



Drinking water protected? THINK AGAIN

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Typically, hydraulic fracturing involves high-pressure injection of fluids and sand to fracture rock formations, prop the fractures open with sand, to enable more oil or gas to flow to the well. After fracturing, some of the fluids remain stranded underground. These fluids may include hazardous chemicals such as biocides, diesel fuel, acids, metals, ethylene glycol, corrosion inhibitors, and other chemicals. Hydraulic fracturing often occurs just after a well has been drilled, although many wells are re-fractured one or more times after a well goes into production.

REGULATIONS FALL SHORT

- Americans get half of their fresh drinking water from underground sources. In 2005, the oil and gas industry was granted an exemption from the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, making oil and gas the only industry allowed to inject toxic fluids directly into good quality groundwater without oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- At the state level, most oil and gas agencies do not require companies to report the volumes or names of chemicals being injected during hydraulic fracturing. Thus, neither the government nor the public can evaluate the risks posed by injecting these fluids underground.

Potential Impacts

- groundwater and drinking water contamination
- soil and surface water contamination
- aromatic chemicals released from wastes



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