

# GASLAND DEBUNKED

## WRONG ON THE LAW

### GasLand myth:

"What I didn't know was that the 2005 energy bill pushed through Congress by Dick Cheney exempts the oil and natural gas industries from the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act...and about a dozen other environmental regulations." (6:05)

### Actual truth:

- ✓ The oil and natural gas industry is regulated **under every single one of these federal laws** — under provisions of each that are relevant to its operations.
- ✓ The 2005 energy bill was supported by nearly three-quarters of the U.S. Senate, including then-Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. In the U.S. House, 75 Democrats joined 200 Republicans in supporting the final bill.

## WRONG ON THE PROCESS

### GasLand myth:

"The fracking itself is like a mini-earthquake. ... In order to frack, you need some fracking fluid — a mix of over 596 chemicals." (6:50)

### Actual truth:

- ✓ The fracturing process uses a mixture of fluids comprised almost entirely (99.5%) of water and sand. The remaining materials, used to help deliver the water down the wellbore, are typically found and used around the house. The average fracturing operation utilizes fewer than 12 of these components, according to the Ground Water Protection Council — not 596.
- ✓ Over the course of its history, fracturing has not only been used to increase the flow of oil and natural gas from existing wells, but also to access things like water and geothermal energy. It's even been used by EPA to clean up Superfund sites.

## WRONG ON DISCLOSURE

### GasLand myth:

"Fracking chemicals are considered proprietary." (1:00:56)

### Actual truth:

- ✓ The **entire universe of additives used in the fracturing process** is known to the public and the state agencies that represent them.
- ✓ Not only do individual states mandate disclosure, the federal government does as well. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandates this information be kept at every wellsite, and made readily available to response and medical personnel in case of an emergency.

## WRONG ON FLAMMABLE FAUCETS

### GasLand myth:

Methane in the water in Fort Lupton, Colo. said to be the result of natural gas development.

### Actual truth:

- ✓ Colorado debunks the claim: "Dissolved methane in well water **appears to be biogenic [naturally occurring] in origin**. ...There are no indications of oil & gas related impacts to water well." (COGCC, 9/30/08)

## WRONG ON DUNKARD CREEK

### GasLand myth:

Deceased fish along a 35-mile stretch of creek in western Pennsylvania attributed to natural gas development.

### Actual truth:

- ✓ EPA debunks the claim: “The situation in Dunkard Creek **should be considered a chronic exposure** since chloride levels were elevated above the criteria for long periods of time.” (EPA, 11/23/09)
- ✓ Local media cite “glaring error”: “One glaring error in the film is the suggestion that gas drilling led to the September fish kill at Dunkard Creek in Greene County. That was determined to have been caused by a golden algae bloom from mine drainage from a [mine] discharge.” (*Washington [Pa.] Observer-Reporter*, 6/5/10)

## WRONG ON WEST DIVIDE CREEK

### GasLand myth:

Methane in West Divide Creek, Colo. blamed on natural gas development.

### Actual truth:

- ✓ Colorado debunks it (again): “Stable isotopes from 2007 consistent with 2004 samples indicting gas bubbling in surface water features is of **biogenic origin**.” (COGCC, July 2009)
- ✓ Follow-up email: “Lisa: As you know since 2004, the COGCC staff has responded to your concerns about potential gas seepage along West Divide Creek on your property and to date **we have not found any indication that the seepage you have observed is related to oil and gas activity**.” (email from COGCC to Bracken, 06/30/08)



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## Drilling for Natural Gas in the Marcellus Shale Formation Frequently Asked Questions

### Can drilling companies keep the names of chemicals used at drilling sites a secret?

**No.** Drilling companies must disclose the names of all chemicals to be stored and used at a drilling site ... as part of the permit application process. These plans contain copies of material safety data sheets **for all chemicals** ... This information is on file with DEP and is available to landowners, local governments and emergency responders.

Source: Marcellus FAQ fact sheet, PA DEP; accessed on 4/20/10

## STATE REGULATORS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**PENNSYLVANIA:** “There has never been any evidence of fracking ever causing direct contamination of fresh groundwater in Pennsylvania or anywhere else.” (PA DEP’s Scott Perry, *Scranton Times-Tribune*, 4/2/10)

**NEW YORK:** “I think is clear that when put into the proper context and perspective, the reported information shows that the incidence of spills and other pollution events at modern natural gas well sites is exceedingly low ...” (Alexander B. “Pete” Grannis, commissioner of NY DEC, 12/30/09)

**TEXAS:** “Though hydraulic fracturing has been used for over 50 years in Texas, our records do not indicate a single documented contamination case associated with hydraulic fracturing.” (Texas Railroad Commission’s Victor Carrillo, 5/29/2009)

**OHIO:** “After 25 years of investigating citizen complaints of contamination, [our] geologists have not documented a single incident involving contamination of ground water attributed to hydraulic fracturing.” (Scott Kell, deputy chief of Ohio DNR, 5/27/09)

**NEW MEXICO:** “[W]e have found no example of contamination of usable water where the cause was claimed to be hydraulic fracturing.” (Mark Fesmire, director of NM Oil Conservation Division, 5/29/09)

**ALABAMA:** “I can state with authority that there have been no documented cases of drinking water contamination caused by such hydraulic fracturing operations in our state.” (Barry H. “Nick” Tew, Jr., Oil & Gas supervisor for Alabama, 5/27/09)