Hydraulic Fracturing
Unlocking America’s Natural Gas Resources

America’s Oil and Natural Gas Industry

July 2016
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What is Fracking?

Hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling are safely unlocking vast U.S. reserves of oil and natural gas found in shale and other tight-rock formations. Developing energy from shale is an advanced process that uses the latest drilling technologies and equipment. As for what fracking means to the United States – the answers, are security, economic growth and jobs, jobs, jobs.
The United States depends on oil and natural gas for the majority of its energy needs, and is projected to do so for decades to come. The good news is over the past decade the U.S. has experienced an energy revolution, with domestic production of crude oil up over 80%, and U.S. natural gas production up nearly 50%. This energy revolution has been led by shale energy development, extracting oil and gas from rocks at a scale and efficiency level that was unthinkable not long ago.

Hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling are safely unlocking vast U.S. reserves of oil and natural gas found in shale and other tight-rock formations. Developing energy from shale is an advanced process that uses the latest drilling technologies and equipment. As for what fracking means to the United States – the answers are security, economic growth and jobs. The U.S. oil and natural gas industry is a case study for how we can grow our economy, create jobs and protect the environment through market-driven innovation. The industry has been a leader in advancing innovative technologies both for production and emissions reductions and stands as a willing partner with the government in the development of industry standards and best practices – using this as an effective means to meet the mutually shared objective of safe and responsible operations that protect our air, water, workers, and communities.

By continuing to rely on industry innovation, basing decisions on sound science and providing for oil and natural gas opportunities, we can build on the success of the past decade and continue to supply the energy we need while protecting the environment.

The federal government should not use direct or indirect means to limit the innovations that have safely launched an energy revolution in the United States while reducing the environmental impacts of energy production.
Unlocking shale gas now guarantees the U.S. more than a 100-year supply of clean-burning natural gas.

Hydraulic fracturing has been used in the oil and natural gas industry since the 1940s, producing more than 600 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 7 billion barrels of oil. Used with modern horizontal drilling technology, fracking has unlocked vast U.S. shale reserves, launching a renaissance in oil and natural gas production, creating millions of jobs and generating economic growth. Without these advanced technologies, we would lose approximately half of our domestic oil and natural gas production, crippling our energy revolution.

The U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) reports that over 610 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable shale gas and 59 billion barrels of technically recoverable shale oil resources currently exist in discovered shale plays. Responsibly developing these resources creates jobs and fuels our economy. And the key to unlocking these resources is through the process of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking.

“America has abundant natural resources and recent innovations combined with horizontal drilling in shale formations has unlocked vast new supplies of natural gas, allowing the nation to get to the energy it needs today, and transforming our energy future.”

—Daniel Yergin, IHS vice chairman
According to Energy Information Administration estimates in 2015 the United States was the world’s largest producer of petroleum and natural gas hydrocarbons. For this we can thank hydraulic fracturing. Fracking has unlocked vast reserves of shale and other tight-rock formations to produce an American energy renaissance that has seen a dramatic lowering of oil imports while shifting America from needing to import natural gas to potentially rank as one of the world’s leading natural gas exporters.

As a U.S. State Department official put it: “...the U.S. will be a reliable, market-based supplier to global markets. And that’s not only good for our energy security. It’s good for the energy security of our partners and allies around the world.”

“Every barrel of oil or cubic foot of natural gas that we produce at home instead of importing from abroad means ... More jobs ... Faster growth ... A lower trade deficit.”

—Jason Furman, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and Gene Sperling, Director of the National Economic Council
**Jobs and the Economy**

**Percent Increase in Manufacturing Sector Employment from Higher Natural Gas Supply**
(Average 2013-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment Increase</th>
<th>Source: IHS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emp.-Wood Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Primary Metals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Furniture &amp; Related Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Misc. Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Fabricated metal Products</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Nonmetallic Mineral Products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Durable Goods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emp.-Manufacturing Emp. Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emp.-Nondurable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Machinery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Transportation Eqpt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emp.-Computer &amp; Electrical Products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emp.-Electrical Eqpt. &amp; Appliances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: IHS.*

**What is hydraulic fracturing?** It’s energy and opportunity, for better lives and a stronger, more energy-secure country. It is consumer savings and manufacturing jobs. It is largely responsible for changing America’s energy narrative from one of limited options to one of nearly limitless plenty. Hydraulic fracturing means individual opportunity for prosperity and overall economic growth.

“Expanded energy access generated by the shale boom added 1.9 million jobs in 2015 alone, and demand for these resources, driven in part by new investments in manufacturing, is expected to grow by 40 percent over the next decade.”

—National Association of Manufacturers

**According to a 2016 report from IHS Economics:**

- New natural gas transmission lines meant more than 347,000 jobs, with 60,000 in manufacturing.
- Total natural gas demand is poised to increase by 40 percent over the next decade. Key drivers will be manufacturing and power generation.
- U.S. supply is expected to increase by 48 percent over the next decade to meet new demand.
- Because energy innovation is lowering production costs, IHS expects energy-intensive industries such as chemicals, metals, food and refining to outperform the U.S. economy as a whole through 2025.
- Shale gas production has created new flow patterns that are causing existing pipelines to reverse flow and will necessitate the construction of new pipeline capacity.

With the right policies, strong industry standards and effective state oversight the celebration can continue as we safely and responsibly build on the ongoing shale energy revolution.
What they are Saying

Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar
“(Hydraulic fracturing) is creating an energy revolution in the United States. I would say to everybody that hydraulic fracturing is safe.”

Former Energy Undersecretary David Garman
“We are in the midst of a great policy reset. Our energy policy heretofore had been based on scarcity is now confronting tremendous abundance. The shale gas boom … is cause for a tremendous celebration.”

Bryan Burrough, New York Times
“One could argue that, except for the Internet, the most important technological advance of the last two decades has been hydraulic fracturing, widely known as fracking. Practically overnight, it seems, this drilling technique has produced so much oil and gas beneath American soil that we are at the brink of something once thought unattainable: true energy independence.”

Dan Tormey, Hydrologist, Geochemist, Civil Engineer
“The oil and gas development that’s been facilitated by these new technologies – hydraulic fracturing, horizontal drilling, the ability to precisely locate within the (geologic) formation where you’re drawing from – has brought undeniable benefits to the United States.”

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
“The Bakken boom is a perfect example of how new and improved technology is allowing industry to tap previously inaccessible or unknown energy resources to create jobs, decrease our dependence on foreign oil and grow our economy. … Working hand in hand with industry, we have an opportunity to use innovative technologies to capture natural gas to power more homes with cleaner American-made energy, while reducing methane emissions and cutting carbon pollution.”

U.S. Energy Information Administration
“Recent U.S. production growth has centered largely in a few key regions and has been driven by advances in the application of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing technologies.”

California Department of Conservation Director Mark Nechodom
“In California it has been used for 60 years, and actively used for 40 years, and in California there has been not one record of reported damage directly to the use of hydraulic fracturing. But despite that, given the great nationwide wave of concern, we at the Department of Conservation are treating this as an opportunity to again embrace public demand for knowledge and transparency, and this is an opportunity for people to learn where their oil comes from, just the same way we want to teach people where their milk and water come from.”
Process, Safety, and the Environment

The members of the American Petroleum Institute are dedicated to continuous efforts to improve the compatibility of our operations with the environment while economically developing energy resources and supplying high quality products and services to consumers. We recognize our responsibility to work with the public, the government, and others to develop and to use natural resources in an environmentally sound manner while protecting the health and safety of our employees and the public.
Developing energy from shale (and other tight-rock formations) using hydraulic fracturing/horizontal drilling takes four to eight weeks – from preparing the site for development to production itself – after which the well can be in production for 20 to 40 years. A well can be a mile or more deep and thousands of feet below groundwater zones before gradually turning horizontal from vertical. The horizontal portion then can stretch more than 6,000 feet. A single well site (or pad) can accommodate a number of wells. Steel pipe known as surface casing is cemented into place at the uppermost portion of a well to protect the groundwater.

As the well is drilled deeper, additional casing is installed to isolate the formation(s) from which oil or natural gas is to be produced, further protecting groundwater from the producing formations in the well. There have been no confirmed cases of groundwater contamination from hydraulic fracturing itself in the at least 2 million wells fracked over the past 65+ years. Numerous protective measures are in place at well sites, including liners under well pads, rubber composite mats under rigs, storage tanks with secondary containment measures, and barriers to control any potential runoff.
After the wells on a pad are drilled, cased and cemented, a device perforates the horizontal part of the production pipe to make small holes in the casing, exposing the wellbore to the shale. Then a mixture of water (90 percent), sand (9.5 percent) and chemicals (0.5 percent) is pumped into the well under high pressure to create micro-fractures in the shale and free natural gas or oil. Sand keeps the fractures open after the pressure is released. The chemicals are chiefly agents to reduce friction and prevent corrosion.
Effective hydraulic fracturing regulation can only be achieved at the state level as state regulations can be tailored to geological and local needs. Key state regulations include: Review and approval of permits; well design, location and spacing; drilling operations; water management and disposal; air emissions; wildlife impacts; surface disturbance; worker health and safety; and Inspection and enforcement of day-to-day oil and gas operations.

For example, the following are just some of the permits required in Pennsylvania:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Permit Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Well drilling permit (w/ well location plat, casing and cementing plan, PNDI for threatened or endangered species, landowner/water well owner notifications, coal owner or operator notification and gas storage field owner notification)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Water management plan for Marcellus Shale wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Proposed alternate method of casing, plugging, venting or equipping a well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bond for Oil and Gas Well(s) (individual or blanket, various bond types allowed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Waiver of distance requirements from spring, stream, body of water, or wetland (to put the well closer than 200 feet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Variance from distance restriction from existing building or water supply (to put the well closer than 100 feet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Proposed alternate method or material for casing, plugging, venting or equipping a well</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Approval for alternative waste management practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Approval of a pit for control, handling or storage of production fluids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Use of alternate pit liner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>NPDES GP-1 for discharges from stripper oil wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Water Quality Management Permit for treatment facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alternative pit liners</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Inactive status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Roadspraying plan approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Transfer of well permit or registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Orphan well classification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Off-site solids disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Residual waste transfer stations and processing facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Transportation of residual waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Road use permit – construction of access to state roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Road use bond (PennDOT or municipality)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Surface use permit (if in the Allegheny National Forest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>PASPGP-3 or PASPGP-4 for pipelines crossing streams (if &lt; 1 acre)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Water Obstruction – Encroachment – US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Joint Permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Dam permit for a centralized impoundment dam for Marcellus Shale gas wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>GP-11 for non-road engine air emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>GP-05 for natural gas compression facilities emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Earth disturbance permit (if &gt; 5 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Erosion and sedimentation control permit (if &gt; 25 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>NPDES storm water for construction activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Water allocation (SRBC, DRBC or DEP for Ohio River basin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>GP-3 for bank rehabilitation, bank protection, and gravel bar removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>GP-4 for intake and outfall structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>GP-5 for utility line stream crossings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>GP-7 for minor road crossings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>GP-8 for temporary road crossings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>GP-11 Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal regulations provide a broad regulatory foundation for energy development in the United States, including hydraulic fracturing. Key federal regulations governing shale development include: Clean Water Act; Clean Air Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act; Endangered Species Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act.
Existing regulations covering well design requirements and hydraulic fracturing operations are specifically formulated to protect groundwater.

Working through API’s standards program, accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - accredited standards program, the industry has adopted standards and practices for continuous improvement, hundreds of which are referenced in state regulations thousands of times.

Several federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, also cite API standards.

INDUSTRY PRACTICES

Source: http://www.api.org/policy-and-issues/policy-items/hf/shale-answers

Working through API’s standards program, accredited by the American National Standards Institute, accredited standards program, the industry has adopted standards and practices for continuous improvement, hundreds of which are referenced in state regulations thousands of times. Several federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Management and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, also cite API standards. Industry also works closely with STRONGER, a non-profit organization that helps states formulate environmental regulations associated with oil and natural gas development. The FracFocus.org chemical disclosure registry provides information on hydraulic fracturing fluid used in nearly 56,000 wells. Industry activity is subject to a number of federal and state laws including the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.
The key to protecting groundwater is proper well construction, and industry has developed detailed standards for this based on field experience and significant advances in drilling and construction techniques. A typical natural gas well uses 3 million pounds of steel and cement. Each layer of steel casing is cemented in place to create an air-tight seal.

Alternating layers of cement and steel casings are designed to ensure well integrity as it passes through groundwater levels thousands of feet down to the energy-holding layers of rock.
Industry is mindful of the amount of water needed for hydraulic fracturing, which is why a number of companies are working on new technologies that reduce needed volumes as well as ways to fracture wells without water. Some perspective is helpful. In Pennsylvania, for example, all shale energy development across the state uses 1.9 million gallons per day, which is small relative to the water needed for livestock (61.8 million gallons/day) and irrigation (24.3 million gallons/day). It’s also less than the 4 million gallons of water the average U.S. golf course uses per summer month.
The development of advanced hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling has been accompanied by safe and responsible water management strategies employing innovative technologies to allow reuse of fluids produced during the fracturing phase of well development. According to the Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research, during the first half of 2013 in the Marcellus shale play, 90 percent of the more than 14 million barrels of produced fluids from fracturing was reused. That represents a significant savings in the amount of new water needed for hydraulic fracturing elsewhere. It illustrates industry’s focus on environmental issues and efforts to reduce energy development’s impacts on resources and communities.
Air Emissions

Methane Leakage

Thanks to increased use of natural gas, U. S. energy related emissions of CO2 are at their lowest point in two decades. At the same time, industry is developing and implementing new technologies to reduce methane released during production. By January 2015, for example, all new natural gas wells are required to include green completions measures to reduce emissions. Additional new requirements also will impact tanks, pneumatic devices, leak detection and leak control. EPA's current inventory estimates show the methane leakage rate for natural gas systems well under 2 percent. This is less than the 3 percent cited as necessary for immediate climate benefits for the use of natural gas in power plants and well under the 8 percent estimate cited for delivering long-term benefits as compared to coal. Industry measures are working. The EPA recently reported that methane emissions from hydraulically fractured natural gas wells have fallen 73 percent since 2011.
While natural gas production has risen, methane emissions have actually declined slightly thanks to the oil and natural gas industry’s investment in new technologies.

Recent EPA data shows that industry initiatives to capture methane are effective. According to EIA data, from 2005 to 2014 dry production of natural gas increased 42.5 percent, with consumption by the transportation sector, pipelines and distribution increasing 43.1 percent, all while methane emission from natural gas systems fell 0.68 percent.

Methane emissions from the oil and natural gas industry make up just 4 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.
Hydraulic Fracturing and Seismic Activity

The Facts About Hydraulic Fracturing and Seismic Activity.

Hydraulic fracturing is accomplished by pumping a mixture of more than 99.5 percent water and sand into dense rock formations deep below the earth’s surface. Multiple fracture sections or “stages” are carefully targeted for controlled stimulation. This process forms a network of narrow (a few millimeters wide) and limited extent (a few hundred feet long) fractures in the rock.

Hydraulic fracturing is accompanied by microseismic vibrations that can be recorded with sensitive listening devices and analyzed with established scientific methods. Microseismic mapping is used to understand and optimize field development, well completions, and stage treatments. This monitoring produces extensive data, thus microseismic activity associated with hydraulic fracturing is well understood.

USGS estimates that there are approximately 1.3 million naturally-occurring earthquakes between 2 and 2.9 every year and an additional 130,000 between 3 and 3.9.

The process of hydraulically fracturing a well for hydrocarbon development has a very low risk of inducing seismic events that would be felt at the surface. While millions of hydraulic fracturing treatments have been performed over the last 60 years, there have been just a few isolated events of induced seismicity that have resulted in ground shaking, none of which resulted in damage of any significant consequence at the surface.

During hydraulic fracturing, the microseismic events are generally less than magnitude zero to one on the Richter scale as demonstrated by extensive microseismic measurements in several different shale basing in North America.

A study of hydraulic fracturing related seismic activity in England in 2011 found that the combination of geological factors necessary to create a higher-than normal seismic event was “extremely rare.”

An Oklahoma Geological Survey study on seismicity near hydraulic fracturing activities concluded that it was “impossible to say with a high degree of certainty whether or not these earthquakes were triggered by natural means or by the nearby hydraulic-fracturing operation.” The study did note, however, the events under examination were

“small earthquakes with only one local resident having reported feeling them. The earthquakes range in magnitude from 1.0 to 2.8.”

For reference, a magnitude three earthquake is described by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as causing “vibrations similar to the passing of a truck.” As shown by the extensive experience, seismicity induced by hydraulic fracturing represents minimal risk to humans, animals, structures or the environment. Nonetheless, the industry has made safety a top priority and invests heavily in modeling and mapping the earth’s subsurface to constantly improve its understanding of fault lines and other geological structures.

Hydraulic fracturing is a safe, proven technology that has been monitored, researched, and studied for decades. Microseismic analysis has been used extensively for monitoring fracture behavior and is well-documented in the geoscience literature. The continued development of monitoring and modeling capabilities to improve the process will provide ongoing assurance of the safety and effectiveness of this critical well-completion procedure.

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America’s shale energy revolution is built on innovation that produced advanced hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technologies and techniques. And that innovation continues, working on ways to make fracking even safer for the surrounding environment. Safe and responsible drilling means site management – from multi-layer surface liners that protect the entire drilling area to closed-loop systems to maintain control of drilling fluids. Safe operating practices and water management are just two areas for which API has developed standards to protect the environment. The shale energy surge also is spurring innovation: waterless hydraulic fracturing fluid, methods to decontaminate and recycle water used in fracking and more.
### Resources

7. UT Methane Study: [http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/09/10/1304880110.full.pdf+html](http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/09/10/1304880110.full.pdf+html)

### Hydraulic Fracturing and Seismic Activity:


14. EPA, GHG Reporting Program Inventory of Greenhouse Gases, September 2014: [http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting](http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting)
For more information, please visit
www.energymorrow.org
www.api.org