

Abstract

The goal of this thesis is to examine the term of public interest within the framework of the 'shale gas' issue in the Czech Republic. The theoretical section is divided into two basic parts. The first part defines the term public interest from the point of view of political science, sociology and economy. The second one describes the issue of shale gas extraction in global context. The examination is focused on the context of administrative procedures defining the prospecting exploration area of unconventional hydrocarbon resources in the Trutnov region and around the Berounka River

The intention of private companies to extract shale gas in the Czech Republic caused a big discussion. In its core there is the dispute between the economic development of the country connected with energy security on one hand and the environment protection on the other. Within this debate the term public interest appears in many different contexts. The way it is used by the people involved and their interests are described through interviews with them and analysis of the gained material.