

CALIFORNIA FRACKING GOT YOU IN A DAZE?

Hydraulic fracturing better known as fracking, is the current extreme form of oil and gas extraction. Voluntary reporting has documented 628 wells fracked last year (2011) in California. They are drilling in Sutter, Yuba, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Kern, Ventura and Los Angeles counties with mineral rights being purchased in Glenn and Colusa counties by drilling companies.

The process of fracking involves injecting millions of gallons of fresh water typically mixed with toxic industrial chemicals and sand. This mixture is placed at a high enough well pressure to fracture underground shale to release trapped oil or gas. Depending on the depth and lateral length of the well, one million to 15 million gallons of water maybe required and then the well is fracked numerous times possibly using up to 60 million gallons or 20 acre feet of freshwater. This is enough water for 20 families of 4 people to use for an entire year. This is a tremendous water intense usage extraction process for a state with a current water shortage problem.

So why is fracking so controversial and causing an uproar in over 32 states and around the world? Maybe it is the 2 separate studies by the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Geological Survey finding toxic carcinogenic chemicals used in fracking contaminating the town of Pavillion Wyoming's drinking water.

Maybe it is the \$900,000 **fine** Chesapeake Energy paid the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for contaminating the water wells of Bradford County Pennsylvania families and also having to paying a \$1.6 million settlement to these families for contaminating their wells with methane gas.

Maybe it's the Towanda Fracking Spill in Bradford County Pennsylvania that spewed thousands of gallons of toxic fracking fluid on to the landscape and into a source of drinking water for millions of people. The well blowout also required the evacuation of seven local families for precautionary measures.

Maybe it is the 8 year old court battle Kern County California farmer Fred Starrh **won** against Aera Energy for polluting his groundwater with over 4

billion gallons of frack wastewater containing Boron and traces of radiation. Aera Energy a joint venture of ExxonMobil and Shell paid \$8.56 million in compensatory damages and is now being sued for a billion dollars in punitive damages by farmer Fred Starrh for contaminating the aquifer.

Maybe it's the U.S. Geological Survey research data that found a six fold increase in the number of earthquakes greater than magnitude 3.0 in a vast region from Alabama to the Northern Rockies; a shocking rise they link to Big Oil's practice of injecting its fracking waste underground. Or that two separate Canadian studies confirmed fracking caused manmade earthquakes.

Maybe it's the 7th largest U.S. insurance company, Nationwide Insurance, refusing to insure landowners whose land has been leased to lessees with fracking operations, frack sand and frack liquid haulers and site prep (dump trucks, bulldozers) or leasing tanks. The company has determined that the exposures presented by fracking **“are to great to ignore.”**

May be it's the extreme air pollution caused by fracking. Wyoming State's air quality was worst then the worst days in Los Angeles in both 2009 and 2010 from the boom in fracking for natural gas. The Upper Green River Basin residents complain of watery eyes, shortness of breath and bloody noses.

Maybe it's the deep pocket oil & gas companies out bidding farmers and ranchers for water in drought states like Texas and Colorado. In the City of Aurora Colorado farmers pay \$30 an acre foot of water and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation just signed a contract with the city's water and sewage plant to pay \$3,300 an acre foot of treated effluent water, 110 times the cost of the farmer. At those prices it is obvious that farmers, ranchers, and water rate payers will be paying much more for water due to market driven prices.

Maybe it's the industrial operation of fracking with hundreds of trucks bringing drilling machinery, millions of gallons of water, sand, industrial chemicals, and removing millions of gallons of wastewater, oil or gas. Also there is the constant 24 hour operation of diesel equipment drilling and extracting resources. All of this heavy industrial traffic and activity wear and crumble the infrastructure of a town and the rural roads and why towns like Cooperstown, Dryden, and Middlefield New York have banned fracking within their borders.

Now you know why fracking is called extreme energy extraction. These were just some examples of fracking contaminating drinking water wells by chemical injection, by methane gas migration, well blowouts and by waste water seepage. Manmade earthquakes are definitely something California does not need along with the record ozone pollution. California can not meet our current water demands and fracking will only increase the demand, drive water prices sky high and intensify our water shortage. With major insurance companies refusing to insure fracking we now know the risks are much higher than Big Oil and Gas claim.

Environmental groups have been trying to get the federal government (FRAC Act) and California State Government (AB 591) to regulate fracking for the past two years with no success. Big Oil & Gas spend \$4 million per year lobbying Sacramento and an average of \$400,000 each day lobbying the US Congress to weaken public health safeguards and keep tax subsidies of \$4 billion per year.

Our only success has been at the local level with town and county zoning laws like Cooperstown and Dryden. Monterey County Planning Commission stopped Veneco Inc from fracking some wells in Monterey.

We need to organize the big stake holders like local water districts, farmers, ranchers, fisheries, sportsmen, breweries, wineries, and water rate payers to implement local regulations on fracking. We must protect our most precious commodity water, especially since 80% of Butte County residents rely on groundwater. Water is a finite resource we must all conserve and protect for our existence and livelihood. Join me on DATE –TIME & LOCATION-- to learn more about fracking and protecting our precious water.

You can also go to Food & Water Watch. Org and sign the California Fighting to Ban Fracking Petition.