

Wynn

Greich
3/20/2012

EDITION: U.S.

CA Canada Québec FR France US United States UK United Kingdom



March 20, 2012

HUFF POST GREEN

THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

Like 93k

CONNECT

Search The Huffington Post

Fracking In California Prompts State Legislators To Introduce Regulation Bill

By NOAKI SCHWARTZ 06/6/11 09:02 PM ET AP

React >

LOS ALAMOS, Calif. – In a place where oil exploration long co-existed with agriculture, a three-story contraption humming day and night in the heart of Santa Barbara wine country struck residents as a mere curiosity until someone uttered the petroleum industry's dirty word: fracking.

The industry claims fracking, or hydraulic fracturing – a method of extracting hard-to-reach gas and oil by pummeling rocks deep underground with high-pressure water, sand and chemicals – has been safely used for decades. But critics worry it can contaminate groundwater, cause air pollution and trigger small earthquakes.

Now, this little one-road town of Los Alamos is drawing attention to what many say is a largely unmonitored practice in California, the country's second-largest oil producer. The discovery that fracking has quietly been going on for years in California has galvanized oil foes and led to proposed legislation that would regulate the practice and make companies disclose the chemicals they use, the amount of water they're pumping and where they are fracking.

This comes as welcome news to Steve Lyons, who doesn't own the mineral rights on his ranch in Los Alamos and has been trying to get a precise list of chemicals that Denver-based Venoco Inc. has been injecting so he can test his water. His 2,500 acre ranch just off a rural two-lane highway unfurls into a lush valley of grape vines and oak trees. Cows stroll past bobbing pump jacks just up the road from strawberry fields.

"Once the water gets contaminated it's not easy to reverse that and if we don't have water there's no reason to have land," he said. "We just last week tested the water from our wells for chemicals but one of the problems is we don't know what to test for."

The Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources or DOGGR, which oversees drilling, has said it does not know where and how often fracking occurs in California because budget constraints have prevented them from developing regulations to address the practice. While the agency requires drilling permits and enforces groundwater protections, once those permits are acquired, drillers are allowed to employ techniques such as fracking to get the oil out of the ground without additional reporting.

"I was surprised and actually shocked at their continuous response that since there are no reporting requirements they're not able to answer any of those questions including the amount of water used, impacts on water quality, the chemicals used, as well as where fracking is occurring," said Sen. Fran Pavley, whose questions prompted the agency's admission. "I don't know what the rationale is and why it's been ignored."

Legislators have introduced a bill that supporters say would be among the most stringent fracking laws in the country if

passed. The bill passed off the Assembly floor last week and is now headed into a state Senate committee. Similar proposals are under consideration elsewhere including Texas and Montana.

"To protect the public resource and oversee this industry our state agency should know what's going on in the field," said Bill Alayaud, the California director of government affairs for the Environmental Working Group, which is sponsoring the bill. "They seem to have turned a blind eye toward it."

Sponsored Links

Woman is 63 But Looks 32

Mom publishes facelift trick that angered doctors...

ConsumerLifestyles.org

Kaspersky Anti-Virus

Save Up To \$20 On Our Top Security Software

Products. Shop Now!

Kaspersky.com/SpecialOffer

Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

Mom Reveals Clever Wrinkle Therapy That Makes

Botox Doctors Furious!

www.ConsumerProducts.com

[Buy a link here](#)

Industry officials say hydraulic fracturing is one of many techniques used since the 1940s and that concerns are overblown. With the days of easily accessible oil and gas gone, companies are relying on deeper-drilling techniques more often to explore new areas.

News reports of environmental issues in other parts of the country as well as the Academy Award-nominated HBO documentary "Gasland," which shows startling footage of property owners lighting their tap water on fire, have contributed to the hype, they say.

"We're a little surprised that there's this sudden interest and focus on a problem that to the best of our knowledge does not exist or has never been shown to exist," said Tupper Hull, spokesman for the Western States Petroleum Association. "We think the record is unequivocal that it's safe "

In comparison to other states such as Pennsylvania, which has had groundwater contamination issues, industry experts say the fracking in California is done at greater depths farther away from the water table and uses less of the water and chemical mixture overall. The practice involves drilling thousands of feet underground and then injecting a mixture of mostly water, chemical additives and sand at extremely high pressure to cause fractures in underground formations in order to stimulate the flow of gas or oil. During a three-week drill, a company might frack at most two days said Rock Zierman, CEO, California Independent Petroleum Association

Proponents of the practice say the fracking fluids are mostly water and only .5 percent chemicals, but some of those chemicals can be toxic.

While the state does not currently track where and when fracking occurs, experts say they believe it's also been used in Monterey, Kern, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. In Los Angeles' Baldwin Hills, residents blame fracking for a variety of health problems and causing their homes to shift and crack.

Michael G. Edwards, vice president of corporate relations for Venoco, referred some questions to industry groups and declined to comment on specific questions from The Associated Press on drilling in Santa Barbara.

Edwards said the company had secured all of the required permits and isn't the first to frack in Santa Barbara County, saying the technique has been used at other wells for at least 25 years.

Edwards also said the state requires wells to be encased in steel and cemented into place to protect fresh water, and that the wells are almost two miles below the surface and fresh water zones.

In the meantime, residents of Los Alamos, a town of approximately 1,400, say they are waiting for answers on how concerned they should be. Drilling issues have long been part of the consciousness in Santa Barbara, where a massive gusher off the coast in 1969 is credited with helping to spearhead the modern environmental movement.

John Morley, who owns a cafe and art gallery that is considered the town hub offers visitors a one-page primer on fracking.

Wynn Greich
3/20/2012

View your 2012 Credit Score

See Your Alert Online

- Inbox 51
- Conversations
- Drafts 13
- Sent
- Spam 10
- Trash 4
- Smart Folders
- Email from Contacts
- Folders



Join. RENEW. Give. Contribute \$35 and receive a FREE gift!



California Is Getting Fracked

Sign the Petition to Ban Fracking Now!

March 20, 2012

Dear Wynn,

Fracking wells as far as the eye can see - stretching from Sacramento to San Diego, with zero regulation.

That's the oil and gas industry's dream for California, and it's dangerously close to becoming a reality. Fracking is already happening in our state, and it's getting worse with every passing day. Will you help us put a stop to it by signing the petition to ban fracking in California?

Fracking in CA? It's True!



Sign the Petition to Ban Fracking Now!

As you may know, fracking involves injecting a cocktail of water, sand and poisonous chemicals that are linked to cancer and other health issues into the ground where they may contaminate our drinking water supplies. It has also been shown to cause earthquakes, significantly decrease property values and result in significant noise and air pollution! And, if that wasn't enough, the department responsible for regulating California drilling has stated it has no intentions of regulating this practice. **We must take action to ban fracking now, before it can further damage our communities!**

The oil and gas industry has launched a million-dollar PR campaign to convince the public that natural gas is the green wave of the future. In reality, however, we know that this process actually produces a dirtier fuel than coal! Fracking results in large releases of methane, a greenhouse gas that worsens global warming, while polluting our precious water resources with chemicals. **We need a ban on fracking in California now!**

Sign the petition to ban fracking:

http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/pl/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=9760

Thanks for taking action,

Adam Scow
California Campaigns Director
Food & Water Watch
ascow(at)fwwatch(dot)org

Join, Renew, Give

Sent by Food & Water Watch to Water_Lady@yahoo.com

Contact

Food & Water Watch is a nonprofit consumer organization that works to ensure clean water and safe food. We challenge the corporate control and abuse of our food and water resources by empowering people to take action and by transforming the public consciousness about what we eat and drink.

Unsubscribe

Visit us online

Join, Renew, Give | Contact | Unsubscribe

Food & Water Watch, 1616 P Street, NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 683-2500

powered by



www.Gaslandthemovie.com
movie: Gasland: Can you light your drinking water on fire?

Toxin In Food Linked To Breast Cancer



Reported by: CBS 42 News

Email: web@cbs42.com

Published: 3/19 9:20 am

Updated: 3/19 9:23 am

Related Stories:

- ◆ [Frankenfoods in Your Fridge](#) | [Video](#)
- ◆ [Dept. of Health Lands Joyful Donation](#)
- ◆ [The Year of Alabama Food](#)
- ◆ [Tastiest Town Voting](#)
- ◆ [King Cake for the BCS National Championship](#) | [Video](#)
- ◆ [10,000 Bowls of Gumbo!](#) | [Video](#)
- ◆ [Breast Cancer Survivor- Mary McGlothin](#) | [Video](#)
- ◆ [Breast Cancer Survivor- Shirley Parker](#) | [Video](#)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WIAT)-

Our known healthy foods may be doing more harm than good! An extremely toxic metal commonly distributed in the environment and found in many farm fertilizers has been found to increase the risk of breast cancer.

Dietary Cadmium, usually occurring at a low concentration naturally, has scientists concerned that the increasing contamination of farmland due to use of fertilizers and atmospheric deposition will lead to higher uptake in plants.

"Because of a high accumulation in agricultural crops, the main sources of dietary cadmium are bread and other cereals, potatoes, root crops and vegetables. In general, these foods are also considered healthy," Agneta Åkesson, Ph.D., associate professor at Karolinska Institute in Sweden, said.

A current study used a food frequency questionnaire to measure the dietary cadmium exposure in 55,987 women for over 12 years. During follow-up, 2,112 incidences of breast cancer were recorded, 1,626 of them estrogen receptor positive and 290 were estrogen receptor negative cases.

Cadmium consumption was divided into three groups; the highest level was compared to the lowest level of exposure. A higher exposure to cadmium through diet was linked with a 21 percent increase in breast cancer. Even more shocking, the increased risk among normal weight and lean women was 27 percent! Both estrogen receptor positive and negative tumors had the same risk increase of about 23 percent.

We Recommend

[New Drug Shows Promise in Treating Ovarian Cancer](#) (CBS 42)

[Birmingham Homicide Investigation](#) (CBS 42)

[Stress Affecting Your Memory?](#) (CBS 42)

[Stopping The Spread of Blatter Cancer](#) (CBS 42)

[Man accused of pouring drain cleaner down woman's throat](#) (CBS 42)

More From The Web

[FDA Warning: Dangers of Vicodin and Percocet](#) (HealthCentral.com)

[Twice-Yearly Wellness Checks a Good Investment in a Pet's Future Health](#) (Vetstreet)

[Dog Friendships that Defy Nature](#) (The Dog Daily)

[5 Nicotine Withdrawal Symptoms You Probably Didn't Know Existed](#) (HealthCommunities.com)

[10 Essential Fashion Tips for Grown-Ups](#) (Style Goes Strong)

[?]