Maryland’s Hydraulic Fracturing Proposal

Hydraulic fracturing involves injecting millions of gallons of fluid deep underground to break up shale rock and to force out gas or oil. These fluids contain toxic chemicals that can cause cancer and other serious ailments.

They also have been known to leak into drinking water supplies and into the environment.

The state’s proposal would shield the disclosure of some chemical formulas as trade secrets, and would make it difficult for medical and health professionals to get the information they need.

It also does nothing to stop companies from restricting what local residents can say about actual health harms caused by hydraulic fracturing.

How can I get involved?

Please contact Tim Whitehouse, Director, Chesapeake PSR at 240-246-4492 or twhitehouse@psr.org.

Sign up for our newsletter at www.psr.org/chapters/chesapeake.

We will let you know about upcoming legislation and opportunities to comment to the state on issues related to hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Will Maryland hinder the work of medical and health professionals?

Clean Water Action

711 W. 40th Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
410-235-8808
www.cleanwateraction.org/md

Chesapeake PSR

325 East 25th St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21218
410-235-7760
www.chesapeakepsr.org

A view from Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility and Clean Water Action
Keep Secrets Out of Hydraulic Fracturing

Hydraulic fracturing companies want to shield information on the toxic chemicals they are injecting into the environment from public scrutiny and examination. They have also resisted conducting health studies on the chemicals they use and have relied on non-disclosure agreements to suppress public discussion about health issues related to hydraulic fracturing. Unfortunately, the draft Best Management Practices for hydraulic fracturing in Maryland proposed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Department of Natural Resources would allow these practices to continue in Maryland.

You have a right to know

That is why we are proposing that Maryland:

• Require drilling companies to provide comprehensive data to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), including toxicological profiles and epidemiological evaluations of chemicals and agents used in the production of natural gas.

• Require drilling operators to report the chemicals they use to a publicly accessible on-line database managed by the DHMH and paid for by permitting fees.

• Set up a process that would allow Maryland’s health professionals to expeditiously obtain and share information needed to treat patients and to report public health concerns.

• Prohibit the use of non-disclosure agreements between drillers and local residents that restrict the ability of parties to disclose environmental or health issues associated with natural gas production.

• Ensure that chemicals and other agents injected into our environment are NOT subject to restrictions on disclosure under trade secret rules.

Sign Our Petitions at:

www.change.org/p/american-petroleum-institute-don-t-let-fracking-companies-suppress-important-health-information
http://action.psr.org/site/Survey?SURVEY_ID=9340&ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS