



Just the Fracs

DeGette Legislation Would Cripple American Energy Production, Cost Us Jobs, Revenue, Security

What is Hydraulic Fracturing?

- Hydraulic fracturing (or fissuring) is a commonly employed energy technology that's been used for more than 60 years to stimulate new energy from existing oil and gas wells.
- By creating micro-thin fissures in rock, a path connecting the energy reservoir to the well is created. These new paths increase the rate that energy can be produced from the formation, in some cases by many hundreds of percent.
- 600 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and seven billion barrels of oil have been captured thanks to this technology – energy that could not have been acquired without it.

Why is it Important?

- Hydraulic fracturing makes the impossible possible by allowing us to reach oil and natural gas trapped in rock beds that would otherwise be unattainable.
- It is responsible for 30 percent of America's recoverable oil and gas; 90 percent of the wells currently operating today have been fractured at least once.
- Recent discoveries of massive gas deposits in the Marcellus Shale (Pa. & N.Y.), Barnett Shale (Texas, Okla.), Haynesville Shale (Texas, La.), and Fayetteville Shale (Ark.) could not be produced without the combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling.

What is the DeGette Amendment?

- First introduced last Congress as a stand-alone bill, the DeGette Amendment seeks to rescind key provisions of existing law clarifying the true intent of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974
- Were the DeGette Amendment to become law, the practice of hydraulic fracturing would, for the first time in history, be regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, a law never intended for this purpose.

Why Would Anyone Support this Amendment?

- Proponents of the Amendment, and opponents of affordable, reliable energy, rely on claims that hydraulic fracturing is unsafe, unsound and unregulated. None of these contentions are true.
- More than a million wells have been fractured in America over the past half-century. In that time, not a single case of drinking water contamination has ever been recorded. Not one.
- Hydraulic fracturing has been aggressively regulated by the states almost before we had a name for the technology. In that time, a staggering record of safety has been amassed.