

COMMON SENSE

Policy Roundtable

FRACKING: FEAR VS. FACT

Did you know?

FEAR: *Fracking contaminates groundwater*

FACT: *Hydraulic fracturing occurs thousands of feet below any groundwater sources and wells are lined with layers of industrial steel and cement to permanently prevent leaks*

FEAR: *Fracking is drying up Colorado's water supplies*

FACT: *Hydraulic fracturing uses less than 0.1 percent of all water consumed in Colorado and wells often use water that cannot be consumed by animals or used to grow food*

Common Sense Policy Roundtable is a non-profit, free-enterprise think tank dedicated to the protection and promotion of Colorado's economy. CSPR actively follows job and economic development legislation and public policy initiatives.

COMMON SENSE

FRACKING: **FEAR** VS. **FACT**

Sources

No groundwater contamination

- Hydraulic fracturing occurs thousands of feet below groundwater sources (<http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/class2/hydraulicfracturing/upload/flowofgasandwaterinhfshalegasreservoirs.pdf>)
- Wells are lined with “casing,” or layers of industrial steel and cement, providing a permanent barrier between the gas line and any groundwater (<http://fracfocus.org/hydraulic-fracturing-how-it-works/casing>)

Studies from the EPA have concluded that hydraulic fracturing has not led to any groundwater contamination

- EPA study from 2004 concludes “Based on the information collected and reviewed, EPA has concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids into coalbed methane wells poses little or no threat to underground sources of drinking water.” (<http://nepis.epa.gov/Adobe/PDF/P100A99N.PDF>)

Water use and reuse

- Hydraulic fracturing represents less than one tenth of one percent of total water consumption in Colorado (Colorado Division of Water Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission) https://cogcc.state.co.us/Library/Oil_and_Gas_Water_Sources_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- A 2009 study from Virginia Tech found that the production of natural gas was the most water efficient form of energy extraction (Groundwater Protection Council) http://www.gwpc.org/sites/default/files/event-sessions/FP_Younos_Tamiim.pdf
- Energy companies are now recycling and reusing the water generated during the fracking process – companies like WPX Energy in Parachute, CO are recycling nearly 100 percent of all the water they use- <http://www.cpr.org/news/story/how-much-water-are-oil-and-gas-operators-recycling-answer-isn-t-clear>

www.commonsempolicyroundtable.com