

Saudi prince says fracking will hurt his nation

2nd August, 2013



A Saudi billionaire prince has warned that his country's economy faces danger unless it diversifies away from oil. A whopping 92 per cent of Saudi Arabia's revenue comes from oil. Prince Alwaleed bin Talal told his nation's oil minister that Saudi needed to reduce its dependence on oil. His open letter was published

for the world to see. In it, he warned other Gulf states and countries in the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that demand for oil was "in continuous decline". Prince Alwaleed wrote: "Saudi Arabia is almost entirely dependent on oil and this reality is becoming a source of concern for all." The prince is the world's 20th richest person and owns stakes in Apple, Twitter and Citigroup.

Prince Alwaleed warned the biggest threat to Saudi Arabia is from fracking – a technology that extracts oil from shale and rock. The United States has reduced its demand for Saudi oil because of its investment in producing its own from fracking. It hopes to be self-sufficient in oil by 2020, which would be a huge blow for Saudi. Alwaleed recognised this in his letter, stating: "We see that rising North American shale gas production is an inevitable threat." Arabian oil executives have so far dismissed any threat from shale, although OPEC members have said the issue needs to be addressed. The prince encouraged Saudi Arabia to invest in nuclear and solar energy production.

Sources: Sky News / Arabian Business / Bloomberg

Writing

Fracking is just another way to get oil and gas while harming the environment. It should be banned. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

billionaire / prince / diversifies / dependence / demand for oil / concern / richest person / biggest threat / technology / investment / self-sufficient / a huge blow / threat

True / False

- A Saudi prince has said fracking will damage Saudi's deserts. T / F
- Saudi Arabia gets over 90% of its revenue from oil. T / F
- The prince wrote a letter warning of a global decline in demand for oil. T / F
- The prince is one of the 10 richest people in the world. T / F
- The prince said fracking was the biggest threat to Saudi Arabia. T / F
- The USA is buying less oil from Saudi Arabia these days. T / F
- Gulf states are taking the fracking issue very seriously. T / F
- The prince discouraged his country from investing in nuclear energy. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. diversifies | a. completely |
| 2. whopping | b. certain |
| 3. entirely | c. huge |
| 4. dependent | d. shares |
| 5. stakes | e. independent |
| 6. extracts | f. branches out |
| 7. self-sufficient | g. shrugged off |
| 8. inevitable | h. reliant |
| 9. dismissed | i. put money into |
| 10. invest | j. removes |

Discussion – Student A

- What is the answer to our energy needs?
- Will more countries become self-sufficient on oil because of fracking?
- How might fracking affect OPEC countries?
- Are Arabian oil execs right to dismiss fracking?
- How should Saudi Arabia diversify?
- What could happen to OPEC if fracking really takes off?
- What would you like to know about fracking?
- What questions would you like to ask the prince?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. ...unless it diversifies | a. an inevitable threat |
| 2. oil | b. of concern for all |
| 3. demand for oil was | c. in Apple |
| 4. this reality is becoming a source | d. solar energy production |
| 5. owns stakes | e. blow for Saudi |
| 6. a technology that | f. in continuous decline |
| 7. a huge | g. minister |
| 8. shale gas production is | h. to be addressed |
| 9. the issue needs | i. extracts oil from shale |
| 10. invest in nuclear and | j. away from oil |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about fracking?
- How dangerous is it for Saudi to be so dependent on oil?
- What will Saudi Arabia be like in 100 years from now?
- If we are moving away from oil and gas, why are we fracking?
- Why is the world demand for oil in "continuous decline"?
- When do you think the oil will run out?
- What kind of energy do you think will be most common in 100 years?
- What do you think of the word "fracking"?

Spelling

- baliriolin prince
- unless it ieidreissfv away from oil
- a inohpwgp 92 per cent of Saudi's revenue
- reduce its denecepnde on oil
- almost eyteinrl
- owns sasket in Apple
- a technology that etactrxs oil from shale
- be self-csefnfitui in oil
- Alwaleed esrgidceon this
- an eetinvblai threat
- executives have so far msidesdsi any threat
- rsloa energy

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. a	4. h	5. d
6. j	7. e	8. b	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Wave power

You think wave power is the future of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their energy sources. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): nuclear, solar or wind.

Role B – Nuclear

You think nuclear is the future of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their energy sources. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): wave power, solar or wind.

Role C – Solar

You think solar is the future of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their energy sources. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): nuclear, wave power or wind.

Role D – Wind

You think wind is the future of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their energy sources. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): nuclear, solar or wave power.

Speaking - Dangers

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest dangers for your country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- future energy
- ethnic divisions
- pollution
- overpopulation
- neighbouring countries
- terrorism
- poverty
- economy

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.