

Health & Environmental Risks of Fracking

- **Fracking contaminates groundwater** from the injections of toxic fluids near aquifers.
- Toxic fluid remains trapped underground.
- Hazardous materials and carcinogens leach into and contaminate groundwater.
- **Fracking depletes water resources.** Large amounts of water are required for fracking. Approximately 2 to 9 million gallons of water are required for a single fracking job – and much of it becomes so contaminated it cannot return to the watershed.
- **Fracking poses serious health risks.** From [Human and Ecological Risk Assessment](#), an international, peer-reviewed scientific journal: “The technology to recover natural gas depends on undisclosed types and amounts of toxic chemicals. A list of 944 products containing 632 chemicals used during natural gas operations was compiled.
 - More than 75% of the chemicals could affect the skin, eyes, other sensory organs, and the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems.
 - Approximately 40–50% could affect the brain/nervous system, immune and cardiovascular systems, and the

Hydraulic fracturing – fracking – is a process where sand, water and chemicals are blasted into rock formations such as dense sands and shale or coal beds. The ‘injection’ process cracks the rock and allows gas to flow up the well. New fracking techniques have been a boon for the oil and gas industry, opening up previously

Don’t Frack with our Water, our Health, or our Planet



- **Fracking does not create local jobs** and lowers property values. Furthermore, a close read of the gas industry's studies reveal that **fracking will actually lead to widespread job losses** in other sectors of the economy.
- "The Environmental Working Group recently issued an exhaustive report detailing the failure of California's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources to regulate or even track fracking — which has been going on for decades, completely unmonitored..."
- "The California Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity have recently sued the Bureau of Land Management to halt its leasing of some 2,700 acres in Fresno and Monterey counties for oil and gas exploration" which is expected to include fracking.
Santa Cruz Currents, March 28-April 3, 2012, pgs 6-7.
- Food and Water Watch reports that strong public opposition has led to bans on fracking in France and Bulgaria.
- New York has had a moratorium on fracking for the last four years, citing the Precautionary Principle, "not until we find it's safe". Vermont has an outright ban. Other states are starting to regulate fracking, and some are considering bans.

Most Americans are not willing to sacrifice clean air and water in the process of increasing more domestic oil and gas production. (January 2012 poll by think-tanks Civil Society Institute and Environmental Working Group):

- 94% said it is important to balance calls for increased fuel production with air and drinking water protection;
- 92% of Republicans, 98% of Democrats, and 87% of independents supported balancing energy development and environmental interests;
- 86% said they would like to see more studies of the health and environmental consequences of fracturing.

What You Can Do

Ask your legislators to call for a **ban on fracking** until all the facts we need can be discovered.

Ask your state and federal officials to pass a bill which would require information on the chemicals used, the amount and source of water used, and require the State Oil and Gas Supervisor to annually prepare and transmit to the Legislature a comprehensive report on hydraulic fracturing in the exploration and production of oil and gas resources in California.

The Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act ("FRAC Act") would repeal the fracking exemption to the Safe Drinking Water Act and require disclosure of chemicals

What You Can Do

- **Tell Congress to close the "Halliburton Loophole"** to protect drinking water from contamination. HR 1084 introduced in the House in 2009, 2011, died.
- **Thank Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein** for co-sponsoring the FRAC Act: Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, 501 I Street, Suite 7-600 Sacramento, CA 95814; Office of U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein, One Post Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104.
- **Ask Representative Sam Farr** to help see it through the House. Office of Representative Sam Farr Santa Cruz Office, 701 Ocean Street, Room 318C, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- **Write to State Senator Bill Monning** asking him to support a moratorium on California fracking as a member of the Senate Health Committee, the Natural Resources and Water Committee, and as the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. State Capitol, Room 4066, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4017. Santa Cruz County District Office, 701 Ocean Street, 318-A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- **Join Santa Cruz Women's International League for Peace and Freedom to work on our Fracking Moratorium:** **WILPF.got.net, chair@wilpf.got.net.**