

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT FRACKING?



What is fracking?

Fracking is a way to release previously unattainable gas deposits from deep within the ground. This is achieved by drilling vertically down through the earth from hundreds, to thousands of feet, drilling horizontally for long distances, and injecting thousands to millions of gallons of water laden with undisclosed toxic chemicals into the shale in order to release the gas.

Issues:

- Water use

Each time a well is fracked it can take up to **10 million** gallons of fresh water. This water will never be available for drinking and is permanently removed from the hydrological cycle

- Water Contamination

Toxic chemicals and other unknown substances are used to release the gas and make it flow better. Drilling companies are not required to disclose these chemicals, and are not regulated by the Safe Water Drinking Act. This toxic cocktail is now known as "fracking fluid". Industry claims that only .05 to 2.0% of the fracking fluid contains chemicals. That can mean up to 200,000 gallons of toxic chemicals injected into the ground *each time a well is fracked*.

- Waste product disposal

Waste products from hydraulic fracturing include flowback water, production brine (or produced water), and shale cuttings, all contaminated and possibly radioactive.

- Air Pollution

Fracking produces uncontrolled air emissions of volatile organic substances such as benzene, radon gas, and methane- a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

- Leases, Split Estates and Forced Pooling

Landowners could be liable for damage to adjoining property.

Signing a mineral lease could void mortgages and other loans on property and lead to foreclosure.

Signing a mineral lease could lead to loss of insurance coverage.

From North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper's Office:

"Exploring for oil and gas on your property will likely disrupt and possibly damage your land, your home, your crops, and your water supply."

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League is a regional, community-based, non-profit environmental organization. Our founding principles are earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice, and community empowerment.

You have a right to clean safe water, soil and air!

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Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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