

Your Guide to Hydraulic Fracturing

Only the Facts

FICTION

There is no regulatory environmental protection or oversight of our nation's underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) from hydraulic fracturing during oil and gas exploration and production activities.

FACT

The hydraulic fracturing process was introduced in the United States in the 1940s and has since been effectively regulated by state oil and gas agencies. Each oil and gas producing state in the United States employs highly educated and qualified officials, managers and inspectors in their oil and gas regulatory agencies. These regulators have been protecting our nation's drinking water for over 60 years, and in some instances over 80 years, and have been overwhelmingly effective as **there have been no confirmed cases of contamination associated with hydraulic fracturing of coal bed methane wells.**

This regulatory oversight is truly phenomenal due to the fact that approximately **1 million wells have utilized the process to enhance oil and gas production and conserve our nation's resources.** What other local, state or federal environmental regulatory agency in this country can make such a statement about protecting our USDW's and environment?

FICTION

All hydraulic fracturing fluids consist of the same chemical constituents and all subsurface formations are hydraulically fractured the same.

FACT

Coal Seam Natural Gas, also known as Coal Bed Methane, is a relatively shallow and newer source of gas which requires a different type of hydraulic fracturing fluid than deeper conventional oil and gas producing zones. The injection pressures

required for fracturing shallow coal seams is much less than for deep conventional oil and gas wells. The fact that operators fracture coal seams with lower pressures than deep conventional oil and gas wells alone **greatly reduces the risk of contamination to shallow USDWs.** Deep conventional oil and gas producing zones require the addition of chemicals to the hydraulic fracturing fluid, that are not used in shallow coal seam fracturing fluids.

The reason for the different hydraulic fracturing fluid requirements is due to differences in well depths, temperatures and pressures. Fracturing fluids used in shallow wells today are almost entirely fresh water and quartz sand which is used as a propping agent to keep the fractures open for **better production and conservation** of the natural gas resource.

FICTION

We need another study.

FACT

Hydraulic fracturing has been widely used for more than 50 years. Ninety percent of oil and gas wells in the United States undergo fracturing to stimulate production, and there have been no confirmed cases of contamination of USDWs. Not one. **There is no need to study further a problem that does not exist.** This is a direct result of the stringent regulations imposed by state agencies that are regulating processes such as hydraulic fracturing everyday.

ABOUT THE IOGCC

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission is a multi-state government agency that **champions the conservation and efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety and the environment.** Established in 1935, it is the oldest, largest and most effective interstate compact in the nation.