



## THE FRACKING TRUTH

- Apart from climate change (to which it is a contributing factor), shale gas extraction may be the greatest environmental threat to vast regions of the United States, including Pennsylvania, western New York State, and New York City.
- Shale gas extraction depends on a process known as “hydraulic fracturing” or “fracking,” which entails injecting millions of gallons of chemical-laced fluid into the ground to create sufficient pressure to shatter the shale and release the gas.
- Gas companies use hundreds of chemicals in the process; many of them are known carcinogens and neurotoxins. Some are hazardous in parts per billion.
- The industry refuses to reveal the dangerous chemicals it uses, claiming that the information is “proprietary”.
- Not surprisingly, fracking has already been linked to hundreds of instances of water contamination and human health problems throughout the country.
- Now drilling corporations have targeted the Marcellus Shale for fracking — it’s an immense geological formation that stretches from eastern Ohio all the way to the Hudson River.
- Development of the shale gas reserves in the Marcellus will imperil the drinking water supplies of tens of millions of Americans, including the fifteen million people who depend upon the Upper Delaware River Basin for their water supplies.
- New York City gets 90% of its water from the Upper Delaware River Basin - water is so pure it doesn’t require filtration. But the gas companies are clamoring for permission to frack to this important sources of drinking water.
- Each Marcellus well requires the underground injection of from three to five million gallons of toxic fracking fluid.
- If the Marcellus reserves are developed using high-volume fracking, *trillions* of gallons of toxic fluid will be injected underground, and most of it will stay there forever.
- But will all that fluid stay where it’s injected, or will it migrate into our drinking water? Nobody knows.
- In 2010 the EPA began what will be the first credible peer-reviewed study of hydraulic fracturing and drinking water safety. The results of this research will be available in late 2012.

- Under Bush-Cheney, fracking was exempted from important provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Superfund, etc.
- Most states where fracking takes place have no regulations to govern the process.
- Pennsylvania recently began permitting high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF), and it's been plagued with problems from the outset. There have been numerous instances of drinking water contamination, toxic spills, well blowouts, etc. One industry insider called PA a "state-wide industry experiment."
- High-volume fracking is on hold in New York State pending the completion of an environmental study.
- So far the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has failed to propose a single new regulation to deal with this new technology and the New York State legislature has failed to enact a single new law to govern high-volume fracking.
- The claim that shale gas extraction brings economic benefits is unproven.
- In areas where extraction takes place other economic sectors such as real estate, agriculture and tourism have been devastated.
- The industry typically forces individuals and communities to pick up the tab for *their* business expenses, such as well testing and road repair.
- Economic analyses that tout the economic benefits of fracking never consider the costs of environmental damage and the consequent human health problems such as cancer, birth defects, neurological disorders and respiratory illness.
- Although the industry has been promoting natural gas as a "clean" fossil fuel, scientific studies demonstrate that gas extracted from shale is actually dirtier than coal because the extraction and transportation processes emit huge amounts of greenhouse gases.

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