the board of Five Quarter](#) but also on the board of one of Algy Cluff’s other new companies, “[Cluff Geothermal](#)”, set up by Cluff along with an unlikely partner, [young George Percy](#), geography graduate, heir to the Duchy of Northumberland and flatmate of Pippa Middleton (whom they gave a job [“to help around the office”](#)).

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Is that usual, for a man like Paul Younger to be a director of a UCG company, while at the same time on the board of one of his direct UCG competitor's other companies?

Or does all this just demonstrate that, right from the outset, the new UCG industry, "that will make a lot of people a lot of money" will all be under cartel control of the 1%, with Paul Younger's five Quarter already attracting investment from the [Duke Of Buccleuch, who took a 5% stake in the academic's new Five Quarter UCG company](#) – hoping to cash in while Tory and Liberal MP's continue to force austerity on 99% of the nation and deliberately denying the 99% any share in the huge profits to be made from their own coal reserves.

Paul Younger, when he was an independent academic, wrote a paper regarding the risks of storing CO2 in underground cavities, but now he is set to profit we can look back and [he can be found arguing with a truly independent expert, from another university on Channel 4, regarding the safety of UCG](#) - where Paul Younger is all for the roll out of UCG while the truly independent expert, with no future gain to be had from UCG being rolled out, is most definitely against.

There are a further two or three new UCG companies already set up in the UK, that have still to be investigated, with announcements in rich investors plan to set up further companies to swoop in to benefit from the new exploration opportunities..

The 1% Lining Up To Create More New UCG Companies

In August 2013, [the Express reported](#), Riverstone private equity group, with former BP chief Lord Browne as a partner, has announced they are looking to set up a new investment firm, with the cash rich 1% from across the globe invited to join to invest in new UK exploration opportunities – does that mean UCG?

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Lord Browne, close friend of Tony Blair, who quit his position in BP in 2007, after admitting he lied in court over a rent boy scandal, is also the chairman of "Quadrilla" (of Balcombe "fracking fame").

Will opposition MP's in Westminster and MSP's in the Scottish Parliament warn the UK population all the UCG goings on, without their knowledge, surely we can trust them?

Government Duplicity

The Labour Party

The Labour government handed out the first UCG license in 2009. Peter Hain, a Labour MP in Wales and a former energy minister, is currently being paid over £30,000 a year to make money for former Tory Party fundraiser Algy Cluff (who has six UK UCG licenses).

In February 2013, [Labour MP, Peter Hain](#) went to Sierra Leone to take Amara Mining executives (Cluff's former Gold Mining company, in which he still [retains nearly 2 million shares](#)) to meet Sierra Leone government officials and high ranking UK officials in the country.

Weeks later, Labour MP, [Peter Hain was invited to sit on the board](#) of Amara mining with responsibility for "environmental issues".

Peter Hain's constituency is just 7 miles from Swansea Bay UCG license area. Has he warned the people of his constituency of the environmental issues, dangers and risks of UCG and that one of the men at the head of a new UCG company, holding six UCG licenses in the UK also holds nearly 2 million shares in a company he now sits on the board of?

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Peter Hain was asked to comment on why he is taking £31,500 a year from Amara Mining (on top of his Labour MP salary) to make former Tory Party fundraiser Algy Cluff money from his share in Amara Mining – as Algy Cluff recently described all Labour MP's as "[snarling thugs devoid of humour, manners or judgement](#)".

Peter Hain declined to comment, and continues to be paid £31,500 a year, showing, what most would consider to be, complete disloyalty to every single one of his fellow Labour MP's labelled as "snarling thugs".

Despite the Labour Party being the first to issue UCG licenses in the UK, one would think, at senior level, their understanding of UCG technology and the trial results reported after they issued their first licenses, with the decision in July 2013 by the Queensland government to ban commercial UCG as it is still not safe, would prompt the Labour Shadow Cabinet to warn both government ministers and the public to the dangers of the government issuing vast numbers of UCG licenses to new companies now.

The Labour shadow cabinet is silent.

Tax Breaks

George Osborne also added his efforts to help make the former Tory Party Fundraiser money, when, in late 2012 he confirmed his coalition government's plan to offer the unconventional gas industry [huge tax incentives](#) and while the media referred to this announcement as "fracking industry incentives" – George Osborne, Ed Davey and the media all chose to say nothing of the UCG industry, which would also benefit.

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With free coal, low cost entry and now the taxpayers footing much of the bill for their exploration costs – what exactly are any of these UCG companies doing, other than rubbing their hands at the thought of the colossal profits coming their way as they own the “shares” in the companies with the UCG licenses, in an industry which taxpayers are actually the only major investor to date.

Again demonstrating taxpayers (the 99%) are expected to create industries in the UK for the 1% to reap the profits and the tax breaks.

Deliberately Making UK Dependent on Gas: Keeping Prices High

The Department of Energy and Climate Change and George Osborne are guaranteeing their friends in the UCG industry [30 new gas power plants](#), an energy policy which, Tony Lodge, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Studies, claims will make “[the UK the most gas dependent nation in the world](#)”

Tony Lodge goes on to explain, this decision, “effectively ends energy generating diversity which the UK has enjoyed for 20 years”, making the UK “dependent on imported gas for over 70% of its electricity”, “tightly linking our electricity prices to gas prices” meaning “risers in gas prices will therefore impact consumers and industry, without much scope to rely on other fuels which might enjoy lower prices, as we have enjoyed in the past”.

Is this a deliberate move by MP's, in the UCG know, to leave the British nation no alternative but to turn to the new private UK UCG industry, as Tony Lodge also explains “the UK topography and urban layout will restrict shale extraction”, lending nothing to reducing UK gas prices, which leaves only expensive gas imports?

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And with, the private Australian UCG company, Riverside Energy's document already indicating they plan to charge the UK population five times what it costs them to produce gas from their UCG licenses, the coalition government's plan to make our nation dependent on gas ensures every UCG license is in fact a license to print money to be extracted from a gas dependent UK nation – using the very coal a publicly owned UCG industry could ensure would keep energy prices low and generate wealth for the nation instead.

And just to prove the duplicity of the coalition government, if the reports on the announcement to commit the UK to 30 new gas power plants are studied, not once is the new UCG industry mentioned, with all reports referring to only fracked and imported gas for the new gas power stations, despite nearly 20 UCG licenses having already been issued, at the time, by the Department Of Energy and Climate Change, with energy minister Ed Davey even stating "[Gas will provide a cleaner source of energy than coal](#)".

This plan to commit the nation to building 30 gas power plants, while deliberately keeping a wall of silence regarding UCG, is carefully designed to ensure the nation is tied in to these plants financially, to guarantee the UK is dependent on UCG, whether it likes it or not, and the nation pays the price for the further enrichment of the 1%, regardless of the consequences to our water supplies, the air we breathe, the climate or the environment we live in and the deficit that could have been wiped out and the wealth that should have went to the nation as the only major investor in the new UCG industry.

[SNP and Australian Company Riverside Energy](#)

The SNP government has declared the Australian company Riverside Energy's UCG license "a project of national importance", despite, Nicola Sturgeon claiming in her speech last year, at the SNP

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conference, Scottish people could trust the SNP to ensure Scottish resources were used for the benefit of Scotland's people.

Why has the SNP government said nothing to the Scottish Nation, nor made any complaint about, the Westminster government signing away the rights and interests to the Scottish Nation's coal - just before an independence vote - to an Australian company as well as the company of a former Tory Party fundraiser, with the Australian company boasting to Sydney investors they now have enough coal to power the whole of Scotland for 150 years?

Why has the SNP government said nothing about the Australian company's plans to charge the Scottish Nation five times the cost of producing the gas, when they have declared Riverside Energy's UCG project to be a "scheme of national importance"?

Surely, for a scheme of national importance, the SNP government would do their homework and one would expect the Scottish Nation to be warned of these facts, as well as the risks to their water quality and environment posed by the UCG technology to be used in the Firth of Forth.

Quiet Privatisation of Scotland's Water Resources

And not only that, most of the Scottish nation do not realise water in Scotland **HAS** been privatised, ironically on April Fools' Day 2008, with the Scottish government website, again ironically, called "[Scotland On Tap](#)", giving the details.

The Scottish water market was opened up to competition under the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005, [with consensus from the Labour, Liberal, SNP and Tory parties in Scotland](#).

"The new system is similar to the energy sector, where a range of suppliers provide services without actually producing the energy

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themselves” i.e. Scottish Water still supplies the water but the private English companies bill Scottish business instead.

While domestic customers still pay water rates to the publicly owned Scottish Water, every business in Scotland has been fitted with private water metres, while the SNP leadership continually claim Scottish Water will not be privatised ([SNP Government August 2010](#), [John Swinney August 2012](#),) and Liberal MSP's also knowingly playing word games with the Scottish people in 2007, saying “However, I agree with Mark Ruskell that the vast [majority](#) of Scots do not want to see water services being privatised. They do not want to see them as a profit-making vehicle for a company whose shareholders' preferences come before its ensuring good water supplies and effective treatment”.

Tory and Labour MSP's play the same word games too, with MSP's of all four parties fully aware most Scots still have no knowledge of the private water market they created in Scotland.

Since the new Scottish private water market went live in 2008, under SNP stewardship, 8 English private water companies have been issued with Scottish licenses – again with no complaint from the SNP.

One of the first English based companies to be issued a license [was Aquavitae](#), whose sole director was Michael J Samorzewski, who also had a water license in England.

In 1st July 2008, just three months after the private Scottish water market was established, Samorzewski's company was stripped of its English water licenses, after his company went into liquidation and then the company was stripped of its Scottish license, after [it was reported](#) they had failed to pay their wholesale bill to Scottish Water, with the liquidator having the cheek “to ask the Scottish regulator, [\(Wics\)](#), for a refund on any deposits paid to the regulator because the company was not in a position to conduct any business under the license”

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Despite all this, the Scottish regulator [issued this same man](#), Michael J Samorzewski, another water license, just months later, [in April 2009](#), when he set up another water company, Aimeria.

At the time Business Stream, the private half of Scottish Water, was formed, Scottish Water sent letters out to all Scottish, non-domestic customers, stating this was just a change of letterhead.

This must be the quietest privatisation in the world in the world – which is probably because, in 1994 it was reported [the government faced a revolt](#) after 1.2 million people (97% of the 70% who voted) in Strathclyde Region, voted against government plans to privatise Scotland's water in a postal referendum organised by the then Strathclyde council. The Tory government backed down, yet devolution, which was meant to protect the Scots from unwanted Westminster policies has resulted in Scottish MSP's achieving what Westminster Tory MP's could not, by resorting to stealth.

[The Scotland on Tap website](#) actually gives details of all the private English water companies, who have been issued Scottish licenses, to profit from charging Scots for their own water. Most of the licenses have been issued in the past two years, after the SNP gained complete control of the Scottish Parliament, in time for the new Fracking and UCG industries to use billions of gallons of Scotland's water, opting to pay English water companies should they choose.

[Quadrilla are planning to use drinking water](#), supplied by United Utilities, in the North West of England for their fracking wells. United Utilities is also one of the water companies holding a private water license in Scotland, which was issued on the 9th October 2012.

Anglian Water, Thames Water, Wessex Water, Severn Trent Select Ltd, Veolia and Kelda Water Select (formerly known as Yorwater, from Yorkshire) are also licensed to charge for water in the private water market in Scotland.

Changing Water Laws Now To Benefit UCG & Water Industries

The SNP also changed water laws in Scotland, this year, with their [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#) giving their “ministers” the power to control who can use water and how much.

The coalition's 2011 [“Water for Life”](#) document may give a clear indication of how such a law could be used, when it states “in the future there is likely to be less water available for people” and the government's priority for water usage is “economic growth”.

The document goes on to say “We know it can be difficult for a business wanting to start or increase water abstraction to obtain a year round reliable license, this would become a significant barrier to economic activity in parts of the country as water availability decreases. A better market in abstraction licenses would make it easier for business to access water in the volume and the location they want”

As well as making it easier for companies to get priority for water, over people's needs, with the coalition's new abstraction licenses, the government also intends to “reduce the barriers to trade in water abstraction licenses with several proposals to deregulate and simplify legislation to reduce “burdens on business” and “identify areas where regulation can be simplified or removed for the business” i.e. business will be free to decide how much water they use for fracking and UCG, with local people having no recourse to protect their water needs.

These changes to water laws, by the coalition Westminster and SNP governments, look to be carefully co-ordinated and timed, to ensure the mass UCG and fracking industries, set to explode across the UK,

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on an unsuspecting nation, will have all the water they need – regardless of the water needs of the people of the UK – business and profits for these new industries must come first.

The SNP government have not been forthcoming, either, with details regarding the current [Water Bill going through Westminster](#), which will, with SNP consent, establish a new UK wide water market – while the nation is distracted with the SNP's running dialogue with the nation regarding the upcoming independence vote – to cover for what they are really getting up to while in government.

Again while the SNP claim they will protect Scottish Resources for the benefit of Scottish people, their actions, as a majority government, appear to contradict this statement as they say nothing to the Scottish nation of Westminster's current attempt to create a cross border private UK water market, an option only opened up by Scottish MSP's consensus to create the private water market in Scotland from 2008.

Changing Air Quality Monitoring Laws to Benefit UCG Industry

And as if all that is not bad enough – just before UCG is rolled out the SNP government and the Coalition government appear to be also co-ordinating efforts to cover up UCG pollution of the air we breathe, before the new inexperienced UCG companies start using unproven technology across the UK.

In June 2013 the SNP government launched their [“Consultation on review of Local Air Quality Management in Scotland”](#). The SNP government plans to strip councils of their powers to monitor air quality, hoping to replace democratic local authority control with a central body, of their choice, which will not be as accountable to local people as their local council.

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Close scrutiny of the consultation document reveals the SNP government also plan to remove the very gases, produced by UCG, from the monitoring list entirely. How much carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide does burning 1 billion tons of coal produce? If the SNP government get their way, we will never know – just men, women and children getting sick without any apparent explanation!

In July 2013 David Cameron also launched a very, very quiet, [consultation](#) on his plans to also strip councils of their powers to monitor air quality and to [shut down](#) 600 air quality monitoring stations. The quiet consultation ended in early September 2013.

Attempts to Override Environment Law with Bankruptcy Law

In Scotland [the UK Government and KMPG are trying to override Scottish Environmental Laws with company Bankruptcy laws](#), to allow the directors of mining companies to walk away from their liabilities to clean up mining sites.

If successful, this would then allow the liquidators, KMPG, of the recently collapsed company, Scottish Coal, to sell some of the mines to another set of directors, leaving the original company, KMPG and the new company all free for the clean-up liabilities for the mines and polluted land left behind. In July a Scottish judge ruled in the UK government and KMPG's favour.

[As a result of the ruling](#), the council tax payers of East Ayrshire, an area with high unemployment, will be left to foot a clean-up bill estimated to be over £60 million for their area alone - a figure which is [£11 million more than the entire annual council tax bill](#) for every East Ayrshire resident

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The RSPB website added the [ruling also makes the mining companies' financial bonds, meant to pay for restoration, worthless.](#)

To give the Scottish government some credit, the Scottish Executive, Scottish Local Authorities and SEPA were due to appeal the July decision in September 2013, with the potential for a further appeal to the Supreme Court in London.

If this appeal is unsuccessful, this will establish the precedent, which the new UCG and fracking industries can use to their advantage, to use bankruptcy to swap operational wells to a second company, with the liquidator declaring neither set of directors or the liquidator will be paying to clean up the non-operational mines left behind, to ensure, already near bankrupt councils and austerity laden people have to pick up the costs to clean up the toxic mess left behind by UCG and Fracking processes. With no money available in an austerity nation, it is likely the toxic mess and scarred landscape will stay like that forever.

Conclusions

Each section of this report is an individual major scandal in its own right.

When new technology presents the opportunity for the UK to power the whole of Europe for 1000 years, using our vast coal reserves, if MP's chose to make this information public and ask taxpayers to invest in UCG, rather than HS2, to resolve the known problems reported by UCG trials, this could roll back austerity, wipe out our deficit and PFI debt and make the UK one of the wealthiest, energy rich nations in the world, with the entire nation benefitting for 50 generations to come.

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Instead our MP's have chosen to quietly sign away the rights and interests in our coal reserves, to private companies, to ensure worldwide investors (1%), rather than Austerity Britain (99%), gains the immeasurable wealth the nation's coal reserves can generate, when fed into their new, private UCG industry, being set up by British MP's below the radar.

With MP's also changing laws to ensure this new industry has all the water it needs, before people, and will also not have to worry about the air pollution they generate being monitored, with generous tax breaks already in place, while also deliberately distorting the UK energy market to ensure a captured market for the new UCG industry, which will keep gas and electricity prices higher than they need to be, with one Australian company already planning to charge five times what it will cost them to generate gas, stating a lot of people will make a lot of money and it's good to be a colonial socking it to the English, this does not bode well for Austerity Britain.

A solution to the nation's financial problems has been turned on its head by British MP's, during a financial crisis, to ensure, once again, the 99% are denied any benefits from the nation's resources, while the 1% from around the world queue up to secure their share in the new wealth generating opportunity – regardless of the financial and environmental consequences for the country.

With the UCG technology already proven to cause major water contamination, subsidence and explosions and the new private UCG companies, with no experience of using UCG technology, already indicating they are planning to cut corners, to save themselves money, as well as misleading the public, before they start, as to their expertise, how the technology works and the impact on the environment and the climate, this calls into question the fitness of any of the new private UCG companies to hold a UCG license, with the risks involved.

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And with independent experts silenced with £15 million of taxpayers' money and a license for 2 billion of the nation's coal, to pollute the environment themselves, the nation is left with few to warn them of the threat to their environment from the new private UCG industry, especially with MP's ensuring a loophole is in place to ensure the companies don't have to capture the CO2 if they opt to make oil and diesel from the gas produced, making a lie of the "clean coal" claims.

And with the Colorado floods exposing the dangers of fracking fluid being released into the environment, there is no indication of the anyone in the UK government reassessing the risks of rolling out the new UCG and fracking industries across the UK, despite this exposing Britain to a real fracking/ucg/flooding triple whammy should UCG and fracking wells be overcome by floodwater.

Should a nation be told there is no alternative to austerity, until 2020 at least, and continue to face cuts in their wages, pensions, benefits and services, with the poorest being forced out of their homes and increasingly rely on food parcels when the nation has enough coal reserves to power the whole of Europe for 1000 years, using UCG technology?

Should these coal reserves and UCG technology be kept in the nation's hands to ensure the entire nation gains the benefits, by ensuring UCG technology is only rolled out, as a public energy industry, when investment is used to resolve the problems reported from the world wide trials, to ensure the benefits are then used to wipe out the deficit and make this a wealthy, energy rich nation once again – especially as all the investment in UCG so far is actually being made by taxpayers?

How can we sum up the actions of MP's and MSP's to date, in relation to our coal reserves and the attempt to deprive the nation of the wealth to be had from their own water and coal resources, the law changes designed to benefit a UCG industry we don't even know

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exists and their attempts to make us totally dependent on this new private gas, oil and diesel industry, which will increase gas and electricity prices further?

In regard to our coal reserves, the word theft is understood to mean taking another person's property, without their knowledge or consent, with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of the benefits the property brings.

And in regard to the MP's and MSP's actions, [Article 3 of the American constitution defining](#) "in law, [treason](#) is the crime of disloyalty to one's nation or state. A person, who betrays the nation of their citizenship and/or reneges on an oath of loyalty and in some way wilfully cooperates with an enemy, is considered to be a traitor".

Note by the Author

Independent online organisations and groups, published my early research into UCG, with [Open Democracy](#) supporting my early investigations and online websites and facebook pages carrying the articles originally published on the Open Democracy website, including [Aberdeen Voice](#) and groups fighting the government fracking and UCG plans, such as Frack Off, [No UCG Warks](#), [Falkirk Against Unconventional Gas](#), to name but a few.

Dennis Campbell's online programme, [World View](#), also broadcast an interview of my early UCG research on You Tube, with an update planned soon to include the extended research within this report.

I find it interesting that, while online media have immediately shared the early research, the mainstream news outlets in the UK, who have already had most of this research for weeks, have chosen to stay silent, proving online media outlets have increasingly become, for the British nation, an outlet exposing "What the Papers Won't Say".

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Despite the mainstream media blackout, it would appear the government's new private UCG industry has been pushed unexpectedly and hurriedly on to the back foot and despite confident [reports on 3rd September 2013](#),

“Cluff Natural Resources is gearing up to full-scale production after being granted two conditional underground coal gasification licenses by the Coal Authority”,

Cluff appears to be trying to totally backtrack, and lower the profile of the MP's private UCG industry, less than four weeks later, as [on 1st October 2013](#); a Reuters report gave details of an Algy Cluff interview which stated

“Plans to burn Britain's large reserves of coal to produce gas for power plants may wait for years because of concerns about climate change and a public perception that the technology is similar to fracking”.

This extended research into the development of the private UCG industry demonstrates all the concerns in regard to UCG, with not one being “UCG being similar to fracking”, as Algy Cluff claims. We have much more to worry about from UCG.

I must thank Open Democracy and Dennis Campbell of World View, for their dedication in exposing what the UK media will not say.

I must also thank Aberdeen Voice, Steve Leary and others from The Loose Anti-Open Cast Network, members of Frack Off as well as members of all the groups in local communities across Britain, fighting against the government trying to impose the new Fracking and UCG industries on their doorstep, for the information they have taken the time to share while so short of time themselves.

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I hope this research helps the nation understand there is an alternative to austerity, which MP's and MSP's are hoping we will not realise and that it is vital we regain control of our coal reserves if we have any hope of escaping enforced austerity and MP's attempts to enslave us to high gas and electricity prices for many years to come, while the 1%, most of whom are not resident in the UK, benefit from this austerity nation's resources, while polluting our environment to a critical level which could make many parts of the UK uninhabitable should the risks turn into reality.

This document does not include a bibliography as links to the reference material have been embedded in the document – a bibliography can be provided by request to melkelly60@yahoo.com.