Concerned Health Professionals of NY

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COMPENDIUM OF SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, AND MEDIA FINDINGS DEMONSTRATING RISKS AND HARMS OF FRACKING (UNCONVENTIONAL GAS AND OIL EXTRACTION)

Third Edition

October 14, 2015

Foreword to the Third Edition

The *Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking* (the Compendium) is a fully referenced compilation of the evidence outlining the risks and harms of fracking. Bringing together findings from the scientific and medical literature, government and industry reports, and journalistic investigation, it is a public, open-access document that is housed on the websites of Concerned Health Professionals of New York (www.concernedhealthny.org) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (www.psr.org).

Since its original release on July 9, 2014, by Concerned Health Professionals of New York, the Compendium has been used and referenced all over the world. It has been independently translated into Spanish and adopted for use in the European Union, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

The release of the first edition of the Compendium coincided with a meteoric rise in the publication of new scientific studies about the risks and impacts of fracking. Hence, a second edition was released five months later, on December 11, 2014, and included dozens of new investigative reports and just-published research papers that further clarified, corroborated, and explicated the recurrent problems, data gaps, and ongoing uncertainties that natural gas and oil extraction via hydraulic fracturing brings with it.

Almost concurrently, on December 17, 2014, the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) released its own long-awaited review of the health impacts of fracking. This 186-page document served as the foundation for a statewide ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing, announced by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on the same day. The conclusions of the NYS DOH public health review largely aligned with our own. In the words of New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker:

> [T]he overall weight of the evidence from the cumulative body of information contained in this Public Health Review demonstrates that there are significant uncertainties about the kinds of adverse health outcomes that may be associated with HVHF [high volume hydraulic fracturing], the likelihood of the occurrence of adverse health outcomes, and the effectiveness of some of the mitigation measures in reducing or preventing environmental impacts which could adversely affect public health…. [I]t is clear from the existing literature and experience that HVHF activity has resulted in environmental impacts that are potentially adverse to public health. Until the science provides sufficient information to determine the level of risk to public health from HVHF and whether the risks can be adequately managed, HVHF should not proceed in New York State. (See footnote 282.)

This third edition of the Compendium, which was created as a joint effort with Physicians for Social Responsibility, continues to exist in a moving stream of data. More than 100 new studies on the impacts of fracking have appeared in the peer-reviewed literature since public health

concerns so famously led to a ban on high volume fracking in New York—and since the second version of this document was released nine months ago.

Our knowledge base is very young. The study citation database maintained by PSE Healthy Energy shows that over half of the available studies on the adverse impacts of shale and tight gas development have been published since January 2014. In 2014, 192 peer-reviewed studies on these impacts were published. In the first six months of 2015, 103 studies appeared.[*] The vast majority of these studies reveal problems. Specifically, as demonstrated by PSE's statistical analysis, 69 percent of original research studies on water quality found potential for, or actual evidence of, water contamination; 88 percent of original research studies on air quality found elevated air pollutant emissions; and 84 percent of original research studies on human health risks found signs of harm or indication of potential harm.[**]

Since the release of our second edition, in addition to this surge of peer-reviewed papers, four multi-volume government reports on the impacts of fracking were issued in the United States: one from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that focuses on water; two from California that examine a wide array of impacts; and, from New York, the Department of Environmental Conservation's Findings Statement that—together with the final environmental impact statement on fracking—implements New York's ban and incorporates the NYS DOH public health review into a larger analysis of the environmental and economic impacts of fracking.

As a response to this proliferating evidence for the problems and harms of fracking—augmented by increasing concern about the many uncertainties remaining—various countries, states, and municipalities have instituted bans and moratoria, with many prohibitions announced this year.

Following New York's ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing in December 2014, Scotland became the first country in Great Britain to impose a formal moratorium on fracking, after an expert panel concluded that more study of fracking's risks is needed. Wales followed in February 2015 when its government declared a moratorium on fracking "until it is proven safe." The Canadian province of New Brunswick declared a moratorium for similar reasons in March. In May, the state of Maryland overwhelmingly passed a two-and-a-half-year moratorium, largely based on concerns about health impacts. In June, citing concerns about noise impacts and the industrialization of rural landscape, the county of Lancashire in northwest England halted plans for what would have been a major British fracking operation; the first and only two wells drilled around Lancashire years previously had suffered well integrity failures and caused earthquakes. In July, the Dutch government banned all shale gas fracking for five years on the grounds that "research shows that there is uncertainty" about impacts. Conversely, a fracking ban passed by the city of Denton, Texas in November, 2014 was invalidated in June 2015 by a new state law, pushed by the oil and gas industry that reasserts state control over fracking and prohibits Texas municipalities from passing local bans. In September, Northern Ireland and the Spanish region of Castile La Mancha both presumptively halted fracking via planning policies.

[*] PSE Healthy Energy. http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/site/view/1180

[**] Hays, J. and Shonkoff, S. B. C. (2015, June 16). Toward an understanding of the environmental and public health impacts of shale gas development: an analysis of the peer-reviewed scientific literature, 2009-2015, PSE Healthy Energy working paper, revised June 2015. Retrieved from http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database_Analysis_2015.6_.16_.pdf

Introduction

Over the past decade, directional drilling has been combined with high volume hydraulic fracturing and clustered multi-well pads as novel technologies for extracting dispersed oil and natural gas, primarily from shale formations. As this unconventional extraction method (collectively known as "fracking") has pushed into more densely populated areas of the United States, as fracking operations have increased in frequency and intensity, and, as the transport of extracted materials has expanded, a significant body of evidence has emerged to demonstrate that these activities are dangerous to people and their communities in ways that are difficult—and may prove impossible—to mitigate. Risks include earthquakes and adverse impacts on water, air, agriculture, public health and safety, property values, climate stability, and economic vitality.

Researching these complex, large-scale industrialized activities—and the ancillary infrastructure that supports them—takes time and has been hindered by institutional secrecy. Nonetheless, research is gradually catching up to the last decade's surge in unconventional oil and gas extraction from shale. A growing body of peer-reviewed studies, accident reports, and investigative articles has detailed specific, quantifiable evidence of harm and has revealed fundamental problems with the entire life cycle of operations associated with unconventional drilling and fracking. Industry studies as well as independent analyses indicate inherent engineering problems including uncontrolled and unpredictable fracturing, induced seismicity, extensive methane leakage, and well casing and cement impairments that cannot be prevented with currently available materials and technologies.

Earlier scientific predictions and anecdotal evidence are now bolstered by empirical data, confirming that the public health risks from unconventional gas and oil extraction are real, the range of adverse impacts significant, and the negative economic consequences considerable. Our examination of the peer-reviewed medical and public health literature uncovered no evidence that fracking can be practiced in a manner that does not threaten human health.

Despite this emerging body of knowledge, industry secrecy and government inaction continue to thwart scientific inquiry, leaving many potential problems—especially cumulative, long-term risks—unidentified, unmonitored, and largely unexplored. This problem is compounded by non-disclosure agreements, sealed court records, and legal settlements that prevent families and their doctors from discussing injuries and illness. As a result, no quantitative and comprehensive inventory of human hazards yet exists.

The evidence to date indicates that fracking operations pose severe threats to health, both from water contamination and from air pollution. In the United States, more than two billion gallons of fluid are injected daily under high pressure into the earth with the purpose of enabling oil and gas extraction via fracking or, after the fracking is finished, to flush the extracted wastewater down any of the 187,570 disposal wells across the country that accept oil and gas waste. All of those two billion daily gallons of fluid is toxic, and it all passes through our nation's groundwater aquifers on its way to the deep geological strata below where it can demonstrably raise the risk for earthquakes. In the air above drilling and fracking operations and their attendant infrastructure, researchers have measured strikingly high levels of toxic pollutants, including the potent carcinogen benzene and the chemical precursors of smog. In some cases, concentrations

of fracking-related air pollution in communities where people live and work far exceed federal safety standards. Research shows that air emissions from fracking can drift and pollute the air hundreds of miles downwind. With more than 15 million Americans already living within a mile of a fracking well that has been drilled since 2000, and with more than 50,000 new wells fractured per year over the past 15 years, the potential for exposure and accompanying adverse impacts is significant.

About this Report

The Compendium is a fully referenced compilation of the significant body of scientific, medical, and journalistic findings demonstrating risks and harms of fracking. Organized to be accessible to public officials, researchers, journalists, and the public at large, the Compendium succinctly summarizes key studies and other findings relevant to the ongoing public debate about unconventional methods of oil and gas extraction. The Compendium should be used by readers to grasp the scope of the information about both public health and safety concerns and the economic realities of fracking that frame these concerns. The reader who wants to delve deeper can consult the reviews, studies, and articles referenced. In addition, the Compendium is complemented by a fully searchable, near-exhaustive citation database of peer-reviewed journal articles pertaining to shale gas and oil extraction, housed at the PSE Healthy Energy scientific literature database.[*]

For this third edition of the Compendium, as before, we collected and compiled findings from three sources: articles from peer-reviewed medical or scientific journals; investigative reports by journalists; and reports from or commissioned by government agencies. Peer-reviewed articles were identified through databases such as PubMed and Web of Science, and from within the PSE Health Energy database. We included review articles when such reviews revealed new understanding of the evidence. Our entries briefly describe studies that documented harm or risk of harm associated with fracking, summarizing the principal findings. Entries do not include detailed results or a critique of the strengths and weaknesses of each study. Because much of medicine's early understanding of new diseases and previously unsuspected epidemiological correlations comes through assessment of case reports, we have included published case reports and anecdotal reports when they are data-based and verifiable.

We also provided, within entries, references to articles appearing in the popular press that described the findings of the corresponding peer-reviewed study. For this purpose, we sought out articles in the popular literature that expertly and plainly reported on studies that were highly technical, especially if those articles included comments by principal investigators on the significance of their findings. In such cases, footnotes for the peer-reviewed study and the matching popular article appear together in one entry. We hope these tandem references will make the findings more accessible to lay readers. Acronyms are spelled out the first time they appear in each section.

News articles appearing as individual entries signify investigative reports by journalists conducting original research. While advocacy organizations have compiled many useful reports

[*] PSE Healthy Energy. http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/site/view/1180

on the impacts of fracking, these generally do not appear in our Compendium. We also excluded papers that focused purely on methodologies or instrumentation. For some sources, cross-referenced footnotes are provided, as when wide-ranging government reports or peer-reviewed papers straddled two or more topics.

The pace at which new studies and information are emerging has rapidly accelerated in the past year and a half: in the first few months of 2014, more studies were published on the health effects of fracking than in 2011 and 2012 combined. Indeed, the number of peer-reviewed publications doubled between 2011 and 2012 and then doubled again between 2012 and 2013. More than 80 percent of the available studies on the impacts of shale gas development have been published since January 2013 and over 50 percent since January 2014. In 2014, 192 peer-reviewed studies on the impacts of fracking were published. In the first six months of 2015, 103 studies appeared.[*] In accordance, the Compendium is organized in reverse chronological order within sections, with the most recent information first.

In our review of the data, seventeen compelling themes emerged; these serve as the organizational structure of the Compendium. The document opens with sections on two of the most acute threats—air pollution and water contamination—and ends with medical and scientific calls for more study and transparency. Readers will notice the ongoing upsurge in reported problems and health impacts, making each section top-heavy with recent data. The Compendium focuses on topics most closely related to the public health and safety impacts of unconventional gas and oil drilling and fracking. Additional risks and harms arise from associated infrastructure and industrial activities that necessarily accompany drilling and fracking operations. These include pipelines, compressor stations, oil trains, sand mining operations, cryogenic and liquefaction facilities, processing and fractionation complexes, import/export terminals, and so forth. A detailed accounting of all these ancillary impacts is beyond the scope of this document, but, for the first time, we have included in this edition a section on infrastructure that focuses on compressor stations, pipelines, wastewater recycling facilities, and silica sand mining operations as emerging issues of concern.

Given the rapidly expanding body of evidence related to the harms and risks of unconventional oil and gas extraction, we plan to continue revising and updating the Compendium approximately every six months. It is a living document, housed on the websites of Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility, which serves as an educational tool in important ongoing public and policy dialogues. The studies cited in this third edition are current through July 31, 2015.

The Compendium is not a funded project; it was written utilizing the benefit of the experience and expertise of numerous health professionals and scientists who have been involved in this issue for years.

[*] Hays, J. and Shonkoff, S. B. C. (2015, June 16). Toward an understanding of the environmental and public health impacts of shale gas development: an analysis of the peer-reviewed scientific literature, 2009-2015, PSE Healthy Energy working paper, revised June 2015. Retrieved from http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/Database_Analysis_2015.6_.16_.pdf

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Cover photos: Les Stone

About Concerned Health Professionals of New York

Concerned Health Professionals of New York (CHPNY) is an initiative by health professionals, scientists, and medical organizations for raising science-based concerns about the impacts of fracking on public health and safety. CHPNY provides educational resources and works to ensure that careful consideration of the science and health impacts are at the forefront of the fracking debate. http://concernedhealthny.org

About Physicians for Social Responsibility

Working for more than 50 years to create a healthy, just, and peaceful world for both present and future generations, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) uses medical and public health expertise to educate and advocate on urgent issues that threaten human health and survival, with the goals of reversing the trajectory towards climate change, protecting the public and the environment from toxic chemicals, and addressing the health consequences of fossil fuels. PSR was founded by physicians concerned about nuclear weapons, and the abolition of nuclear weapons remains part of its mission.

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*Note that for the purposes of this compendium, the terms “fracking” and “drilling and fracking” refer to the entire unconventional oil and gas extraction and distribution process, from well site preparation to transport, distribution, and waste disposal and all associated infrastructure, including pipelines and compressor stations. Not every aspect of this process is fully addressed in the Compendium.

Emerging Trends

1) Growing evidence shows that regulations are simply not capable of preventing harm. Studies reveal inherent problems in the natural gas extraction process, such as well integrity failures caused by aging or the pressures of fracking itself. These issues can lead to contamination, air pollution with carcinogens and other toxic chemicals, and a range of environmental and other stressors wrought on communities. Some of fracking's many component parts—which include the subterranean geological landscape itself—are simply not controllable. Compounding the problem, the number of wells and their attendant infrastructure continue to proliferate, creating burgeoning cumulative impacts.

As reported in studies published last March, the injection of extreme volumes of fluids—now typically three to five million gallons or more per well—create significant deformations in the shale that are translated upwards, a mile or more, to the surface. Along the way, these "pressure bulbs" can impact in unpredictable ways faults and fissures in the overlying rock strata, including strata that intersect fresh water aquifers. Such pressure waves may mobilize contaminants left over from previous drilling and mining activities. (See footnotes 93 and 94.) No set of regulations can obviate these potential impacts to groundwater. Furthermore, in July, the state of California determined that fracking can have "significant and unavoidable" impacts on air quality, including by driving pollutants above levels that violate air quality standards. (See footnote 2.) According to the New York State Findings Statement, "Even with the implementation of an extensive suite of mitigation measures…the significant adverse public health and environmental impacts from allowing high-volume hydraulic fracturing to proceed under any scenario cannot be adequately avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable…." (See footnote 199.)

2) Fracking threatens drinking water. Cases of drinking water sources contaminated by drilling and fracking activities, as well as associated waste disposal, are now proven. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assessment of fracking's impacts on drinking water resources confirmed specific instances of water contamination caused by drilling and fracking-related activities and identified the various pathways by which this contamination has occurred. According to the EPA, documented cases of drinking water contamination have resulted from spills of fracking fluid and fracking wastewater; discharge of fracking waste into rivers and streams; and underground migration of fracking chemicals, including gas, into drinking water wells. Independently, researchers working in Texas found 19 different fracking-related contaminants—including cancer-causing benzene—in hundreds of drinking water samples collected from the aquifer above the heavily drilled Barnett Shale, thereby documenting widespread water contamination. In Pennsylvania, a solvent used in fracking fluid was found in drinking water wells near drilling and fracking operations known to have well casing problems. In California, state regulators admitted that they had mistakenly allowed oil companies to inject drilling wastewater into aquifers containing clean, potable water. (See footnotes 2, 79, 81, and 83.)

3) Drilling and fracking emissions contribute to toxic air pollution and smog (ground-level ozone) at levels known to have health impacts. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation determined that fracking could increase ozone levels in downwind areas of the state, potentially impacting the ability to maintain air quality that meets ozone

standards. (See footnote 199.) Air near gas wells in rural Ohio had levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that surpassed those in downtown Chicago. They were also ten times higher than the levels found in rural areas without fracking operations, raising the lifetime risk of cancer for residents living near the well pads by 45 percent. (See footnote 8.) Two independent reports from California determined that fracking occurs disproportionately in areas already suffering from serious air quality problems and can drive ozone and other federally regulated air pollutants to levels that violate air quality standards. (See footnotes 1 and 2.) This increased air pollution and smog formation poses a serious risk to all those already suffering from respiratory issues, such as children with asthma. With an average of 203 high-ozone days a year, intensely fracked Kern County, California, is the fifth-most ozone-polluted county in the nation, according to the American Lung Association.

4) Public health problems associated with drilling and fracking, including occupational health and safety problems, are increasingly well documented. Among residents living near drilling and fracking operations, documented indicators variously include increased rates of hospitalization, self-reported respiratory problems and rashes, motor vehicle fatalities, trauma, drug abuse, and low birth weight among infants. As we go to press, a new study from Johns Hopkins University finds a 40 percent increase in the risk of preterm birth among infants born to mothers who live nearby active drilling and fracking sites in Pennsylvania.[*] Among workers, risks include both toxic exposures and accidents. Benzene has been detected in the urine of wellpad workers in Colorado and Wyoming. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health named oil and gas extraction industry workers among those at risk for silicosis, an incurable lung disease caused by exposure to silica dust, from the silica sand that is used extensively in fracking operations. Fatality rates among workers in the oil and gas extraction sector in North Dakota were seven times the national fatality rates in this industry, which itself has more deaths from fires and explosions than any other private industry. An increase in workplace deaths has accompanied the fracking boom in West Virginia. As we go to press, a new census from the Bureau of Labor Statistics finds that the number of fatal work injuries in oil and gas extraction industries rose 27 percent between 2013 and 2014.[**]

5) Natural gas is a bigger threat to the climate than previously believed. Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than formerly appreciated. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change now estimates that, over a 20-year time frame, methane can, pound for pound, trap 86 times more heat than carbon dioxide.[***] Further, real-world leakage rates greatly exceed earlier estimates. In the heavily drilled Barnett Shale of northeastern Texas, methane emissions were shown to be 50 percent higher than the EPA had estimated. Fracking operations and associated infrastructure contribute 71 to 85 percent of the methane emissions in the region. Researchers discovered that much of these emissions originated not from accidental leaks but from losses that

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[*] Casey, J. A., Savitz, D. A., Rasmussen, S. G., Ogburn, E. L., Pollak, J., Mercer, D. G., & Schwartz, B. S. (2015). Unconventional natural gas development and birth outcomes in Pennsylvania, USA. *Epidemiology*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1097/EDE.0000000000000387

[**] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015, September 17). National census of fatal occupational injuries in 2014 (preliminary results). USDL-15-1789. Retrieved from http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf

[***] IPCC. (2013). Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Stocker, T. F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S. K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex & P. M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. Retrieved from http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/

are inherent to the design of the machinery or to normal operating use and are therefore not possible to mitigate. Methane leakage at the levels now being documented (by multiple approaches in measurement and modeling) negates and outweighs previously hypothesized benefits from burning methane instead of coal in most existing power plants. As we go to press, a new study confirms that a commonly used instrument to quantify methane leakage has unreliable sensors and malfunctions in ways that vastly underreport emissions by factors of three to five. More than 40 percent of the compiled national methane inventory may be affected by this measurement failure, according to the author of this study.[*] At this writing, the implications of this discovery for our understanding of system-wide methane leakage rates from drilling and fracking operations are not known, but they do call into question the results of at least one major study of methane emissions that relied on this device for collecting data.

6) Earthquakes are a consequence of drilling and fracking-related activities in many locations. In the past few months, several major studies have confirmed a causal link between the injection of fracking wastewater in disposal wells and earthquake swarms. The evidence is strong enough that the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled unanimously in June that homeowners can sue the oil and gas industry for injuries or property damage resulting from earthquakes. The number of earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or higher has skyrocketed in Oklahoma since the advent of the fracking boom, with fewer than two per year before 2009 and more than 1,100 predicted to occur in 2015. (See footnote 321.) Evidence now also shows that the process of fracking itself can trigger small earthquakes, as several confirmed cases in Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, the United Kingdom, and Canada demonstrate. (See footnote 199.)

7) Fracking infrastructure poses serious potential exposure risks to those living near it. Drilling and fracking activities are temporary operations, but compressor stations are semi-permanent facilities that pollute the air 24 hours a day as long as gas is flowing through the pipeline. As documented by a Pennsylvania study published in February 2015, day-to-day emissions from compressor stations are highly episodic and can create periods of potentially extreme exposures. (See footnote 515.) In the Upper Midwest, Wisconsin residents living near silica sand mining operations that service the fracking industry reported dust exposure and respiratory problems. Silica dust is a known cause of silicosis and lung cancer.

In May 2015, the Medical Society of the State of New York passed a resolution recognizing the potential health impacts of natural gas infrastructure and pledging support for a governmental assessment of the health and environmental risks associated with natural gas pipelines. In June 2015, the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted a similar resolution that supports legislation requiring all levels of government to seek a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment regarding the health and environmental risks associated with natural gas pipelines. As part of a related resolution, the AMA also called for full disclosure of all chemicals used during fracking operations.

8) Drilling and fracking activities can bring naturally occurring radioactive materials to

[*] Howard, T. (2015). University of Texas study underestimates national methane emissions at natural gas production sites due to instrument sensor failure. *Energy Science & Engineering*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1002/ese3.81. This is the second of two recent studies that finds that the primary tool approved by the U.S. EPA for measuring and reporting emissions of methane fails to function properly when used as directed by the manufacturer. See also footnote 453.

the surface. Exposure to increased radiation levels from these materials is a risk both for workers and for residents. In Pennsylvania, radon levels in homes have been rising since the advent of the fracking boom, and buildings in heavily drilled areas have significantly higher radon readings than areas without well pads—a difference that did not exist before 2004. University of Iowa researchers documented a variety of radioactive substances including radium, thorium, and uranium in fracking wastewater and determined that their radioactivity increased over time; they warned that radioactive decay products can potentially contaminate recreational, agricultural, and residential areas. The New York State DEC's Findings Statement noted that naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) are brought to the surface "in the cuttings, flowback water and production brine....[T]he build-up of NORM in pipes and equipment has the potential to cause a significant adverse impact because it could expose workers handling pipes, for cleaning or maintenance, to increased radiation levels." (See footnote 199.)

9) The risks posed by fracking in California are unique. One in every eight Americans lives in California, and hydraulic fracturing in California is practiced differently than in other states, making its risks different, as well. California is the only state that allows fracking waste to be held in unlined, open pits, which creates risks for both air and groundwater contamination. Wells are more likely to be vertical rather than horizontal, and the oil-containing shale is shallower. Hence, much less water is used per well for fracking as compared to other states. However, the fracking fluid used is much more chemically concentrated, the fracking zones are located closer to overlying aquifers, and the risk of a fracture reaching groundwater is higher. Most new fracking operations in California take place in areas with a long history of oil extraction, most notably San Joaquin Valley within Kern County. A high density of old and abandoned wells in that area provides potential leakage pathways, should fractures intersect with them. And although fracking requires considerably less water per well in California, it takes place disproportionately in areas of severe water shortages and can compete with municipal and agricultural needs for freshwater. (See footnote 74.)

Fracking in California is concentrated in two areas, both of which face unique potential risks to human health. One, Kern County, serves as a top producer of the nation's food crops, yet it hosts the highest density of drilling and fracking operations in the state. These factors project fracking's impacts onto geographically distant populations. The other area where fracking is concentrated, the Los Angeles oil basin, is located directly under one of the most populous cities in the world. About 1.7 million people in Los Angeles live or work within one mile of an active oil or gas well. California does not currently limit how close drilling and fracking operations can be from residences or schools.

The recent admission by state regulators that companies had been wrongly allowed to inject fracking waste directly into freshwater aquifers for years has led to the closing of many disposal wells. The combination of ongoing drought and lack of disposal options has resulted in the diversion of fracking wastewater to farmers for irrigation of crops, raising concerns about contaminated water potentially affecting food crops and draining into groundwater. Chevron Corporation piped eight million gallons of treated fracking waste to farmers for crop irrigation last year. Tests showed the presence of several volatile organic compounds, including acetone. (See footnote 426.) Food is a very troubling possible exposure route to fracking chemicals about which little is known. (See footnotes 425-427, 433, 436-438, 444-447.)

10) The economic instabilities of fracking further exacerbate public health risks. Real-life challenges to the industry's arguments that fracking is good business are becoming more apparent. Independent economic analyses show that the promise of job creation has been greatly hyped, with many jobs going to out-of-area workers. With the arrival of drilling and fracking operations, communities have experienced steep increases in rates of crime, including sex trafficking, sexual assault, drunk driving, drug abuse, and violent victimization—all of which carry public health consequences, especially for women. Social costs include strain on law enforcement, municipal services, and road damage. Economic analyses have found that drilling and fracking threaten property values and can diminish tax revenues for local governments. Additionally, drilling and fracking pose an inherent conflict with mortgages and property insurance due to the hazardous materials used and the associated risks.

The shaky economic fundamentals of the industry as a whole also have consequences for public health and safety. The low price of oil and gas coupled with unexpectedly short-lived well production has led companies drilling shale to reduce the value of their assets by billions of dollars, creating shortfalls that are largely filled through asset sales and increasing debt load. Falling prices means that interest payments are consuming revenue of many smaller companies, raising questions about safety-cutting measures. Inflated and unreliable estimates of shale reserves and potential profitability continue to fuel the rush to drill new wells, cut regulatory corners, and press into densely populated communities. Thus, the fundamental economic uncertainties of shale gas and oil production further exacerbate the risks of fracking to public health and society.

Compilation of Studies & Findings

Air pollution

Studies increasingly show that air pollution associated with drilling and fracking operations is a grave concern with a range of impacts. Researchers have documented dozens of air pollutants from drilling and fracking operations that pose serious health hazards. Areas with substantial drilling and fracking build-out show high levels of ozone, striking declines in air quality, and, in several cases, increased rates of health problems with known links to air pollution. Air sampling surveys find exceedingly high concentrations of volatile organic compounds, especially carcinogenic benzene and formaldehyde, both at the wellhead and at distances that exceed legal setback distances from wellhead to residence. In some cases, concentrations exceeded federal safety standards by several orders of magnitude.

- July 9, 2015 – The California Council on Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, released the second and third volumes of an extensive, peer-reviewed assessment of fracking in California. Air quality impacts are the focus of volume 2, chapter 3. It finds that current inventory methods underestimate methane and volatile organic chemical emissions from oil and gas operations and that fracking occurs in areas of California—most notably in the San Joaquin and South Coast air basins—that already suffer from serious air quality problems. Further, no experimental studies of air emissions from drilling and fracking operations have ever been conducted in California. Although California has well-developed air quality inventory methods, they are "not designed to estimate well stimulation emissions directly, and it is not possible to determine well stimulation emissions from current inventory methods."[1]

- July 1, 2015 – In accordance with California Senate Bill No. 4, the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources released a three-volume environmental impact report on oil and gas well stimulation treatments in the state (which, in California, include fracking along with acidizing and other unconventional extraction technologies that break up oil- or gas-containing rock). The Division determined that fracking and related operations can have "significant and unavoidable" impacts on air quality, including increasing ozone and other federally regulated pollutants to levels that violate air quality standards or that would make those violations worse.[2, 3]

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[1] Brandt, A., Millstein, D., Jin, L., & Englander, J. (2015, July 9). Air quality impacts from well stimulation. In: California Council on Science and Technology, *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California*, volume 2, chapter 3. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-II-chapter-3.pdf

[2] California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (2015, July 1). *Analysis of Oil and Gas Well Stimulation Treatments in California, Volume II.* Retrieved from http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/SB4DEIR/Pages/SB4_DEIR_TOC.aspx

[3] Cart. J. (2015, July 1). State issues toughest-in-the-nation fracking rules. *Los Angeles Times.* Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-state-issues-fracking-rules-20150701-story.html

- April 21, 2015 – In a study funded by the electric power industry, a research team found that fracking had diminished air quality in rural areas downwind of gas sites in two heavily drilled Pennsylvania counties but that concentrations of volatile organic compounds were not as high as expected based on results in other states. Methane levels were higher than previous research had found.[4] The extent to which the results can be generalized to the Marcellus basin as a whole, the authors emphasized, remains uncertain.[5]

- April 15, 2015 – In a review of the literature, Colorado researchers demonstrated that four common chemical air pollutants from drilling and fracking operations—benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX)—are endocrine disruptors commonly found in ambient air that have the ability to interfere with human hormones at low exposure levels, including at concentrations well below EPA recommended exposure limits. Among the health conditions linked to ambient level exposures to the BTEX family of air pollutants: sperm abnormalities, reduced fetal growth, cardiovascular disease, respiratory dysfunction, and asthma.[6] "This review suggests that BTEX may…have endocrine disrupting properties at low concentrations, presenting an important line of inquiry for future research. BTEX are used globally in consumer products, and are released from motor vehicles and oil and natural gas operations that are increasingly in close proximity to homes, schools, and other places of human activity."[7]

- March 26, 2015 – Working with citizen volunteers, a team led by Oregon State University researchers installed passive air samplers in the backyard properties of residents living within three miles of fracking wells in rural Ohio. They found levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that surpassed those measured in downtown Chicago, were ten times higher than those found in other rural areas without fracking operations, and exceeded the EPA's maximum acceptable risk level for cancer. Using standard EPA methodologies, researchers determined that the excess lifetime cancer risk for residents living nearest the wells was about 45 percent higher than for residents living farthest from them and three times higher than the EPA's acceptable risk level of 1 in 10,000.[8, 9] Public health researcher David O. Carpenter, MD, at University of Albany, who was not part of

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[4] Phillips, S. (2015, May 19). Study: lower than expected air pollutants detected at Marcellus drilling sites. *State Impact Pennsylvania.* Retrieved from https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/05/19/study-lower-than-expected-air-pollutants-from-gas-drilling-sites/

[5] Goetz, J. D., Floerchinger, C., Fortner E. C., Wormhoudt, J., Massoli, P., Knighton, W. B., . . . DeCarlo, P.F. (2015). Atmospheric emission characterization of Marcellus Shale natural gas development sites. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 7012-20. doi 10.1021/acs.est.5b00452

[6] Bienkowski, B. (2015, April 15). Scientists warn of hormone impacts from benzene, xylene, other common solvents. *Environmental Health News.* Retrieved from http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2015/apr/endocrine-disruption-hormones-benzene-solvents

[7] Bolden, A. L., Kwiatkowski, C. F., & Colborn, T. (2015). New look at BTEX: are ambient levels a problem? *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 5261-76. doi: 10.1021/es505316f

[8] Paulik, L. B., Donald C. E., Smith, B. W., Tidwell, L. G., Hobbie, K. A., Kind, L., Haynes, E. N., & Anderson, K. A. (2015, March 26). Impact of natural gas extraction on PAH levels in ambient air. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 5203-10.

[9] Hasemyer, D. (2015, May 20). New study finds fracking releases cancer-causing chemicals into air many times higher than the EPA considers safe. *Inside Climate News.* Retrieved from http://insideclimatenews.org/news/19052015/heavily-fracked-ohio-county-unsafe-levels-toxic-air-pollutants-fracking-natural-gas-drilling

the research team, said the study supports growing evidence that fracking poses health risks to those living near well pads.[10]

- March 26, 2015 – Fracking can pollute air hundreds of miles downwind from the well pad, according to the results of a study from University of Maryland. Researchers took hourly measurements of ethane in the air over Maryland and the greater Washington, DC area, where fracking does not occur, and compared them to ethane data from areas of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio where it does. They found month-to-month correlations, indicating that the ethane pollution in the air over Maryland appears to be coming from drilling and fracking operations in these other states. Ethane, a minor component of natural gas, rose 30 percent in the air over the Baltimore and Washington DC area since 2010, even as other air pollutants declined in concentration. By contrast, no increase in ethane levels were found in Atlanta, Georgia, which is not downwind of fracking operations.[11, 12] Given this evidence for widespread ethane leakage, the paper's lead author asked how much methane and other, more reactive emissions might be escaping from wells, noting that "a substantial amount of hydrocarbons" are emitted as a result of flowback procedures following the fracturing process.[13]

- March 3, 2015 – Working in Washington County, Pennsylvania, researchers with the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project developed an air exposure screening model to determine ambient levels of volatile chemicals and fine particulate air pollutants and to calculate expected human exposures for a 14-month period. The study found fluctuating periods of extreme exposures, especially at night when air was still. "The periodicity of occurrence of extreme exposures is similar to the episodic nature of the health complaints reported in Washington County and in the literature. This study demonstrates the need to determine the aggregate quantitative impact on health when multiple facilities are placed near residences, schools, daycare centers and other locations where people are present. It shows that understanding the influence of air stability and wind direction is essential to exposure assessment at the residential level."[14]

- February 27, 2015 – A team of researchers from University of Texas, funded in part by the gas industry, examined ozone (smog) production resulting from natural gas extraction and use in Texas. Previous research by this team had found that the increased use of

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[10] Lockwood, D. (2015, April 8). Fracking activities pollute nearby air with carcinogenic hydrocarbons. *Chemical & Engineering News*. Retrieved from http://cen.acs.org/articles/93/web/2015/04/Fracking-Activities-Pollute-Nearby-Air.html

[11] Vinciguerra, T. Yao, S., Dadzie, J., Chittmans, A., Deskins, T., Ehrman, S., & Dickerson, R. R. (2015). Regional air quality impacts of hydraulic fracturing and shale natural gas activities: evidence from ambient VOC observations. *Atmospheric Environment, 110,* 144-50. doi: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2015.03.056

[12] Valentine, K. (2015, April 30). Fracking wells could pollute the air hundreds of miles away. *ClimateProgress*. Retrieved from http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/04/30/3653252/fracking-air-pollution-downwind/

[13] Levine, F. & Tune, L. (2015, April 30). Emissions from natural gas wells may travel far downwind. University of Maryland: UMD Right Now. Retrieved from http://www.umdrightnow.umd.edu/news/emissions-natural-gas-wells-may-travel-far-downwind

[14] Brown, D. R., Lewis, C., & Weinberger, B. I. (2015). Human exposure to unconventional natural gas development: a public health demonstration of periodic high exposure to chemical mixtures in ambient air. *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A: Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering, 50,* 460-72. doi: 10.1080/10934529.2015.992663

natural gas for generating electricity, as a replacement for coal, contributed to overall reductions in daily maximum ozone concentrations in northeastern Texas. By contrast, the results of this study found an increase in ozone in the Eagle Ford Shale area of south Texas. The Eagle Ford Shale is upwind from both Austin and San Antonio.[15] A potent greenhouse gas, methane is also a precursor for ground-level ozone and hence a contributor to smog formation.

- January 16, 2015 – Researchers from a number of universities, including the University of New Hampshire and Appalachian State University, used a source apportionment model to estimate the contribution of natural gas extraction activities to overall air pollution, including ozone, in heavily drilled southwest Pennsylvania. This regional air sampling effort demonstrated significant changes in atmospheric chemistry from drilling and fracking operations there. The researchers found that drilling and fracking operations may affect compliance with ozone standards.[16]

- November 20, 2014 – The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality confirmed high levels of benzene emissions and other volatile organic compounds around an oil and gas facility in the Eagle Ford Shale. Symptoms reported by local residents were consistent with those known to be associated with exposure to such chemicals.[17]

- November 14, 2014 – A University of Colorado at Boulder research team found that residential areas in intensely drilled northeastern Colorado have high levels of fracking-related air pollutants, including benzene. In some cases, concentrations exceed those found in large urban centers and are within the range of exposures known to be linked to chronic health effects. According to the study, "High ozone levels are a significant health concern, as are potential health impacts from chronic exposure to primary emissions of non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC) for residents living near wells." The study also noted that tighter regulations have not resulted in lower air pollution levels, "Even though the volume of emissions per well may be decreasing, the rapid and continuing increase in the number of wells may potentially negate any real improvements to the air quality situation."[18]

- October 30, 2014 – A research team assembled by University at Albany Institute for Health and the Environment identified eight highly toxic chemicals in air samples collected near fracking and associated infrastructure sites across five states: Arkansas,

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[15] Pacsi, A. P., Kimura, Y., McGaughey, G., McDonald-Buller, E. C., & Allen, D. T., Regional ozone impacts of increased natural gas use in the Texas power sector and development in the Eagle Ford Shale. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49*, 3966-73. doi: 10.1021/es5055012

[16] Swarthout, R. F., Russo, R.S., Zhou, Y., Miller, B.M., Mitchell, B., Horsman, E., . . . Sive, B.C. (2015). Impact of Marcellus Shale natural gas development in southwest Pennsylvania on volatile organic compound emissions and regional air quality. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49*, 3175-84. doi: 10.1021/es504315f

[17] Davis, B.. (2014, November 20). TCEQ memo proves toxic chemicals are being released in the Eagle Ford Shale. KENS 5 Eyewitness News. Retrieved Nov. 25, 2014 from http://www.kens5.com/story/news/investigations/i-team/2014/11/20/benzene-oil-toxic-fumes/70020596/

[18] Thompson C. R., Hueber J., & Helmig D. (2014). Influence of oil and gas emissions on ambient atmospheric non-methane hydrocarbons in residential areas of Northeastern Colorado. *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene, 2*. doi: 10.12952/journal.elementa.000035

Colorado, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wyoming. The most common airborne chemicals detected included two proven human carcinogens (benzene and formaldehyde) and two potent neurotoxicants (hexane and hydrogen sulfide). In 29 out of 76 samples, concentrations far exceeded federal health and safety standards, sometimes by several orders of magnitude. Further, high levels of pollutants were detected at distances exceeding legal setback distances from wellheads to homes. Highly elevated levels of formaldehyde, for example, were found up to a half-mile from a wellhead. In Arkansas, seven air samples contained formaldehyde at levels up to 60 times the level known to raise the risk for cancer.[19] "This is a significant public health risk," said lead author David O. Carpenter, MD, in an accompanying interview: "Cancer has a long latency, so you're not seeing an elevation in cancer in these communities. But five, 10, 15 years from now, elevation in cancer is almost certain to happen."[20]

- October 21, 2014 – Responding to health concerns by local residents, a research team from University of Cincinnati and Oregon State University found high levels of air pollution in heavily drilled areas of rural Carroll County, Ohio. Air monitors showed 32 different hydrocarbon-based air pollutants, including the carcinogens naphthalene and benzo[a]pyrene.[21] The researchers plan additional monitoring and analysis.

- October 21, 2014 – Using a mobile laboratory designed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a research team from the University of Colorado at Boulder, the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory, and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology looked at air pollution from drilling and fracking operations in Utah's Uintah Basin. The researchers found that drilling and fracking emit prodigious amounts of volatile organic air pollutants, including benzene, toluene, and methane, all of which are precursors for ground-level ozone (smog). Multiple pieces of equipment on and off the well pad, including condensate tanks, compressors, dehydrators, and pumps, served as the sources of these emissions. This research shows that drilling and fracking activities are the cause of the extraordinarily high levels of winter smog in the remote Uintah basin—which regularly exceed air quality standards and rival that of downtown Los Angeles.[22]

- October 2, 2014 – A joint investigation by *InsideClimate News* and the Center for Public Integrity found that toxic air emissions wafting from fracking waste pits in Texas are

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[19] Macey, G. P., Breech, R., Chernaik, M., Cox, C., Larson, D., Thomas, D., & Carpenter, D. O. (2014). Air concentrations of volatile compounds near oil and gas production: a community-based exploratory study. *Environmental Health, 13*(82). doi: 10.1186/1476-069X-13-82

[20] Neuhauser, A. (2014, October 30). Toxic chemicals, carcinogens skyrocket near fracking sites. *U.S. News and World Report*. Retrieved from http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/10/30/toxic-chemicals-and-carcinogens-skyrocket-near-fracking-sites-study-says

[21] Environmental Health Sciences Center, Oregon State University. (2014). List of 62 PAH analyzed in Carroll County, OH. Retrieved from http://ehsc.oregonstate.edu/air/62PAH

[22] Warneke, C., Geiger, F., Edwards, P. M., Dube, W., Pétron, G., Kofler, J., . . . Roberts, J. M. (2014). Volatile organic compound emissions from the oil and natural gas industry in the Uintah Basin, Utah: oil and gas well pad emissions compared to ambient air composition. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, 14*, 10977-10988. doi: 10.5194/acp-14-10977-2014

unmonitored and unregulated due to federal exemptions that classify oil and gas field waste as non-hazardous.[23]

- October 1, 2014 – In a major paper published in *Nature*, an international team led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration demonstrated that exceptionally high emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) explain how drilling and fracking operations in Utah's Uintah Basin create extreme wintertime ozone events even in the absence of abundant ultraviolet light and water vapor, which are typically required to produce ground-level ozone (smog). Current air pollution trends in the United States are toward lower nitrogen oxides from urban sources and power generation, but increasing methane and VOCs from oil and gas extraction activities threaten to reverse decades of progress in attaining cleaner air. According to the study, the consequences for public health are "as yet unrecognized."[24]

- September 6, 2014 – As part of a comparative lifecycle analysis, a British team from the University of Manchester found that shale gas extracted via fracking in the United Kingdom would generate more smog than any other energy source evaluated (coal, conventional and liquefied gas, nuclear, wind, and solar). Leakage of vaporous organic compounds during the necessary removal of hydrogen sulfide gas, along with the venting of gas both during drilling and during the process of making the well ready for production, were major contributors. "In comparison to other technologies, shale gas has high [photochemical smog]. In the central case, it is worse than solar PV, offshore wind and nuclear power by factors of 3, 26 and 45, respectively. Even in the best case, wind and nuclear power are still preferable (by factors of 3.3 and 5.6 respectively)."[25]

- September 2014 – ShaleTest Environmental Testing conducted ambient air quality tests and gas-finder infrared video for several children's play areas in North Texas that are located in close proximity to shale gas development. The results showed a large number of compounds detected above the Method Reporting Limit (the minimum quantity of the compound that can be confidently determined by the laboratory). Air sampling found three known/suspected carcinogens, and a number of other compounds associated with significant health effects. Benzene results from Denton, Dish, and Fort Worth are particularly alarming since they exceeded the long-term ambient air limits set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and benzene is a known carcinogen. "Benzene was found at all but one sampling location …. This is particularly noteworthy as benzene is a known carcinogen (based on evidence from studies in both people and lab

[23] Hasemyer, D. & Hirji, Z. (2014, October 2). Open piles offer cheap disposal for fracking sludge, but health worries mount. InsideClimate News and the Center for Public Integrity. Retrieved from http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/10/02/15826/open-pits-offer-cheap-disposal-fracking-sludge-health-worries-mount

[24] Edwards, P. M., Brown, S. S., Roberts, J. M., Ahmadov, R., Banta, R. M., deGouw, J.A., . . Zamora, R. (2014). High winter ozone pollution from carbonyl photolysis in an oil and gas basin. *Nature, 514*(7522), 351-354. doi: 10.1038/nature13767

[25] Stamford, L. & Azapagic, A. (2014). Life cycle environmental impacts of UK shale gas. *Applied Energy, 134*, 506-518. doi: 10.1016/j.apenergy.2014.08.063

animals), AND because it exceeds [levels above which effects have the potential to occur.]"[26]

- August 24, 2014 – A *Salt Lake City Tribune* investigation found that evaporation from 14 fracking waste pits in western Colorado has added tons of toxic chemicals to Utah's air in the last six years. Further, the company responsible operated with no permit, underreported its emissions and provided faulty data to regulators.[27]

- August 2014 – A four-part investigation by the *San Antonio Express-News* found that natural gas flaring in the Eagle Ford Shale in 2012 contributed more than 15,000 tons of volatile organic compounds and other contaminants to the air of southern Texas—which is roughly equivalent to the pollution that would be released annually by six oil refineries. No state or federal agency is tracking the emissions from individual flares.[28]

- June 26, 2014 – Public health professionals at the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project reported significant recurrent spikes in the amount of particulate matter in the air inside of residential homes located near drilling and fracking operations. Captured by indoor air monitors, the spikes tend to occur at night when stable atmospheric conditions hold particulate matter low to the ground. Director Raina Ripple emphasized that spikes in airborne particulate matter are likely to cause acute health impacts in community members. She added, "What the long-term effects are going to be, we're not certain."[29] (See also footnote 281 for a related study on self-reported health effects by researchers from Yale and University of Washington.)

- May 8, 2014 – Researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found high levels of methane leaks as well as benzene and smog-forming volatile organic compounds in the air over oil and gas drilling areas in Colorado. Researchers found methane emissions three times higher than previously estimated and benzene and volatile organic compound levels seven times higher than estimated by government agencies. The *Denver Post* noted that Colorado's Front Range has failed to meet federal ozone air quality standards for years.[30]

- April 26, 2014 – A Texas jury awarded a family $2.8 million because, according to the lawsuit, a fracking company operating on property nearby had "created a 'private nuisance' by producing harmful air pollution and exposing [members of the affected

[26] ShaleTest Environmental Testing. (2014, September). Project playground: Cleaner air for active kids. Retrieved from http://www.shaletest.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/ProjectPlaygoundPatagoniaReport-5-1.pdf
[27] Maffly, B. (2014, August 24). Utah grapples with toxic water from oil and gas industry. *Salt Lake City Tribune*. Retrieved from http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/58298470-78/danish-flats-ponds-company.html
[28] Hiller, J. & Tedesco, J. (2014, August). Up in flames: Flare in Eagle Ford Shale wasting natural gas. *San Antonio Express News.* Retrieved from: http://www.expressnews.com/business/eagleford/item/Up-in-Flames-Day-1-Flares-in-Eagle-Ford-Shale-32626.php
[29] McMahon, J. (2014, June 26). Air pollution spikes in homes near fracking wells. *Forbes*. Retrieved from http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2014/06/26/air-pollution-spikes-in-homes-near-fracking-wells/
[30] Finley, B. (2014, May 8). Scientists flying over Colorado oil boom find worse air pollution. *The Denver Post*. Retrieved from http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_25719742/scientists-flying-over-colorado-oil-boom-find-worse

family] to harmful emissions of volatile organic compounds, toxic air pollutants and diesel exhaust." The family's 11-year-old daughter became ill, and family members suffered a range of symptoms, including "nosebleeds, vision problems, nausea, rashes, blood pressure issues."[31] Because drilling did not occur on their property, the family had initially been unaware that their symptoms were caused by activities around them.

- April 16, 2014 – Reviewing the peer-review literature to date of "direct pertinence to the environmental public health and environmental exposure pathways," a U.S. team of researchers concluded: "[a] number of studies suggest that shale gas development contributes to levels of ambient air concentrations known to be associated with increased risk of morbidity and mortality."[32]

  April 11, 2014 – A modeling study commissioned by the state of Texas made striking projections about worsening air quality in the Eagle Ford Shale. Findings included the possibility of a 281 percent increase in emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Some VOCs cause respiratory and neurological problems; others, like benzene, are also carcinogens. Another finding was that nitrogen oxides—which react with VOCs in sunlight to create ground-level ozone, the main component of smog—increased 69 percent during the peak ozone season.[33]

- March 29, 2014 – Scientists warn that current methods of collecting and analyzing emissions data do not accurately assess health risks. Researchers with the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project showed that methods do not adequately measure the intensity, frequency, or durations of community exposure to the toxic chemicals routinely released from drilling and fracking activities. They found that exposures may be underestimated by an order of magnitude, mixtures of chemicals are not taken into account, and local weather conditions and vulnerable populations are ignored.[34]

- March 27, 2014 – University of Texas research pointed to "potentially false assurances" in response to community health concerns in shale gas development areas. Dramatic shortcomings in air pollution monitoring to date include no accounting for cumulative toxic emissions or children's exposures during critical developmental stages, and the

[31] Morris, J. (2014, April 26). Texas family plagued with ailments gets $3M in 1st-of-its-kind fracking judgment. *CNN*. Retrieved from http://www.cnn.com/2014/04/25/justice/texas-family-wins-fracking-lawsuit/

[32] Shonkoff, S. B., Hays, J., & Finkel, M. L. (2014). Environmental public health dimensions of shale and tight gas development. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 122,* 787–795. doi: 10.1289/ehp.1307866

[33] Morris, J., Song, L., & Hasemayer, D. (2014, April 11). Report: Air quality to worsen in Eagle Ford shale. *The Texas Tribune*. Retrieved from http://www.texastribune.org/2014/04/11/report-air-quality-worsen-eagle-ford-shale/

[34] Brown, D., Weinberger, B., Lewis, C., & Bonaparte, H. (2014). Understanding exposure from natural gas drilling puts current air standards to the test. *Reviews on Environmental Health, 29*(4), 277-92. doi: 10.1515/reveh-2014-0002

potential interactive effects of mixtures of chemicals. Chemical mixtures of concern include benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes.[35, 36]

- March 13, 2014 – Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted in Utah's heavily drilled Uintah Basin led to 39 winter days exceeding the EPA's eight-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards level for ozone pollutants the previous winter. "Levels above this threshold are considered to be harmful to human health, and high levels of ozone are known to cause respiratory distress and be responsible for an estimated 5,000 premature deaths in the U.S. per year," according to researchers at the University of Colorado. Their observations "reveal a strong causal link between oil and gas emissions, accumulation of air toxics, and significant production of ozone in the atmospheric surface layer."[37] Researchers estimated that total annual VOC emissions at the fracking sites are equivalent to those of about 100 million cars.[38]

- March 3, 2014 – In a report summarizing "the current understanding of local and regional air quality impacts of natural gas extraction, production, and use," a group of researchers from NOAA, Stanford, Duke, and other institutions described what is known and unknown with regard to air emissions including greenhouse gases, ozone precursors (volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides), air toxics, and particulates. Crystalline silica was also discussed, including as a concern for people living near well pads and production staging areas.[39]

- February 18, 2014 – An eight-month investigation by the *Weather Channel*, the *Center for Public Integrity*, and *InsideClimate News* into fracking in the Eagle Ford Shale in Texas revealed that fracking is "releasing a toxic soup of chemicals into the air." They noted very poor monitoring by the state of Texas and reported on hundreds of air complaints filed relating to air pollution associated with fracking.[40]

- December 18, 2013 – An interdisciplinary group of researchers in Texas collected air samples in residential areas near shale gas extraction and production, going beyond previous Barnett Shale studies by including emissions from the whole range of production equipment. They found that most areas had "atmospheric methane

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[35] Rawlins, R. (2013). Planning for fracking on the Barnett shale: Urban air pollution, improving health based regulation, and the role of local governments. *Virginia Environmental Law Journal, 31*, 226-306. Retrieved from http://www.velj.org/uploads/1/2/7/0/12706894/2._rawlins_-_barnett_shale.pdf

[36] University of Texas at Austin. (2014, March 27). Air pollution and hydraulic fracturing: Better monitoring, planning and tracking of health effects needed in Texas. Retrieved from http://www.utexas.edu/news/2014/03/27/hydraulic-fracturing-texas/

[37] Helmig, D., Thompson, C. R., Evans, J., Boylan, P., Hueber, J., & Park, J. (2014). Highly elevated atmospheric levels of volatile organic compounds in the Uintah Basin, Utah [Abstract]. *Environmental Science & Technology, 48*(9), 4707-4715. doi: 10.1021/es405046r

[38] Lockwood, D. (2014, March 25). Harmful air pollutants build up near oil and gas fields. *Chemical & Engineering News.* Retrieved from http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/web/2014/03/Harmful-Air-Pollutants-Build-Near.html

[39] Moore, C. W., Zielinska, B., Petron, G., & Jackson, R. B. (2014). Air impacts of increased natural gas acquisition, processing, and use: A critical review. *Environmental Science & Technology*. doi: 10.1021/es4053472

[40] Morris, J., Song, L., & Hasemayer, D. (2014, February 18). Fracking the Eagle Ford Shale. *The Weather Channel*. Retrieved from http://stories.weather.com/fracking

concentrations considerably higher than reported urban background concentrations," and many toxic chemicals were "strongly associated" with compressor stations.[41]

- December 10, 2013 – Health department testing at fracking sites in West Virginia revealed dangerous levels of benzene in the air. Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department Administrator Howard Gamble stated, "The levels of benzene really pop out. The amounts they were seeing were at levels of concern. The concerns of the public are validated."[42]

- October 11, 2013 – Air sampling before, during, and after drilling and fracking of a new natural gas well pad in rural western Colorado documented the presence of the toxic solvent methylene chloride, along with several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at "concentrations greater than those at which prenatally exposed children in urban studies had lower developmental and IQ scores."[43]

- September 19, 2013 – In Texas, air monitoring data in the Eagle Ford Shale area revealed potentially dangerous exposures of nearby residents to hazardous air pollutants, including cancer-causing benzene and the neurological toxicant, hydrogen sulfide.[44]

- September 13, 2013 – A study by researchers at the University of California at Irvine found dangerous levels of volatile organic compounds in Canada's "Industrial Heartland" where there are more than 40 oil, gas, and chemical facilities. The researchers noted high levels of hematopoietic cancers (leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma) in men who live closer to the facilities.[45]

- April 29, 2013 – Using American Lung Association data, researchers with the Environmental Defense Fund determined that air quality in rural areas with fracking was worse than air quality in urban areas.[46]

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[41] Rich, A., Grover, J. P., & Sattler, M. L. (2014). An exploratory study of air emissions associated with shale gas development and production in the Barnett Shale. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 64*(1), 61-72. doi: 10.1080/10962247.2013.832713

[42] Junkins, C. (2013, December 10). Health dept. concerned about benzene emissions near local gas drilling sites. *The Intelligencer, Wheeling News-Register*. Retrieved from http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/593209/Health-Dept--Concerned-About-Benzene-Emissions-Near-Local-Gas-Drilling-Sites.html?nav=510

[43] Colborn, T., Schultz, K., Herrick, L., & Kwiatkowski, C. (2014). An exploratory study of air quality near natural gas operations. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal, 20*(1), 86-105. doi: 10.1080/10807039.2012.749447

[44] Wilson, S., Sumi, L., & Subra, W. (2013, September 19). Reckless endangerment while fracking the Eagle Ford shale. *Earthworks*. Retrieved from http://www.earthworksaction.org/library/detail/reckless_endangerment_in_the_eagle_ford_shale#.UkGi-4Y3uSo.

[45] Simpson, I. J., Marrero, J. E., Batterman, S. & Blake, D. R. (2013) Air quality in the Industrial Heartland of Alberta, Canada and potential impacts on human health. *Atmospheric Environment, 81*, 702-709. doi: 10.1016/j.atmosenv.2013.09.017

[46] Grossman, D. (2013, April 29). Clean air report card: CO, WY Counties get F's due to oil and gas pollution. *Environmental Defense Fund*. Retrieved from http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2013/04/29/clean-air-report-card-co-wy-counties-get-fs-due-to-oil-and-gas-pollution/#sthash.FXRV6Nxi.dpuf

- March 2013 – A review of regional air quality damages in parts of Pennsylvania in 2012 from Marcellus Shale development found that air pollution was a significant concern, with regional damages ranging from $7.2 to $32 million in 2011.[47]

- February 27, 2013 – In a letter from Concerned Health Professionals of New York to Governor Andrew Cuomo, a coalition of hundreds of health organizations, scientists, medical experts, elected officials, and environmental organizations noted serious health concerns about the prospects of fracking in New York State, making specific note of air pollution.[48] Signatory organizations included the American Academy of Pediatrics of New York, the American Lung Association of New York, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. The New York State Medical Society, representing 30,000 medical professionals, has issued similar statements.[49]

- January 2, 2013 – A NOAA study identified emissions from oil and gas fields in Utah as a significant source of pollutants that contribute to ozone problems.[50] Exposure to elevated levels of ground-level ozone is known to worsen asthma and has been linked to respiratory illnesses and increased risk of stroke and heart attack.[51]

- December 3, 2012 – A study linked a single well pad in Colorado to more than 50 airborne chemicals, 44 of which have known health effects.[52]

- July 18, 2012 – A study by the Houston Advanced Research Center modeled ozone formation from a natural gas processing facility using accepted emissions estimates and showed that regular operations could significantly raise levels of ground-level ozone (smog) in the Barnett Shale in Texas and that gas flaring further contributed to ozone levels.[53]

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[47] Litovitz, A., Curtright, A., Abramzon, S., Burger, N., & Samaras, C. (2013). Estimation of regional air-quality damages from Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction in Pennsylvania. *Environmental Research Letters, 8*(1). doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/8/1/014017

[48] Concerned Health Professionals of NY. (2013, February 27). Letter to Governor Cuomo. Retrieved from http://concernedhealthny.org/letters-to-governor-cuomo/

[49] Campbell, J. (2013, April 17). Fracking roundup: Gas prices up; Medical society wants moratorium. *Politics on the Hudson*. Retrieved from http://polhudson.lohudblogs.com/2013/04/17/fracking-roundup-gas-prices-up-medical-society-wants-moratorium/

[50] Tollefson, J. (2013). Methane leaks erode green credentials of natural gas. *Nature, 493*(7430), 12-12. doi: 10.1038/493012a

[51] American Lung Association. (2013). American Lung Association state of the air 2013 - Ozone pollution. Retrieved from http://www.stateoftheair.org/2013/health-risks/health-risks-ozone.html

[52] Colborn, T., Schultz, K., Herrick, L., & Kwiatkowski, C. (2014). An exploratory study of air quality near natural gas operations. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal, 20*(1), 86-105. doi: 10.1080/10807039.2012.749447

[53] Olaguer, E. P. (2012). The potential near-source ozone impacts of upstream oil and gas industry emissions. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 62*(8), 966-977. doi: 10.1080/10962247.2012.688923

- March 19, 2012 – A Colorado School of Public Health study found air pollutants near fracking sites linked to neurological and respiratory problems and cancer.[54] [55] The study, based on three years of monitoring at Colorado sites, found a number of "potentially toxic petroleum hydrocarbons in the air near gas wells including benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylene." Lisa McKenzie, PhD, MPH, lead author of the study and research associate at the Colorado School of Public Health, said, "Our data show that it is important to include air pollution in the national dialogue on natural gas development that has focused largely on water exposures to hydraulic fracturing."[56]

- December 12, 2011 – Cancer specialists, cancer advocacy organizations, and health organizations summarized the cancer risks posed by all stages of the shale gas extraction process in a letter to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.[57]

- October 5, 2011 – More than 250 medical experts and health organizations reviewed the multiple health risks from fracking in a letter sent to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.[58]

- April 21, 2011 – *Environment & Energy (E&E)* reported that ozone levels exceeding federal health standards in Utah's Uintah Basin, as well as wintertime ozone problems in other parts of the Intermountain West, stem from oil and gas extraction. Levels reached nearly twice the federal standard, potentially dangerous even for healthy adults to breathe. Keith Guille, spokesman for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, said, "We recognize that definitely the main contributor to the emissions that are out there is the oil and gas industry…."[59]

- March 8, 2011 – The Associated Press reported that gas drilling in some remote areas of Wyoming caused a decline of air quality from pristine mountain air to levels of smog and pollution worse than Los Angeles on its worst days, resulting in residents complaining of watery eyes, shortness of breath, and bloody noses.[60]

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[54] Kelly, D. (2012, March 19). Study shows air emissions near fracking sites may pose health risk. *University of Colorado Denver*. Retrieved from http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/health-impacts-of-fracking-emissions.aspx

[55] McKenzie, L. M., Witter, R. Z., Newman, L. S., & Adgate, J. L. (2012). Human health risk assessment of air emissions from development of unconventional natural gas resources. *Science of the Total Environment, 424*, 79-87. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2012.02.018

[56] Banerjee, N. (2012, March 20). Study: 'Fracking' may increase air pollution health risks. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved from http://articles.latimes.com/2012/mar/20/local/la-me-gs-fracking-increases-air-pollution-health-risks-to-residents-20120320

[57] Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy. (2011, December 12). Appeal to Gov. Cuomo to consider cancer risks re: High volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas [Letter to A. Cuomo].

[58] Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy. (2011, October 5). Letter to Governor Cuomo [Letter to A. Cuomo].

[59] Streater, S. (2011, April 21). Air pollution: Winter ozone problem continues to mystify regulators, industry. *E&E Publishing, LLC*. Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059948108

[60] Gruver, M. (2011, March 8). Wyoming is beset by a big-city problem: Smog. *USA Today*. Retrieved from http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/industries/energy/2011-03-08-natural-gas-ozone-wyoming_N.htm

- November 18, 2010 – A study of air quality in the Haynesville Shale region of east Texas, northern Louisiana, and southwestern Arkansas found that shale oil and gas extraction activities contributed significantly to ground-level ozone (smog) via high emissions of ozone precursors, including volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides.[61] Ozone is a key risk factor for asthma and other respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.[62, 63, 64, 65]

- September 2010 – A health assessment by the Colorado School of Public Health for gas development in Garfield County, Colorado determined that air pollution will likely "be high enough to cause short-term and long-term disease, especially for residents living near gas wells. Health effects may include respiratory disease, neurological problems, birth defects and cancer."[66, 67]

- January 27, 2010 – Of 94 drilling sites tested for benzene in air over the Barnett Shale, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality discovered two well sites emitting what they determined to be "extremely high levels" and another 19 emitting elevated levels.[68]

Water contamination

Emerging science confirms that drilling and fracking inherently threaten groundwater and have contaminated drinking water sources. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 240 private drinking water wells have been contaminated or have dried up as the result of drilling and fracking operations over a seven-year period. A range of studies from across the United States

[61] Kemball-Cook, S., Bar-Ilan, A., Grant, J., Parker, L., Jung, J., Santamaria, W., . . . Yarwood, G. (2010). Ozone impacts of natural gas development in the Haynesville Shale. *Environmental Science & Technology, 44*(24), 9357-9363. doi: 10.1021/es1021137

[62] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2013). Integrated science assessment for ozone and related photochemical oxidants. Retrieved from http://www.epa.gov/ncea/isa/ozone.htm

[63] Shah, A. S., Lee, K. K., McAllister, D. A., Hunter, A., Nair, H., Whiteley, W., . . . Mills, N. L. (2015). Short term exposure to air pollution and stroke: systematic review and meta-analysis. *British Medical Journal, 24*(1295). doi: 10.1136/bmj.h1295

[64] Shah, A. S., Langrish, J. P., Nair, H., McAllister, D. A., Hunter, A., L., Donaldson, K., . . . Mills, N. L. (2013). Global association of air pollution and heart failure: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *The Lancet, 382*(9897), 1039-1048. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(13)60898-3.

[65] Myers, O., Flowers, H., Kang, H., Bedrick, E., Whorton, B., Cui, X., & Stidley, C. A. (2007). The association between ambient air quality ozone levels and medical visits for asthma in San Juan County. New Mexico Department of Health, Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau Epidemiology and Response Division. Retrieved from http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/4C/Documents/SanJuanAsthmaDocBW.pdf

[66] Witter, R., McKenzie, L., Towle, M., Stinson, K., Scott, K., Newman, L., & Adgate, J. (2010). Health impact assessment for Battlement Mesa, Garfield County Colorado. *Colorado School of Public Health*. Retrieved from http://www.garfield-county.com/public-health/documents/1%20%20%20Complete%20HIA%20without%20Appendix%20D.pdf

[67] Battlement Mesa HIA/EHMS. (2013, November 30). Retrieved from http://www.garfield-county.com/environmental-health/battlement-mesa-health-impact-assessment-draft2.aspx

[68] The Associated Press. (2010, January 27). Texas agency finds high benzene levels on Barnett Shale. Retrieved from http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2010/01/texas_agency_finds_high_benzen.html

presents irrefutable evidence that groundwater contamination occurs and is more likely to occur close to drilling sites. The nation's 187,570 injection wells for disposal of fracking waste also pose demonstrable threats to drinking water aquifers. Municipal sewage treatment plants are not capable of treating fracking waste; disposal of fracking waste through them can encourage the formation of carcinogenic byproducts during chlorination. The disposal of fracking wastewater remains a problem without a safe, viable solution. Overall, the number of well blowouts (unintentional releases of pressurized gases and fluids), spills, and cases of surface water contamination from waste pits and other sources has steadily grown. Meanwhile, the gas industry's use of "gag orders," non-disclosure agreements, and settlements impede scientific study and stifle public awareness of the extent of these problems.

- July 30, 2015 – As reported by the *Los Angeles Times*, unlined waste pits and hillside spraying of oil-field wastewater have contaminated groundwater in Kern County, California. Five of six monitoring wells in the 94-acre waste site showed high levels of salt, boron, and chloride, but it is not known how far and fast the contaminated plume has traveled.[69]

- July 21, 2015 – By surveying records for 44,000 wells fracked between 2010 and 2013, researchers from Stanford University, Duke University, and Ohio State University attempted a first-ever assessment of the range of depths at which fracking occurs across the United States. They found that many wells are shallower than widely presumed.[70] As the authors noted, vertical fractures are able to propagate 2,000 feet upward, and hence, "shallow hydraulic fracturing often has greater potential risks of contamination than deeper hydraulic fracturing does." This study showed that drinking water sources may be more vulnerable from upward migration of fracking contaminants than previously presumed. Surprisingly, the researchers found no strong relationship between depth and the volume of water and chemicals used for fracking. Many wells were both shallow and water-intensive, with significant variation in water use from state to state.[71]

- July 9, 2015 – A multi-volume report from the California Council of Science and Technology (CCST) found threats to groundwater in California from several parts of the fracking lifecycle, most notably from toxic wastewater. First, wastewater from California fracking operations is sometimes used for crop irrigation, in which case contaminants may seep from the surface of agricultural areas into groundwater. Second, nearly 60 percent of fracking wastewater in California is disposed of in unlined, open-air pits, a practice that is banned in almost all other states. There are 900 such waste disposal pits in the state, most of which are located in Kern County. Third, for many years, fracking wastewater in California has been mistakenly sent, via injection wells, directly into

[69] Cart, J. (2015, July 30). Central valley wastewater disposal to continue despite contamination. *Los Angeles Times.* Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-oil-waste-pits-20150731-story.html

[70] Jordon, R. (2015, July 21). Shallow fracking raises questions for water, new Stanford research shows, Stanford University press release. Retrieved from http://news.stanford.edu/news/2015/july/fracking_water-jackson-072115.html

[71] Jackson, R. B., Lowry, E. R., Pickle, A., Kang, M., DiGiullo, D., & Zhao, K. (2015). The depths of hydraulic fracturing and accompanying water use across the United States. *Environmental Science & Technology*, doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b01228

protected aquifers containing clean freshwater.[72] California's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources allowed fracking wastes to be injected into aquifers that it believed were exempt from the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act. Conceding this mistake, the agency has shut down 23 injection wells for fracking waste disposal and established a two-year timetable for phasing out other wells injecting waste into aquifers that should have been protected.[73] Fracking also threatens California's groundwater resources through water consumption, according to the CCST study. While this volume of water represents a small percentage of overall annual water consumption in California, fracking-related water use is, the study notes, disproportionately concentrated in areas of the state already suffering from water shortages. Further drawdowns of these aquifers may interfere with agricultural and municipal water needs.[74] In addition, because the oil-containing rock layers in California are located closer to the surface than in other states, the state's groundwater is potentially vulnerable to chemical contamination through vertical faults and fissures and via old and abandoned wells. The absence of evidence for direct contamination of groundwater by fracking, the study concludes, reflects absence of investigation rather than evidence of safety.[75]

- June 30, 2015 – The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) released the first nationwide map of water usage for hydraulic fracturing. It shows wide geographic and temporal variation in the amount of water used to frack a single well. In general, gas wells consume more water per well (5.1 million gallons on average) than oil wells (4 million gallons). Median annual water volumes needed to frack a single horizontal oil or gas well increased dramatically—by a factor of 25 or more—between 2000 and 2014. A typical gas or oil well that is horizontally fracked now requires between six and eight Olympic-sized swimming pools of water. In 2014, the majority (58 percent) of new hydraulically fracked oil and gas wells were horizontally drilled. The watersheds where the most water was consumed for hydraulic fracturing are mostly located in southern or southwestern states and correspond to the following shale formations: the Eagle Ford and Barnett Shales in Texas; the Haynesville-Bossier Shale in Texas and Louisiana; the Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas; the Tuscaloosa Shale in Louisiana and Mississippi; and the Woodford Shale in Oklahoma. The Marcellus and Utica Shales—which underlie watersheds in parts

[72] Shonkoff, S. B. C., Jordan, P., Hays, J., Stringfellow, W. T., Wettstein, Z. S., Harrison, R., Sandelin, W., & McKone, T. E. (2015, July 9). Volume II, Chapter 6: Potential impacts of well stimulation on human health in California. In: *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California.* California Council on Science and Technology, Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-II-chapter-6.pdf

[73] Baker, D. R. (2015, July 16). U.S. likely to bar oil-waste dumping into 10 California aquifers. *San Francisco Chronicle.* Retrieved from http://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/U-S-likely-to-bar-oil-waste-dumping-into-10-6389677.php

[74] Stringfellow, W. T., Cooley H., Varadharajan, C., Heberger, M., Reagan, M. T., Domen, J.K., . . . Houseworth, J. E. (2015, July 9). Volume II, Chapter 2: Impacts of well stimulation on water resources. In: *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California.* California Council on Science and Technology, Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-II-chapter-2.pdf

[75] Long, J. C. S, Birkholzer, J. T., & Feinstein, L. C. (2015, July 9). Summary report. In: *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California.* California Council on Science and Technology, Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from: http://ccst.us/publications/2015/2015SB4summary.pdf

of Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New York—were also in the top seven water-consuming shale plays in the United States.[76]

- June 26, 2015 – A decade-long USGS study of 11,000 public drinking water wells in California—nearly all the groundwater used for public supply—found high levels of potentially toxic contaminants in about 20 percent of the wells, affecting about 18 percent of the state's population.[77] Although the study did not specifically investigate contaminants from oil and gas extraction, it does provide evidence for farm irrigation draining into groundwater, raising questions about the possible contamination of drinking water aquifers from the reuse of fracking wastewater for crop irrigation.[78]

- June 16, 2015 – A University of Texas research team documented widespread drinking water contamination throughout the heavily drilled Barnett Shale region in northern Texas. The study, which analyzed 550 water samples from public and private water wells, found elevated levels of 19 different hydrocarbon compounds associated with fracking (including the carcinogen benzene and the reproductive toxicant, toluene), detections of methanol and ethanol, and strikingly high levels of 10 different metals.[79] "In the abstract, we can't state that unconventional oil and gas techniques are responsible," the lead author, Zachariah Hildenbrand, said in a media interview. "But when you get into areas where drilling is happening, you find more instances of contamination. It's not coincidental. There are causes for concern."[80]

- June 5, 2015 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) long-awaited 600-page draft report on the potential impacts of fracking for drinking water resources confirmed specific instances of drinking water contamination linked to drilling and fracking activities. The report also identified potential mechanisms, both above and below ground, by which drinking water resources can be contaminated by fracking. In some cases, drinking water was contaminated by spills of fracking fluid and wastewater. In other cases, "[b]elow ground movement of fluids, including gas ... have contaminated drinking water resources." The EPA investigators documented 457 fracking-related spills over six years but acknowledged that they do not know how many more may have occurred. Of the total known spills, 300 reached an environmental receptor such as surface water or groundwater. The EPA also conceded that insufficient baseline drinking

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[76] Gallegos, T. J., Varela, B. A., Haines, S. S., & Engle, M. A. (2015). Hydraulic fracturing water use variability in the United States and potential environmental implications. *Water Resources Research*. Accepted author manuscript. doi: 10.1002/2015WR017278

[77] Belitz, K., Fram, M. S., & Johnson, T. D. (2015). Metrics for assessing the quality of groundwater used for public supply, CA, USA: equivalent-population and area. *Environmental Science & Technology*. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b00265

[78] Knickmeyer E., & Smith, S. (2015, July 15). Study finds contaminants in California public-water supplies. *Associated Press.* Retrieved from http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/study-finds-contaminants-california-public-water-supplies-32476456

[79] Hildenbrand, Z. L., Carlton, D. D., Fontenot, B. E., Meik, J. M., Walton, J.L., Taylor, J. T., . . .Schug, K.A. (2015) A comprehensive analysis of groundwater quality in the Barnett Shale region. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49*(13), 8254-62. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b01526

[80] McPhate, C. (2015, June 18). New study reveals potential contamination. *Denton Record-Chronicle*. Retrieved from http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20150618-new-study-reveals-potential-contamination.ece

water data and a lack of long-term systematic studies limited the power of its findings. The EPA investigation confirmed a number of specific instances where these potential mechanisms did indeed lead to drinking water contamination. An assertion in the EPA's accompanying press release that it had not found "widespread, systemic impacts to drinking water resources" was quoted out of context by many media sources as proof that fracking poses little threat to drinking water. To the contrary, this report confirmed that drilling and fracking activities have contaminated drinking water in some cases and acknowledged that it cannot ascertain how widespread the problem was due to insufficient data.[81] EPA Science Advisor Thomas A. Burke later clarified that the report does not show that fracking is safe. Burke said, "That is not the message of this report. The message of this report is that we have identified vulnerabilities in the water system that are really important to know about and address to keep risks as low as possible."[82]

- May 19, 2015 – A Pennsylvania State University research team documented the presence of a fracking-related solvent, 2-n-Butoxyethanol, in the drinking water from three homes in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, as part of an investigation of private drinking water wells near drilling and fracking operations that contained methane and foam. This finding represents the first fully documented case of a commonly used fracking chemical entering a drinking water source. "The most likely explanation of the incident is that stray natural gas and drilling or [hydrofracking] compounds were driven ~1-3 km along shallow to intermediate depth fractures to the aquifer used as a potable water source."[83] In an accompanying *New York Times* story, lead author Susan Brantley described the geology in northern Pennsylvania "as being similar to a layer cake with numerous layers that extend down thousands of feet to the Marcellus Shale. The vertical fractures are like knife cuts through the layers. They can extend deep underground, and can act like superhighways for escaped gas and liquids from drill wells to travel along, for distances greater than a mile away."[84]

- May 15, 2015 – A research team from the University of Colorado Boulder and California State Polytechnic Institute developed a model for identifying which fracking fluid chemicals are most likely to contaminate drinking water. Of 996 fracking fluid compounds known to be in use, researchers screened 659 of them for their ability to persist, migrate, and reach groundwater aquifers over a short time scale. Of the fifteen compounds so identified, two were commonly used in fracking operations: naphthalene and 2-butoxyethanol. Both are ingredients in surfactants and corrosion inhibitors. The authors noted that 2-butoxyethanol has been detected in drinking water in a heavily

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[81] U.S. EPA. (2015). *Assessment of the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas on drinking water resources* (External review draft). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-15/047, 2015. Retrieved from http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/hfstudy/recordisplay.cfm?deid=244651

[82] Ward Jr., K. (2015, June 7). EPA says new study doesn't show fracking is safe. *Charleston Gazette*. Retrieved from: http://www.wvgazettemail.com/article/20150607/GZ01/150609432

[83] Llewellyn G. T., Dorman, F, Westland, J. L., Yoxtheimer, D., Grieve, P. Sowers, T., . . . Brantley, S. L. (2015). Evaluating a groundwater supply contamination incident attributed to Marcellus Shale gas development. *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, 112*, 6325-30. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1420279112/-/DCSupplemental

[84] St. Fleur, N. (2015, May 4). Fracking chemicals detected in Pennsylvania drinking water. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/science/earth/fracking-chemicals-detected-in-pennsylvania-drinking-water.html?_r=0#addendums

fracked area of Pennsylvania. Exposure to 2-butoxyethanol has been linked to birth defects in animals. Naphthalene is a possible human carcinogen that is toxic to red blood cells and contributes to kidney and liver damage. Researchers did not consider the impact of mixtures, interactions between contaminants, or chemical transformations during the fracking or flowback process and noted, "the need for data on the degradation of many compounds used in fracturing fluids under conditions relevant for groundwater transport."[85]

- May 7, 2015 – A survey of streams in Arkansas, led by the University of Central Arkansas, found alterations in macroinvertebrate communities to be related to drilling and fracking operations in the Fayetteville Shale. Fracking activity near streams was associated with greater sediment and more chlorophyll. "This study suggests that land disturbance from gas development affected stream communities."[86]

- April 20, 2015 – A USGS team analyzed water brought to the surface during natural gas extraction at 13 fracked wells in northern Pennsylvania. They found large variability in the volatile organic compounds and microorganisms in the water samples from different wells. Organic chemical contaminants included benzene, toluene, and perchloroethylene, chloroform, and methylene chloride. The presence of microbes was associated with concentrations of benzene and acetate. Despite the addition of biocides during the fracking process, hydrogen sulfide-producing bacteria were present at culturable levels, along with methogenic and fermenting bacteria. The source of these microorganisms was not determined. "Therefore, we cannot exclude the possibility that these microorganisms are native to the shale formation and reactivated by [hydrofracking] activities, as their physiology does not indicate a terrestrial surficial source."[87]

- April 8, 2015 – A University of Colorado Boulder research team's analysis of the organic chemicals found in liquid waste that flowed out of gas wells in Colorado after they had been fracked revealed the presence of many fracking fluid additives, including biocides, which are potentially harmful if they leak into groundwater. According to the authors, treatment of fracking wastewater must include aeration, precipitation, disinfection, a biological treatment to remove dissolved organic matter, and reverse osmosis desalination in order for it to be appropriate for non-fracking uses, such as crop irrigation.[88]

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[85] Rogers, J. D., Burke, T. L., Osborn, S. G., & Ryan, J. N. (2015). A framework for identifying organic compounds of concern in hydraulic fracturing fluids based on their mobility and persistence in groundwater. *Environmental Science & Technology Letters, 2,* 158-64.

[86] Johnson, E., Austin, B. J., Inlander, E., Gallipeau, C., Evans-White, M. A., & Entrekin, S. (2015). Stream macroinvertebrate communities across a gradient of natural gas development in the Fayetteville Shale. *Science of the Total Environment, 530-531,* 323-32. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.05.027

[87] Akob, D. M., Cozzarelli, I. M., Dunlap, D. S., Rowan, E. L., & Lorah, M. M. (2015). Organic and inorganic composition and microbiology of produced waters from Pennsylvania shale gas wells. *Applied Geochemistry,* in press, corrected proofs online April 20. doi: 10.1016/j.apgeochem.2015.04.011

[88] Lester, Y., Ferrer, I., Thurman, E. M., Sitterley, K. A., Korak, J. A., Aiken, G., & Linden, K. G. (2015). Characterization of hydraulic fracturing flowback water in Colorado: Implications for water treatment. *Science of the Total Environment, 512–513,* 637-44. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2015.01.043

- March 18, 2015 – Using a new stream-based monitoring method, a team of scientists with USGS, Pennsylvania State University, and University of Utah found elevated levels of methane in groundwater discharging into a stream near drilling and fracking operations in Pennsylvania. In this same area, several private water wells contained high levels of methane as a result of gas migration near a gas well with a defective casing. The monitoring technique used by the scientists allowed them to demonstrate that the source of the methane was shale gas from the Middle Devonian period, which is the kind of gas found in the Marcellus Shale.[89] Researcher Susan Brantley said, "I found it compelling that using this new method for a reconnaissance of just 15 streams in Pennsylvania, we discovered one instance of natural gas entering the stream, perhaps from a nearby leaking shale gas well."[90]

- March 12, 2015 – In contrast to the findings of earlier research (see footnotes 163 and 183), a team led by geologist Donald Siegel of Syracuse University found no relationship between methane levels in drinking water wells and proximity to oil or gas wells in a heavily fracked area of northeastern Pennsylvania.[91] However, Siegel failed to reveal in his paper — as is required by the journal — that he had received industry funding from the Chesapeake Energy Corporation. Subsequently, the journal published a lengthy correction that revealed that Chesapeake had not only privately funded the lead author but had provided the baseline groundwater data set. A second author was revealed to be a former employee of Chesapeake, and another had worked as a consultant in the energy sector.[92]

- March 3, 2015 – A Duquesne University study of private drinking water wells in an intensely drilled southwestern Pennsylvania community compared pre-drill and post-drill data on water quality and found changes in water chemistry that coincided with the advent of drilling and fracking activities. Levels of chloride, iron, barium, strontium, and manganese were elevated. In some cases, concentrations exceeded health-based maximum contaminant levels. Methane was detected in most houses tested. Surveys of residents revealed widespread complaints about changes in water quality that began after drilling and fracking operations commenced. Violation records from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Conservation uncovered possible pathways for water contamination. The researchers concluded that alterations of local hydrology caused by the injection of large volumes of hydraulic fracturing fluids may have mobilized

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[89] Heilweil, V. M., Grieve, P. L., Hynek, S. A., Brantley, S. L., Solomon, D. K., & Risser, D. W. (2015). Stream measurements locate thermogenic methane fluxes in groundwater discharge in an area of shale-gas development. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 4057-65. doi: 10.1021/es503882b

[90] U.S. Geological Survey. (2015, April 1). New stream monitoring method locates elevated groundwater methane in shale-gas development area. Retrieved from http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4176&from=rss&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebookhttp://www.readcube.com/articles/10.1002%2F2014WR016382?r3_referer=wol&tracking_action=preview_click&show_checkout=1&purchase_site_license=LICENSE_DENIED_NO_CUSTOMER#.VaPKNYsqdyA

[91] Siegel, D. I., Azzolina, N. A., Smith, B. J., Perry, A. E., & Bothun, R. L. (2015). Methane concentrations in water wells unrelated to proximity to existing oil and gas wells in northeastern Pennsylvania. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 4106-12. doi: 10.1021/es505775c For earlier research, see footnotes 163 and 185.

[92] Siegel, D. I., Azzolina, N. A., Smith, B. J., Perry, A. E., & Bothun, R. L. (2015). Correction to Methane concentrations in water wells unrelated to proximity to existing oil and gas wells in northeastern Pennsylvania. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 4106-12. doi: 10.1021/es505775c

contaminants left over from legacy oil, gas, and mining operations as well as opened pathways for the migration of fracking fluids themselves.[93]

- March 3, 2015 – A research team from Duquesne University reviewed the evidence for environmental impacts to air and water from activities related to shale gas extraction in Pennsylvania and explored potential mechanisms for contamination of air and water related to the drilling and fracking process itself. Among them: deformations of the shale bedrock caused by the injection of large volumes of fluid result in "pressure bulbs" that are translated through rock layers and can impact faults and fissures, so affecting groundwater.[94]

- February 23, 2015 – The arrival of drilling and fracking activities coincided with an increase in salinity in a creek that drains public land in a semi-arid region of Wyoming, determined a USGS study. The dissolved minerals associated with the rise in salinity matched those found in native soil salts, suggesting that disturbance of naturally salt-rich soils by ongoing oil and gas activities, including pipeline, road, and wellpad construction, was the culprit. "As [shale gas and oil] development continues to expand in semiarid lands worldwide, the potential for soil disturbance to increase stream salinity should be considered, particularly where soils host substantial quantities of native salts."[95]

- February 14, 2015 – A review by a *Dickinson Press* news reporter of disposal well files and more than 2,090 mechanical integrity tests revealed that North Dakota frack waste injection wells were often leaky and that state regulators continued to allow fluid injection into wells with documented structural problems even though the wells did not meet EPA guidelines for well bore integrity. Officials with the North Dakota Division of Oil and Gas said they had primary enforcement responsibilities and that EPA guidance did not apply to these wells. The investigation noted, "… a review of state and federal documents, as well as interviews with geologists, engineers, environmental policy experts and lawyers who have litigated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, suggests the agency is loosely interpreting guidance and protocols that are meant to maintain the multiple layers of protection that separate aquifers from the toxic saltwater." *The Dickinson Press* is the daily newspaper for Stark County in southwest North Dakota.[96]

- February 11, 2015 – The *Los Angeles Times* analyzed self-reported testing results on

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[93] Alawattegama, S. K., Kondratyuk, T., Krynock, R., Bricker, M., Rutter, J. K., Bain, D. J., & Stolz, J. F. (2015). Well water contamination in a rural community in southwestern Pennsylvania near unconventional shale gas extraction. *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A: Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering*, *50*, 516-528. doi: 10.1080/10934529.2015.992684

[94] Lampe, D. J. & Stolz, J. F. (2015). Current perspectives on unconventional shale gas extraction in the Appalachian Basin. *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A: Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering*, *50*(5), 434-446. doi: 10.1080/10934529.2015.992653

[95] Bern, C. R., Clark, M. L., Schmidt, T. S., Nolloway, J. M., & McDougal, R. R. (2015). Soil disturbance as a driver of increased stream salinity in a semiarid watershed undergoing energy development. *Journal of Hydrology*, *524*, 123-136. doi: doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2015.02.020

[96] Brown, A. (2015, February 14). Lacking integrity? State regulatory officials don't follow EPA guidance on saltwater disposal wells. *The Dickinson Press.* Retrieved from http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/energy/bakken/3679507-lacking-integrity-state-regulatory-officials-dont-follow-epa-guidance

fracking wastewater that California drillers were required to submit to the state. Samples of wastewater collected from 329 fracked oil wells found that virtually all—98 percent—contained benzene at levels that exceeded standards for permissible concentrations in drinking water. This finding likely underrepresents the extent of the problem, according to the newspaper investigation, because many operators failed to comply with reporting requirements. The discovery that fracking wastewater is high in benzene is particularly alarming in light of the admission by the state of California that it had inadvertently allowed frack waste disposal directly into aquifers containing clean water that could potentially be used for drinking. Those wells are now the subject of federal and state review.[97]

- February 1, 2015 – An investigation of the chemical make-up of fracking fluid found that the compositions of these mixtures vary widely according to region and company, making the process of identifying individual compounds difficult. Classes of hydrocarbon-based chemicals include solvents, gels, biocides, scale inhibitors, friction reducers, and surfactants. Chemical analysis identified around 25 percent of the organic compounds that are believed to be present in fracking fluid and that are necessary to test for in identifying groundwater and drinking water contamination.[98] Dr. Imma Ferrer, lead author, explained in a *Science Daily* article about her research that "[b]efore we can assess the environmental impact of the fluid, we have to know what to look for."[99]

- January 30, 2015 – A USGS review of national water quality databases found that insufficient data exist to understand the impact of fracking on drinking water.[100] In a media interview, lead author Zack Bowen said, "There are not enough data available to be able to assess the potential effects of oil and gas development over larger geographic areas."[101]

- January 21, 2015 – A team of researchers from the USGS and Virginia Tech University established that petroleum-based hydocarbons can break down underground in ways that promote the leaching of naturally occurring arsenic into groundwater. Arsenic is a known human carcinogen that causes bladder, lung, and skin cancer. Elevated levels of arsenic in

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[97] Cart. J. (2015, February 11). High levels of benzene found in fracking waste water. *Los Angeles Times.* Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-fracking-20150211-story.html#page=1

[98] Ferrer, I. & Thurman, E.M. (2015), Chemical constituents and analytical approaches for hydraulic fracturing waters. *Trends in Environmental Analytical Chemistry*, *5,* 18-25, doi: 10.1016/j.teac.2015.01.003

[99] Elsevier. (2015 April 8). Fracking fluids contain potentially harmful compounds if leaked into groundwater. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved from http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150408090323.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Fearth_climate%2Frecycling_and_waste+%28Recycling+and+Waste+News+--

[100] Bowen, Z. H., Oeisner, G. P., Cade, B., Gallegos, T. J., Farag, A. M., Mott, D. N., . . . Varela, B. A. (2015). Assessment of surface water chloride and conductivity trends in areas of unconventional oil and gas development—why existing national data sets cannot tell us what we would like to know. *Water Resources Research, 51,* 704-15. doi: 10.1002/2014WR016382

[101] Phillips, S. (2015, March 3). USGS: fracking water quality data "scarce." *StateImpact Pennsylvania.* Retrieved from https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/03/03/usgs-fracking-water-quality-data-scarce/

drinking water represent a public health threat.[102] Researchers found that arsenic concentrations in a hydrocarbon plume can reach 23 times the current drinking water standard of 10 micrograms per liter. The authors of the study said that the metabolism of carbon-rich petroleum products by subterranean microbes is involved in a complex geochemical process that leads to mobilization of arsenic into aquifers.[103]

- January 14, 2015 – Researchers from Duke University, Dartmouth College, and Stanford University found high levels of iodide, bromide, and ammonium in samples of wastewater from fracking operations in both the Marcellus and Fayetteville Shales. These same chemicals were present when fracking wastewater was discharged into rivers and streams at three treatment sites in Pennsylvania and during an accidental spill in West Virginia. Iodide and bromide are known to create toxic disinfection byproducts when downstream water is subsequently chlorinated for drinking water. In water, ammonium can convert to ammonia, which is toxic to aquatic life. The authors noted that this is the first study to identify ammonium and iodide as widespread in fracking waste discharges.[104] In an interview with the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, lead author Avner Vengosh said that the findings raise new concerns about the environmental and health impacts of wastewater from drilling and fracking operations.[105]

- November 27, 2014 – An interdisciplinary team of researchers found methane contamination in drinking water wells located in eight areas above the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania and the Barnett Shale in Texas, with evidence of declining water quality in the Barnett Shale area. By analyzing noble gases and their isotopes (helium, neon, argon), the investigators were able to isolate the origin of the fugitive methane in drinking water. The results implicate leaks through cement well casings as well as via naturally occurring cracks and fissures in the surrounding rock.[106] In a related editorial, one of the study's authors, Robert Jackson, called on the EPA to reopen its aborted investigation into drinking water contamination in heavily fracked areas of Texas. Jackson also emphasized that methane migration through unseen cracks in the rock surrounding the wellbore "raises the interesting possibility that a drilling company could follow procedures —

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[102] U.S. Geological Survey (2015, January. 26). Natural breakdown of petroleum underground can lace arsenic into groundwater. Retrieved from http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4110&from=rss&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook#.VavGXIsqdyA

[103] Cozzarelli, I. M. Schreiber, M. D., Erickson, M. L., & Ziegler, B. A. (2015). Arsenic cycling in hydrocarbon plumes: secondary effects of natural attenuation. *Groundwater*. doi: 10.1111/gwat.12316

[104] Harkness, J. S., Dwyer, G. S., Warner, N. R., Parker, K. M., Mitch, W. A, & Vengosh, A. (2015). Iodide, bromide, and ammonium in hydraulic fracturing and oil and gas wastewaters: environmental implications. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *49,* 1955-63. doi: 10.1021/es504654n

[105] Hopey, D. (2015, January 15). Study: high levels of pollutants from drilling waste found in Pa. rivers. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/latest-oil-and-gas/2015/01/14/Study-High-levels-of-pollutants-from-drilling-waste-found-in-Pennsylvania-rivers-shale/stories/201501140143

[106] Darrah, T. H., Vengosh, A., Jackson, R. B., Warner, N. R., & Poreda, R. J. (2014). Noble gases identify the mechanisms of fugitive gas contamination in drinking-water wells overlying the Marcellus and Barnett Shales. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 111* (39), 14076-14081. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1322107111

cementing and casing below the local aquifer — and still create a potential pathway for gas to migrate into drinking water."[107]

- November 26, 2014 – A critical review of biocides in fracking fluid by a Colorado State team found that the fate of these chemicals underground is not known and their toxicity not well understood. While many biocides are short-lived, some may transform into more toxic or persistent compounds. Among the most common chemical components of fracking fluid, biocides are used to inhibit the growth of deep-life microorganisms, including sulfate-reducing bacteria that contribute to corrosion of well casings and can form biofilms that prevent the upward flow of natural gas. Oxidizing biocides that are chlorine- or bromine-based can react with other fracking chemicals and may produce toxic halogenated byproducts. The authors noted biocides pose a unique risk for drinking water when fracking liquid waste is treated for discharge to surface water via sewage treatment plants. Sub-lethal concentrations may contribute to adaptation of surviving microorganisms and, hence, antibiotic resistance of pathogens. They cited particular concern over surface spills and well integrity issues associated with casing or cement failure.[108]

- November 3, 2014 – The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection confirmed that three private drinking water wells were contaminated when Antero Resources mistakenly drilled into one of its own gas wells. Benzene, a human carcinogen, and toluene, a reproductive toxicant, were detected in the drinking water at concentrations four times the legal maximum limit. Additionally, a nearby abandoned gas well, a drinking water well, and an actively producing gas well were all pressurized as a result of the mishap and began exhibiting "artesian flow."[109]

- October 22, 2014 – A follow-up to the August 2014 Environmental Integrity Project report describes an even greater potential public health threat from a loophole in the Safe Drinking Water Act, wherein companies are allowed to inject other petroleum products (beyond diesel) without a permit, and many of these non-diesel drilling fluids contain even higher concentrations of the same toxins found in diesel. The authors recommend that "EPA should revisit its guidance and broaden the categories of diesel products that require Safe Drinking Water Act permits before they can be injected into oil and gas wells."[110]

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[107] Jackson, R. (2014, December 1). Reopen Barnett Shale water probe. *The Texas Tribune*. Retrieved from http://tribtalk.org/2014/12/01/reopen-barnett-shale-water-probe/

[108] Kahrilas, G. A. Blotevogel, J., Stewart, P. S., & Borch T. (2015). Biocides in hydraulic fracturing fluids: a critical review of their usage, mobility, degradation, and toxicity. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49*,16-32. doi: 10.1021/es503724k

[109] Board, G. (2014, November 3). September drilling accident contaminated water in Doddridge County. *West Virginia Public Broadcasting*. Retrieved from http://wvpublic.org/post/dep-september-drilling-accident-contaminated-water-doddridge-county

[110] Schaeffer, E. & Bernhardt, C. (2014, October 22). Fracking's toxic loophole. The Environmental Integrity Project. Retrieved from http://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/FRACKINGS-TOXIC-LOOPHOLE.pdf

- October 20, 2014 – While developing a technique to fingerprint and trace accidental releases of hydraulic fracturing fluids, researchers showed that liquid waste from shale gas fracking operations is chemically different than waste flowing out of conventional wells. The researchers hypothesized that the hydraulic fracturing process itself liberates elements from clay minerals in the shale formations, including boron and lithium, which then enter the liquid waste.[111]

- October 15, 2014 – Four thousand gallons of liquid fracking waste dumped into Waynesburg sewer system was discovered by sewage treatment plant workers in Greene County, Pennsylvania. The Department of Environmental Protection surmised that "someone removed a manhole cover in a remote location and dumped the fluid." The treatment plant discharges into a creek that feeds the Monongahela River, which provides drinking water to more than 800,000 people.[112]

- October 6, 2014 – A state investigation that found no fracking-related water contamination in a drinking water well in Pennsylvania's Washington County was invalidated by testimony presented to the state Environmental Hearing Board. Not all contaminants that were present in the water were reported, and the investigation relied on obsolete testing methods. More sophisticated testing revealed the presence of several chemical contaminants in the well water. The well is located 2,800 feet down gradient from a drilling site and fracking waste pit where multiple spills and leaks more than four years earlier had contaminated two springs.[113]

- September 23, 2014 – In a two-part audit of records, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the EPA is failing to protect U.S. drinking water sources from fracking-related activities such as waste disposal via injection wells. Nationwide, 172,000 injection wells accept fracking waste; some are known to have contaminated drinking water. And yet, both short-term and long-term monitoring is lax, and record-keeping varies widely from state to state. The EPA neither mandates nor recommends a fixed list of chemicals for monitoring on the grounds that "injection fluids can vary widely in composition and contain different naturally occurring chemicals and fluids used in oil and gas production depending on the source of the injection fluid."[114] Disposal of oil and gas waste via injection wells is, in fact, subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, but, in practice, no one knows exactly what the waste contains, and regulations are deficient. In the United States, at least two billion gallons of fluids are injected into the

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[111] Warner, N. R., Darrah, T. H., Jackson, R. B., Millot, R., Kloppmann, W., & Vengosh, A. (2014). New tracers identify hydraulic fracturing fluids and accidental releases from oil and gas operations. *Environ. Sci. Technol*., *48*(21), 12552–12560. doi: 10.1021/es5032135

[112] Hopey, D. (2014, October 15). Waynesburg officials investigate dumping of fracking wastewater. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://powersource.post-gazette.com/news/environment/2014/10/15/Waynesburg-investigates-dumping-of-fracking-wastewater/stories/201410150056

[113] Hopey, D. (2014, October 6). Testimony: obsolete tests tainted shale analysis. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.* Retrieved from http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/companies-powersource/2014/10/06/Testimony-Obsolete-tests-tainted-shale-analysis/stories/201410060075

[114] U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2014, September 23). Drinking water: characterization of injected fluids associated with oil and gas production. GAO-14-657R. Retrieved from http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-857R.

ground *each day* to enable oil and gas extraction via fracking or to dispose of liquid waste from fracking operations.[115, 116]

- September 18, 2014 – Range Resources was fined a record $4.5 million by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for contaminating groundwater. The culprits were six leaking pits in Washington County that each held millions of gallons of fracking wastewater.[117]

- September 12, 2014 – A Pennsylvania State ecosystems scientist, together with USGS scientists, reviewed the current knowledge of the effects of fracking and its associated operations on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in 20 shale plays in the U.S. Findings of species and habitats at highest risk include (in addition to land-based examples) vernal pond inhabitants and stream biota. The research builds on previous reviews identifying "three main potential stressors to surface waters: changes in water quantity (hydrology), sedimentation, and water quality." Researchers determined that there are no published data specifically on the effects of fracking on forest-dwelling amphibians, but "many species breed in vernal ponds which are negatively affected by changes in water quantity and quality and direct disturbance. Many amphibians are also highly sensitive to road salts." Given that the U.S. EPA recently found 55% of all rivers and streams to be in poor condition, these researchers warned, "Large-scale development of shale resources might increase these percentages." They expressed concern for the native range of brook trout by the cumulative effects of shale development, especially in Pennsylvania.[118]

- September 9, 2014 – A research team from Stanford and Duke Universities discovered that fracking wastewater processed by sewage treatment plants contributes to the formation of carcinogenic chemical byproducts. These raise public health risks when downstream surface water is used for drinking. Even when fracking wastewater was diluted by a factor of 10,000, the bromides and iodides in the waste reacted with organic matter to create highly toxic halogenated compounds—at troublingly high concentrations. These toxic compounds are not filterable by municipal wastewater treatment plants. Halogenated disinfection byproducts in drinking water are linked to both colon and bladder cancers.[119]

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[115] Sadasivam N. (2014, July 29). Report criticizes EPA oversight of injection wells, *ProPublica* Retrieved from http://www.propublica.org/article/report-criticizes-epa-oversight-of-injection-wells

[116] U.S. Government Accountability Office. (June 27, 2014). EPA program to protect underground sources from injection of fluids associated with oil and gas production needs improvement. GAO-14-555. Retrieved from http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-555

[117] Hopey, D. (2014, September 18). Range resources to pay $4.15M penalty. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/local/2014/09/18/DEP-orders-Range-Resources-to-pay-4-million-fine/stories/201409180293

[118] Brittingham, M. C., Maloney, K. O., Farag, A. M., Harper, D. D., & Bowen, Z. H. (2014). Ecological risks of shale oil and gas development to wildlife, aquatic resources and their habitats. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *48*(19), 11034–11047. doi: dx.doi.org/10.1021/es5020482

[119] Parker, K. M., Zeng, T., Harkness, J., Vengosh, A., & Mitch, W. A. 2014. Enhanced formation of disinfection byproducts in shale gas wastewater-impacted drinking water supplies. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *48*(19), 11161–11169. doi: 10.1021/es5028184

- August 29, 2014 – A review of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection files on fracking-related damage to drinking water—which are kept on paper and stored in regional offices—revealed that 243 private water supplies in 22 counties had been contaminated or had lost flow and dried up as a result of nearby drilling and fracking operations in the past seven years. Pollutants included methane, metals, and salts as well as carbon-based compounds (ethylene glycol and 2-butoxyethanol) that are known to be constituents of fracking fluid. As reported by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, this tally—which came as a response to multiple lawsuits and open-records requests by media sources—was the first time the agency "explicitly linked a drilling operation to the presence of industrial chemicals in drinking water."[120, 121]

- August 13, 2014 – Over the last decade, drilling companies have repeatedly claimed they are no longer using diesel fuel in fracking, although a 2011 investigation by U.S. House Democrats concluded otherwise. The Environmental Integrity Project examined disclosure data submitted to FracFocus and identified at least 351 wells in 12 states that have been fracked over the last four years with one or more of the five prohibited products identified as diesel. EIP researchers also discovered numerous fracking fluids with high diesel content for sale online, including over a dozen products sold by Halliburton and advertised as additives, friction reducers, emulsifiers, etc.[122]

- August 13, 2014 – An international team of researchers found high levels of carbon-based compounds in liquid fracking waste. These impurities can react with chlorine and bromine to create toxic byproducts. This study suggests that chemical treatment of liquid fracking waste will magnify its toxic potency, as will reusing and recycling it.[123] The European Commission subsequently published a summary of these findings.[124]

- August 13, 2014 – A team from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory reported that scientific efforts to understand the hazards of fracking continue to be hampered by industry secrecy. A comprehensive examination of the chemical formulations of fracking fluid—whose precise ingredients are protected as proprietary business information—revealed that no publicly available toxicity or physical chemical information was

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[120] Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. (2014 August 29). Water supply determination letters. Retrieved from http://files.dep.state.pa.us/OilGas/BOGM/BOGMPortalFiles/OilGasReports/Determination_Letters/Regional_Determination_Letters.pdf

[121] Legere, L. (2014, September 9). DEP releases updated details on water contamination near drilling sites: some 240 private supplies damaged by drilling in the past 7 years. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/policy-powersource/2014/09/09/DEP-releases-details-on-water-contamination/stories/201409090010

[122] Greene, M. (2014, August 13). Fracking beyond the law: Despite industry denials, investigation reveals continued use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing. The Environmental Integrity Project. Retrieved from http://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/Fracking-Beyond-the-Law.pdf

[123] Maguire-Boyle, S. J., & Barron, A. R. (2014). Organic compounds in produced waters from shale gas wells. *Environ. Sci.: Processes Impacts*, *16*, 2237-2248. doi: 10.1039/C4EM00376D

[124] European Commission. (2015, February 19). Chemical composition of fracking wastewater. *Science for Environment Policy*, *404*. Retrieved from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/chemical_composition_of_fracking_wastewater_404na4_en.pdf

available for one-third of all the fracking chemicals surveyed. Another ten percent of chemicals, including biocides and corrosion inhibitors, were known to be toxic to mammals.[125, 126]

- August 12, 2014 – A Stanford University research team working in the Pavillion gas basin in Wyoming documented that fracking in shallow layers of bedrock, including those that serve as drinking water aquifers, is not uncommon. This finding overturns the industry claim that oil and gas deposits targeted by fracking operations are located at much greater depths than underground drinking water sources and are isolated from them by hundreds of feet of impermeable rock. Because it is exempt from provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, fracking in drinking water aquifers is not prohibited by law.[127]

- August 3, 2014 – An investigation by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* found that half of all fracking-related spills that resulted in violations and fines were not discovered by the gas companies themselves, even though Pennsylvania state law requires them to pro-actively seek and report such incidents. The newspaper's analysis of hundreds of thousands of state and company documents showed that self-regulation in the gas fields is a failure. One-third of all spills were discovered by state inspectors, while one-sixth were found by residents. Likely, much contamination is entirely undetected and unreported.[128]

- July 21, 2014 – An investigation by the *Columbus Dispatch* showed that Halliburton delayed disclosure to federal and state EPA agencies of the full list of chemicals that spilled into a creek following a fire on one of its well pad in Monroe County, Ohio. Although the creek is an important supply of drinking water for downstream communities and the spill precipitated a mass die-off of fish and other aquatic wildlife, five full days passed before EPA officials were provided a full inventory of chemicals used at Halliburton's operation. As a result, the public was denied knowledge of potential chemical exposures.[129]

- July 17, 2014 – A team of environmental scientists, biologists, and engineers, from institutions including the University of Michigan and McGill University, assessed the current state of understanding of the impact fracking and its associated activities have on the ecological health of surface waters. Though various approaches such as geographic

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[125] Stringfellow, W. T., Domen, J. K., Carmarillo, M. K., Sandelin, W. L., Tinnacher, R., Jordan, P., . . . Birkholzer, J. (August 13, 2014). Characterizing compounds used in hydraulic fracturing: a necessary step for understanding environmental impacts. Presentation before the American Chemical Society conference, San Francisco. Abstract retrieved from http://abstracts.acs.org/chem/248nm/program/view.php?obj_id=262051&terms=

[126] Robinson, P. (2014, August 19). Fracking fluid survey shows missing information. *Scientific American.* Retrieved from http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fracking-fluid-survey-shows-missing-information/

[127] Banerjee, N. (2014, August 12). Oil companies fracking into drinking water sources, new research finds. *Los Angeles Times.* Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-fracking-groundwater-pavillion-20140811-story.html#page=1

[128] Hamill, S. D. (2014, August 3). Drillers did not report half of spills that led to fines. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2014/08/03/Drillers-did-not-report-half-of-spills-that-led-to-fines/stories/201408020142

[129] Arenschield, L. (2014, July 21). Halliburton delayed releasing details on fracking chemicals after Monroe County spill. *The Columbus Dispatch*. Retrieved from http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/07/21/details-on-chemicals-trickle-in-after-spill.html

information systems and site monitoring provide insights into potential risks to aquatic ecosystems, the authors concluded that inadequate data currently exist. They identified possible outcomes such as, "erosion and sedimentation, increased risk to aquatic ecosystems from chemical spills or runoff, habitat fragmentation, loss of stream riparian zones, altered biogeochemical cycling, and reduction of available surface and hyporheic water volumes because of withdrawal-induced lowering of local groundwater levels."[130]

- July 7, 2014 – California Department of Gas, Oil, and Geothermal Resources ordered seven energy companies to stop injecting liquid fracking waste into aquifers. The ongoing drought that has compelled farmers to supplement irrigation with water drawn from groundwater sources prompted state officials to look at the status of aquifers previously considered too deep for use or too poor in quality. They discovered that at least seven injection wells were very likely pumping liquid fracking waste into protected groundwater supplies rather than aquifers that had been sacrificed for the purpose of waste disposal. Across the United States, more than 1000 aquifers are exempt from any type of pollution protection at all, and many of these are in California, according to a related *ProPublica* investigation.[131]

- June 25, 2014 – A study by Cornell University researchers found that fracking fluid and fracking wastewater mobilized previously deposited chemical contaminants in soil particles in ways that could potentially exacerbate the impacts of fracking fluid spills or leaks. The research team concluded that, by interfering with the ability of soil to bond to and sequester pollutants such as heavy metals, fracking fluids may release from soils an additional repository of contaminants that could migrate into groundwater.[132]

- June 23, 2014 – Building on earlier findings that water samples collected from sites with confirmed fracking spills in Garfield County, Colorado exhibited moderate to high levels of estrogen and androgen-disrupting activity, a University of Missouri team extended their investigation to other types of hormonal effects. As reported at a joint meeting of the International Society of Endocrinology and the Endocrine Society, their research documented that commonly used fracking chemicals can also block the receptors for thyroid hormone, progesterone, and glucocorticoids (a family of hormones involved in both fertility and immune functioning). Of 24 fracking chemicals tested, all 24 interfered with the activity of one or more important hormone receptors. There is no known safe level of exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals.[133]

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[130] Burton Jr., G. A., Basu, N., Ellis, B. R., Kapo, K. E., Entrekin, S. & Nadelhoffer, K. (2014). Hydraulic "fracking": are surface water impacts an ecological concern? *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, *33*(8), 1679-1689.

[131] Lustgarten, A. (2014, July 18). California halts injects of fracking waste, warning it may be contaminating aquifers. *ProPublica.* Retrieved from http://www.propublica.org/article/ca-halts-injection-fracking-waste-warning-may-be-contaminating-aquifers

[132] Sang, W., Stoof, C., Zhang, W., Morales, V., Gao, B., Kay, R., . . . Steenhuis, T. (2014). Effect of hydrofracking fluid on colloid transport in the unsaturated zone. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *48*(14), 8266–8274. Retrieved from http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es501441e

[133] The Endocrine Society (2014). Hormone-disrupting activity of fracking chemicals worse than initially found. *Science Daily,* June 23, 2014 Retrieved from: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140623103939.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&

- May 11, 2014 – According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the federal government is failing to inspect thousands of oil and gas wells located on public land, including those that pose special risks of water contamination or other environmental damage. An investigation by the Associated Press found that the Bureau of Land Management "had failed to conduct inspections on more than 2,100 of the 3,702 wells that it had specified as 'high priority' and drilled from 2009 through 2012. The agency considers a well 'high priority' based on a greater need to protect against possible water contamination and other environmental safety issues."[134]

- May 4, 2012 – A report for the Canadian Government, released under the Access to Information Act, reviewed the process, the regulatory framework globally, and the potential health hazards related to shale gas extraction. Additionally, the report evaluated mechanisms for potential impacts and summarized the data knowledge and data gaps. Regarding water contamination, the report determined, "Although quantitative data are lacking, the qualitative data available indicate that potential contamination of water related to the shale gas industry may present hazard to the public health, especially for local population." Regarding air contamination: "air emissions related to the shale gas industry present health hazards since the air pollutants originating from the vehicles and engines fuelled by diesel are toxic to the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and can cause premature mortality, volatile organic compounds have been associated to neurotoxicity and some of these compounds (e.g. benzene) as well as NORMs are known or possible human carcinogens." The report concluded, "Any step of shale gas exploration/exploitation may represent a potential source of drinking water and air contamination; Hydraulic fracturing and wastewater disposal were identified as the main potential sources of risk."[135]

- March 25, 2014 – An industry-funded study of oil and gas well integrity found that more than six percent of wells in a major shale exploration region in Pennsylvania showed evidence of leaking and conceded that this number is likely an underestimate. Researchers concluded that the percentage of wells with some form of well barrier or integrity failure is highly variable and could be as high as 75 percent. A separate analysis in the same study found 85 examples of cement or casing failures in Pennsylvania wells monitored between 2008 and 2011.[136]

- March 7, 2014 – In a comprehensive evaluation, Duke University scientists and colleagues reviewed the state of knowledge on possible effects of shale gas and hydraulic

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[134] Yen, H. (2014, May 11). Fed govt failed to inspect higher risk oil wells. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from http://bigstory.ap.org/article/fed-govt-failed-inspect-higher-risk-oil-wells

[135] Louis, S. (2012, May 4). Potential health hazards from shale gas exploration and exploitation–Drinking water and ambient air. Presented to Health Canada by SANEXEN Environmental Services; 0/Ref.: RA11-410. Document released under the (Canadian) Access to Information Act.

[136] Davies, R. J., Almond, S., Ward, R. S., Jackson, R. B., Adams, C., Worrall, F., . . . Whitehead, M. A. (2014). Oil and gas wells and their integrity: Implications for shale and unconventional resource exploitation. *Marine and Petroleum Geology, 56*, 239-254. doi: 10.1016/j.marpetgeo.2014.03.001

fracturing on water resources in the United States and concluded, "Analysis of published data (through January 2014) reveals evidence for stray gas contamination, surface water impacts in areas of intensive shale gas development, and the accumulation of radium isotopes in some disposal and spill sites."[137]

- February 19, 2014 – A Pennsylvania court found a gas corporation guilty of contaminating a woman's drinking water well in Bradford County. Methane levels after fracking were 1,300 to 2,000 times higher than baseline, according to the court brief. Iron levels and turbidity had also increased. The brief stated, "In short, Jacqueline Place lived for ten months deprived totally of the use of her well, and even after its 'restoration,' has been burdened with a water supply with chronic contamination, requiring constant vigilance and ongoing monitoring."[138]

- January 16, 2014 – Data from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission showed that fracking-related chemical spills in Colorado exceed an average rate of one spill per day. Of the 495 chemical spills that occurred in that state over a one-year period of time, nearly a quarter impacted ground or surface water. Sixty-three of the spills spread within 1,500 feet of pigs, sheep, and cows; 225 spread within 1,500 feet of buildings.[139]

- January 10, 2014 – Duke University water tests revealed ongoing water contamination in Parker County, Texas, providing evidence that the EPA had prematurely ended its prior investigation into the water contamination.[140] A letter sent to the EPA from more than 200 environmental organizations called on the agency to re-open its investigation.[141]

- January 5, 2014 – An Associated Press investigation into drinking water contamination from fracking in four states—Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Texas—found many cases of confirmed water contamination and hundreds more complaints. The Associated Press noted that their analysis "casts doubt on industry view that it rarely happens."[142]

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[137] Vengosh, A., Jackson, R. B., Warner, N., Darrah, T. H., & Kondash, A. (2014). A critical review of the risks to water resources from unconventional shale gas development and hydraulic fracturing in the United States [Abstract]. *Environmental Science & Technology*. doi: 10.1021/es405118y

[138] Gibbons, B. (2014, February 19). Woman wins case against Chesapeake Jaqueline Place of Terry Township to receive compensation for well contamination. *Thedailyreview.com*. Retrieved from http://thedailyreview.com/news/woman-wins-case-against-chesapeake-jaqueline-place-of-terry-township-to-receive-compensation-for-well-contamination-1.1636832

[139] Tomasic, J. (2014, January 16). Colorado drilling data: More than a spill a day. *The Colorado Independent*. Retrieved from http://www.coloradoindependent.com/145629/colorado-drilling-data-more-than-a-spill-a-day

[140] Drajem, M. (2014, January 9). Duke fracking tests reveal dangers driller's data missed. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-10/epa-s-reliance-on-driller-data-for-water-irks-homeowners.html

[141] Drajem, M. (2014, January 27). EPA needs fracking review: 'Gasland' maker, environmentalists. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://go.bloomberg.com/political-capital/2014-01-27/epa-needs-fracking-review-gasland-producer-environmentalists-say/.

[142] Begos, K. (2014, January 05). 4 states confirm water pollution from drilling. *USA Today*. Retrieved from http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/01/05/some-states-confirm-water-pollution-from-drilling/4328859/

- December 24, 2013 – A report from the EPA Inspector General concluded that evidence of fracking-related water contamination in Parker County, Texas was sound and faulted the EPA for prematurely ending its investigation there, relying on faulty water testing data from the gas industry in doing so, and failure to intervene when affected residents' drinking water remained unsafe.[143] As reported by *Business Insider*, "The EPA Screwed Up When It Dropped This Fracking Investigation."[144]

- December 16, 2013 – Lead by Susan Nagel of the University of Missouri School of Medicine, researchers documented endocrine-disrupting properties in chemicals commonly used as ingredients of fracking fluid and found similar endocrine-disrupting activity in groundwater and surface water samples collected near drilling and fracking sites in Garfield County, Colorado. Endocrine disruptors are chemicals that interfere with the activity of hormones in the body and, at very low concentrations, can raise the risk of reproductive, metabolic, and neurological disorders, especially when exposures occur in early life. [145, 146, 147]

- December 7, 2013 – Reporting on the second gas leak at a single gas well in one month, the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* uncovered another inherent risk of fracking for groundwater contamination: Silica sand, which is used as an ingredient in fracking fluid for its ability to prop open the shale fractures, can damage steel pipes as it flows back up the well along with the gas. According to Dan Hill, head of the petroleum engineering department at Texas A&M University, new wells are the most susceptible to sand erosion because "the amount of sand and gas rushing through valves and flow lines is at its greatest when a well first goes into production."[148]

- November 28, 2013 – An Associated Press investigation uncovered nearly 300 oil pipeline spills in North Dakota in the previous ten months, all with no public notification. These were among some 750 "oil field incidents" that had occurred in the state over the same time period, also without public notification. Until the AP inquiry, industry and state officials had kept quiet about one particular "massive spill" that had been accidentally discovered by a wheat farmer. Even small spills can contaminate water sources permanently and take cropland out of production.[149]

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[143] Banjeree, N. (2013, December 24). EPA report on fracking in Texas raises new concerns. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-epa-fracking-20131225,0,6042944.story#ixzz2oVB9FXVY

[144] Miedema, D. (2013, December 25). The EPA screwed up when it dropped this fracking investigation. *Business Insider*. Retrieved from http://www.businessinsider.com/epa-criticized-for-dropping-fracking-investigation-2013-12

[145] Kassotis, C. D., Tillitt, D. E., Davis, J. W., Hormann, A. M., & Nagel, S. C. (2013). Estrogen and androgen receptor activities of hydraulic fracturing chemicals and surface and ground water in a drilling-dense region. *Endocrinology*. doi: 10.1210/en.2013-1697

[146] Banerjee, N. (2013, December 16). Hormone-disrupting chemicals found in water at fracking sites. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved from http://articles.latimes.com/2013/dec/16/science/la-sci-fracking-health-20131217

[147] Endocrine Society. (2013, December 16). Fracking chemicals disrupt hormone function. ScienceDaily. Retrieved from www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/12/131216140428.htm

[148] Hirst, C., & Fuquay, J. (2013, December 7). Second leak reported at east Fort Worth gas well site. *Star-Telegram*. Retrieved from http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/12/07/5399740/second-leak-reported-at-east-fort.html?rh=1

[149] MacPherson, J. (2013, October 28). Nearly 300 pipeline spills in North Dakota have gone unreported to the public since January 2012. *Huffington Post*. Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/28/pipeline-spills-north-dakota_n_4170133.html?ncid=edlinkusaolp00000003

- November 26, 2013 – A USGS report found serious impacts of fracking on watersheds and water quality throughout the Appalachian Basin, as well as issues with radiation and seismic events. As noted in the report, the knowledge of how extraction affects water resources has not kept pace with the technology.[150, 151] Meanwhile, clean fresh water is becoming an increasingly scant resource. A report prepared for the U.S. State Department forecasts a serious freshwater shortage by 2030, with global demand exceeding supply by 40 percent.[152]

- November 22, 2013 – A USGS study of pollution from oil production in North Dakota, where horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing are heavily used, identified two potential plumes of groundwater contamination covering 12 square miles. The cause was traced to a casing failure in a wastewater disposal well. Drilling companies had incorrectly assumed that, once injected underground, the wastewater would remain contained. According to *EnergyWire*, the development of the Bakken oil formation is "leaving behind an imprint on the land as distinct as the ones left by the receding ice sheets of the ice age."[153]

- September 10, 2013 – Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane filed criminal charges against Exxon Mobil Corporation's subsidiary, XTO Energy Corporation, for a spill of 50,000 gallons of toxic drilling wastewater in 2010 that contaminated a spring and a tributary of the Susquehanna River. In July, XTO settled civil charges for the incident without admitting liability by agreeing to pay a $100,000 fine and improve its wastewater management.[154]

- September 10, 2013 – Out of concern for risks posed to drinking water in the nation's capital, George Hawkins, General Manager of DC Water, Washington, DC's local water provider, called for a prohibition on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest until the process can be proven safe.[155] The Potomac River is the source of the District's water supply and has its headwaters in the George Washington National Forest, which sits atop the Marcellus Shale. The general managers

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[150] Kappel, W. M., Williams, J. H., & Szabo, Z. (2013). Water resources and shale gas/oil production in the Appalachian Basin - Critical issues and evolving developments. *U.S. Geological Survey*. Retrieved from http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2013/1137/pdf/ofr2013-1137.pdf

[151] Mall, A. (2013, November 26). New USGS analysis: Threats to water, wildlife, and health from oil and gas development in the Appalachian basin [Web log post]. Retrieved from http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amall/new_usgs_analysis.html

[152] National Intelligence Council. (2012, February 2). *Global Water Security: Intelligence Community Assessment*, (ICA 2012-08). Retrieved from http://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Special%20Report_ICA%20Global%20Water%20Security.pdf

[153] Vaidyanathan, G. (2013, November 22). Bakken shale: As oil production sets in, pollution starts to migrate -- scientists. *E&E Publishing, LLC*. Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059990892

[154] Maykuth, A. (2013, September 13). Shale criminal charges stun drilling industry. *Philly.com*. Retrieved from http://articles.philly.com/2013-09-13/news/42012429_1_xto-energy-inc-criminal-charges-attorney-general

[155] Letter from George Hawkins, General Manager, DC Water, to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas Vilsack, (Sept. 10, 2013), http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2013/09/20/dc-water-chief-urges-agriculture-secretary-not-to-allow-fracking-near-d-c/

of Fairfax Water, provider of drinking water for Fairfax County, Virginia, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have called for a similar prohibition.[156]

- September 3, 2013 – The North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources voiced concern about an increasing number of fracking well blowouts (23 incidents in the past year) that result in spills and public safety threats.[157]

- August 28, 2013 – A joint USGS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study documented a causal link between a fracking wastewater spill and the widespread death of fish in the Acorn Fork, a creek in Kentucky.[158]

- July 25, 2013 – A University of Texas at Arlington study of drinking water found elevated levels of arsenic and other heavy metals in some samples from private drinking water wells located within five kilometers of active natural gas wells in the Barnett Shale.[159]

- July 3, 2013 – *ProPublica* reported that the EPA was wrong to have halted its investigation of water contamination in Wyoming, Texas and Pennsylvania—where high levels of benzene, methane, arsenic, oil, methane, copper, vanadium, and other chemicals associated with fracking operations have been documented.[160] Although numerous organizations and health professionals around the country have since called on the agency to resume its investigation, no action has been taken.

- June 6, 2013 – Reviewing hundrends of regulatory and legal filings, *Bloomberg News* reported that drillers have offered out-of-court cash settlements and property buyouts to homeowners who claim that fracking ruined their water. These agreements typically come with gag orders and sealed records. This strategy, the investigation noted, allows the industry to continue claiming that no cases of water contamination due to fracking have ever been confirmed, impedes public health research, and shields data from regulators, policy makers, and the new media.[161] The EPA also long ago noted how non-disclosure agreements between oil and gas operators and landowners challenge scientific progress and keep examples of drilling harm secret from the public. In a 1987 report, the

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[156] Wiener, A. (2013, September 20). DC Water Chief urges Agriculture Secretary not to allow fracking near D.C. *Washington City Paper*. Retrieved from http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2013/09/20/dc-water-chief-urges-agriculture-secretary-not-to-allow-fracking-near-d-c/

[157] Sun Staff. (2013, September 3). More blowouts a concern for N.D. *The Jamestown Sun*. Retrieved from http://www.jamestownsun.com/content/more-blowouts-concern-nd

[158] Papoulias, D., & MacKenzie, T. (2013, August 28). Hydraulic fracturing fluids likely harmed threatened Kentucky fish species. *USGS Newsroom*. Retrieved from http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3677

[159] Fontenot, B. E., Hunt, L. R., Hildenbrand, Z. L., Carlton Jr., D. D., Oka, H., Walton, J. L., . . . Schug, K. A. (2013). An evaluation of water quality in private drinking water wells near natural gas extraction sites in the Barnett Shale formation. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *47*(17), 10032-10040. doi: 10.1021/es4011724

[160] Lustgarten, A. (2013, July 3). EPA's abandoned Wyoming fracking study one retreat of many. *ProPublica*. Retrieved from http://www.propublica.org/article/epas-abandoned-wyoming-fracking-study-one-retreat-of-many

[161] Efstathiou, J., Jr., & Drajem, M. (2013, June 5). Drillers silence fracking claims with sealed settlements. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-06/drillers-silence-fracking-claims-with-sealed-settlements.html

EPA wrote, "In some cases, even the records of well-publicized damage incidents are almost entirely unavailable for review. In addition to concealing the nature and size of any settlement entered into between the parties, impoundment curtails access to scientific and administrative documentation of the incident."[162]

- June 3, 2013 – A study by Duke University researchers linked fracking with elevated levels of methane, ethane, and propane in nearby groundwater.[163] Published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the study included results from 141 northeastern Pennsylvania water wells. Methane levels were, on average, six times higher in drinking water wells closer to drilling sites when compared with those farther away, while ethane was 23 times higher.[164]

- May 19, 2013 – In Pennsylvania, the *Scranton Times-Tribune* released details of an investigation that revealed at least 161 cases of water contamination from fracking between 2008 and the fall of 2012, according to state Department of Environmental Protection records.[165]

- April 2013 – Researchers analyzing publicly available Colorado data found 77 surface spills impacting groundwater in Weld County alone. Samples of these spills often exceeded drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene; for benzene, a known carcinogen, 90% of the samples exceeded the legal limit.[166]

- March 4, 2013 – Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health analyzed samples of gas drilling wastewater discharged to surface water through wastewater treatment plants. Barium, strontium, bromides, chlorides, and benzene all exceeded levels known to cause human health impacts.[167]

- December 9, 2012 – State data in Colorado showed more than 350 instances of groundwater contamination resulting from more than 2,000 spills from oil and gas operations over the past five years. Further, as the *Denver Post* reported, "Contamination

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[162] Environmental Protection Agency. (1987). *Report to Congress: Management of wastes from the exploration, development, and production of crude oil, natural gas, and geothermal energy* (Rep.). 137-138. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

[163] Jackson, R. B., Vengosh, A., Darrah, T. H., Warner, N. R., Down, A., Poreda, R. J., . . . Karr, J. D. (2013). Increased stray gas abundance in a subset of drinking water wells near Marcellus shale gas extraction. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110(28), 11250-11255. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1221635110

[164] CBS/AP. (2013, June 25). Methane found in Pa. drinking water near fracked wells. *CBS News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbsnews.com/news/methane-found-in-pa-drinking-water-near-fracked-wells/

[165] Legere, L. (2013, May 19). Sunday Times review of DEP drilling records reveals water damage, murky testing methods. *The Times-Tribune*. Retrieved from http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/sunday-times-review-of-dep-drilling-records-reveals-water-damage-murky-testing-methods-1.1491547

[166] Gross, S. A., Avens, H. J., Banducci, A. M., Sahmel, J., Panko, J. M., & Tvermoes, B. E. (2013). Analysis of BTEX groundwater concentrations from surface spills associated with hydraulic fracturing operations. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 63*(4), 424-432. doi: 10.1080/10962247.2012.759166

[167] Ferrar, K. J., Michanowicz, D. R., Christen, C. L., Mulcahy, N., Malone, S. L., & Sharma, R. K. (2013). Assessment of effluent contaminants from three facilities discharging Marcellus shale wastewater to surface waters in Pennsylvania. *Environmental Science & Technology, 47*(7), 3472-3481. doi: 10.1021/es301411q

of groundwater—along with air emissions, truck traffic and changed landscapes—has spurred public concerns about drilling along Colorado's Front Range."[168]

- May 2012 – A report by researchers at Natural Resources Defense Council and Carnegie Mellon University found that the options available for dealing with fracking wastewater are inadequate to protect public health and the environment, resulting in increasing quantities of toxic wastewater as an ongoing problem without a good solution.[169]

- January 11, 2012 – The USGS reported that the Marcellus Shale is already highly fractured and that numerous fissures naturally occurring within the formation could potentially provide pathways for contaminants to migrate vertically into water supplies.[170]

- October 25, 2011 – After receiving new information from two companies, members of Congress updated their findings to show that "between 2005 and 2009, oil and gas service companies injected 32.7 million gallons of diesel fuel or hydraulic fracturing fluids containing diesel fuel in wells in 20 states."[171]

- October 17, 2011 – Thomas P. Jacobus, General Manager of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Washington Aqueduct, called for a prohibition on horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest because of concern that fracking poses risks to drinking water. The Washington Aqueduct—which provides drinking water to Washington, DC, Arlington County, Virginia, and Falls Church, Virginia—is supplied by the Potomac River, which has its headwaters in the George Washington National Forest that sits atop the Marcellus Shale. Jacobus said, "Enough study on the technique [hydraulic fracturing] has been published to give us great cause for concern about the potential for degradation of the quality of our raw water supply…."[172]

- October 11, 2011 – Charles M. Murray, General Manager of Fairfax Water, called for a prohibition on horizontal hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest. "Natural gas development activities have the potential to impact the quantity and quality of Fairfax Water's source water," Murray wrote. "Downstream water users and

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[168] Finley, B. (2012, December 9). Drilling spills reaching Colorado groundwater; state mulls test rules. *The Denver Post*. Retrieved from http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_22154751/drilling-spills-reaching-colorado-groundwater-state-mulls-test#ixzz2EihHU2fg

[169] Hammer, R. & VanBriesen, J. (2012, May). *In fracking's wake: New rules are needed to protect our health and environment from contaminated wastewater* (Rep.). Natural Resources Defense Council. Retrieved from http://www.nrdc.org/energy/files/fracking-wastewater-fullreport.pdf

[170] U.S. Geological Survey, New York Water Science Center. (2012, January 11). *Comments on the revised draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement*. (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.ewg.org/sites/default/files/report/ReviseddraftSGEIS_USGScomments_Version3_0.pdf

[171] Waxman, H. A., Markey, E. J., & DeGette, D. (2011, October 25). *Committee on Energy & Commerce* (U.S.A., Congress, Committee on Energy & Commerce). Retrieved from http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?q=news/reps-waxman-markey-and-degette-report-updated-hydraulic-fracturing-statistics-to-epa

[172] Jacobus, T. P. (2012, April 25). Draft environmental impact statement for the George Washington National Forest [Letter written October 17, 2011 to K. Landgraf]. Retrieved, from http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5366331.pdf

consumers will bear the economic burden if drinking water sources are contaminated or the quality of our source water supply is degraded."[173] Fairfax Water provides drinking water for Fairfax County in Virginia.

- September 7, 2011 – In its draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) acknowledged that "there is questionable available capacity"[174] for New York's public sewage treatment plants to accept drilling wastewater, yet the agency said that it would allow those facilities to accept such waste if the plants meet permitting conditions.[175] The NYS DEC proposed underground injection as one alternative to sewage treatment procession of fracking waste. Although it is a common method of disposal for fracking wastewater,[176] the last significant government study of pollution risks from oil and gas wastewater injection wells occurred in 1989 and found multiple cases of costly groundwater contamination.[177] In subsequent years, studies have continued to link underground injection of drilling wastewater to pollution as well as earthquakes.[178]

- September 2011 – A team led by Theo Colburn of The Endocrine Disruptor Exchange found that 25 percent of chemicals known to be used in fracking fluids are implicated in cancer, 37 percent could disrupt the endocrine system, and 40 to 50 percent could cause nervous, immune and cardiovascular system problems. The research team also found that more than 75 percent could affect the skin, eyes, and respiratory system, resulting in various problems such as skin and eye irritation or flu-like symptoms.[179]

- August 4, 2011 – As reported by the *New York Times*, the EPA had alerted Congress in 1987 about a case of water contamination caused by fracking. Its report documented that

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[173] Murray, C. M. (n.d.). Draft environmental impact statement for the George Washington National Forest [Letter written October 11, 2013 to K. Landgraf]. Retrieved from http://www.svnva.org/wp-content/uploads/fairfax-wash-aquaduct-gwnf-comments.pdf

[174] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (6-62, Rep.).

[175] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (6-57 through 6-63, Rep.).

[176] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (6-64, Rep.).

[177] United States Government Accountability Office. (1989, July 5). Drinking water: Safeguards are not preventing contamination from injected oil and gas wastes. Retrieved from http://www.gao.gov/products/RCED-89-97

[178] Fountain, H. (2012, January 1). Disposal halted at well after new quake in Ohio. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/02/science/earth/youngstown-injection-well-stays-shut-after-earthquake.html

[179] Colborn, T., Kwiatkowski, C., Schultz, K., & Bachran, M. (2011). Natural gas operations from a public health perspective. *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal, 17*(5), 1039-1056. doi: 10.1080/10807039.2011.605662

a shale gas well hydraulically fractured at a depth of more than 4,200 feet contaminated a water supply only 400 feet from the surface.[180, 181, 182]

- May 17, 2011 – The state of Pennsylvania fined Chesapeake Energy Corporation $900,000 for an incident in which improper cementing and casing in one of the company's gas wells allowed methane to migrate underground and contaminate 16 private drinking water wells in Bradford County.[183]

- May 17, 2011 – A Duke University study documented "systematic evidence for methane contamination of drinking water associated with shale gas extraction."[184] The study showed that methane levels were 17 times higher in water wells near drilling sites than in water wells in areas without active drilling.[185]

- April 18, 2011 – As part of a year-long investigation into hydraulic fracturing and its potential impact on water quality, U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) released the second of two reports issued in 2011. Their analysis of hydraulic fracturing fluids used by the 14 leading oil and natural gas service companies between 2005 and 2009 found, among other things, that the companies used more than 650 different products that contained chemicals that are known or possible human carcinogens, regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, or listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. The report also showed that "between 2005 and 2009, the companies used 94 million gallons of 279 products that contained at least one chemical or component that the manufacturers deemed proprietary or a trade secret … in most cases the companies stated that they did not have access to proprietary information about products they purchased 'off the shelf' from chemical suppliers. In these cases, the companies are injecting fluids containing chemicals that they themselves cannot identify."[186] These findings were reported in the *New York Times*.[187]

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[180] Urbina, I. (2011, August 4). A tainted water well, and concern there may be more. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/04/us/04natgas.html

[181] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1987). *Report to Congress: Management of wastes from the exploration, development, and production of crude oil, natural gas, and geothermal energy* (Rep.). 4-22, 4-23. Retrieved from http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=20012D4P.PDF

[182] Horwitt, D. (2011, August 3). Cracks in the facade. *Environmental Working Group*. Retrieved from http://www.ewg.org/research/cracks-façade

[183] Levy, M. (2011, May 18). DEP fines Chesapeake $1 million. *Pressconnects.com*. Retrieved from http://www.pressconnects.com/viewart/20110517/NEWS01/105170345/DEP-fines-Chesapeake-1-million

[184] Osborn, S. G., Vengosh, A., Warner, N. R. & Jackson, R. B. (2011). Methane contamination of drinking water accompanying gas-well drilling and hydraulic fracturing. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 108,* 8172-8176. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1100682108

[185] Duke University. (2011). Methane levels 17 times higher in water wells near hydrofracking sites, study finds. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved from http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110509151234.htm

[186] Waxman, H. A., Markey, E. J., & DeGette, D. (2011, April 18). Committee on Energy & Commerce (U.S.A., Congress, Committee on Energy & Commerce). Retrieved from http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Hydraulic-Fracturing-Chemicals-2011-4-18.pdf

[187] Urbina, I. (2011, April 17). Chemicals Were Injected Into Wells, Report Says. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/17/science/earth/17gas.html

January 2011 – A team of scientists led by a University of Central Arkansas researcher called attention to the threat posed to surface waters by rapidly expanding shale gas development, noting a lack of data collection accompanying the rush to drill. "Gas wells are often close to surface waters that could be impacted by elevated sediment runoff from pipelines and roads, alteration of stream flow as a result of water extraction, and contamination from introduced chemicals or the resulting wastewater."[188]

- April 29, 2010 – In 2010, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission fined Occidental Petroleum Corporation (OXY) USA a record $390,000 for an incident of pollution, discovered in 2008, when its drilling wastes leaked through an unlined pit, contaminated two springs with benzene, and polluted other nearby water sources. In addition, the regulators separately fined OXY USA $257,400 for a nearby case of pollution, also discovered in 2008, in which a torn liner in a pit caused drilling waste fluids to leak out and contaminate two springs with benzene.[189]

- April 22, 2011 – Describing one of many blowouts, the Associated Press reported on a shale gas well in Canton, Pennsylvania that spewed thousands of gallons of chemical-laced water on farmland and into a stream for two consecutive days before being brought under control.[190]

- January 31, 2011 – As part of a year-long investigation into hydraulic fracturing and its potential impact on water quality, U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) reported that "between 2005 and 2009, oil and gas service companies injected 32.2 million gallons of diesel fuel or hydraulic fracturing fluids containing diesel fuel in wells in 19 states." Furthermore, revealing apparent widespread violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the investigation found that no oil and gas service companies had sought—and no state or federal regulators had issued—permits for the use of diesel fuel in hydraulic fracturing.[191]

- June 5, 2009 – A leaking pipe carrying fracking waste in Washington County, Pennsylvania, polluted a tributary of Cross Creek Lake, killing fish, salamanders, crayfish, and aquatic insect life in approximately three-quarters of a mile of the stream.[192]

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[188] Entrekin, S., Evans-White, M., Johnson, B., & Hagenbuch, E. (2011). Rapid expansion of natural gas development poses a threat to surface waters. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, 9*(9), 503-511. doi: 10.1890/110053

[189] Webb, D. (2010, April 29). Record fine, second one against Oxy approved. *Grand Junction Sentinel*. Retrieved from http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/record-fine-second-one-against-oxy-approved

[190] The Associated Press. (2011, April 22). Crews stop flow of drilling fluid from Pennsylvania well. *Syracuse.com*. Retrieved from http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/04/crews_stop_flow_of_drilling_fl.html

[191] Waxman, H. A., Markey, E. J., & DeGette, D. (2011, January 31). *Committee on Energy & Commerce* (U.S.A., Congress, Committee on Energy & Commerce). Retrieved from http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/index.php?q=news/waxman-markey-and-degette-investigation-finds-continued-use-of-diesel-in-hydraulic-fracturing-f

[192] Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. (2009, June 5). Waste from Marcellus shale drilling in Cross Creek Park kills fish. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved, from http://www.post-gazette.com/washington/2009/06/05/Waste-from-Marcellus-shale-drilling-in-Cross-Creek-Park-kills-fish/stories/200906050136

- April 26, 2009 – Officials in three states linked water contamination and methane leaks to gas drilling. Incidents included a case in Ohio where a house exploded after gas seeped into its water well and multiple cases of exploding drinking water wells in Dimock, Pennsylvania.[193]

- November 13, 2008 – *ProPublica* reported more than 1,000 cases of drilling-related contamination documented by courts and state and local governments in Colorado, New Mexico, Alabama, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.[194]

- December 15, 2007 – In Bainbridge, Ohio, a gas well that was improperly cemented and subsequently fractured by Ohio Valley Energy Systems Corporation allowed natural gas to migrate outside of the well, causing a home to explode. In addition, 23 nearby water wells were contaminated, two of which were located more than 2,300 feet from the drilling site.[195, 196, 197]

Inherent engineering problems that worsen with time

Studies consistently show that oil and gas wells routinely leak, allowing for the migration of natural gas and potentially other substances into groundwater and/or the atmosphere. Recent research suggests that the act of fracking itself may induce pathways for leaks. Leakage from faulty wells is an issue that the industry has identified and for which it has no solution. According to Schlumberger, one of the world's largest companies specializing in fracking, about five percent of wells leak immediately, 50 percent leak after 15 years, and 60 percent leak after 30 years. Data from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for 2000-2012 show over nine percent of shale gas wells drilled in the state's northeastern counties leaking within the first five years. Leaks pose serious risks including potential loss of life or property from explosions and the migration of gas or other chemicals into drinking water supplies.

Leaks also allow methane to escape into the atmosphere, where it acts as a more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Indeed, over a 20-year time frame, methane is 86 times more potent a heat accumulator than carbon dioxide. There is no evidence to suggest that the

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[193] Lustgarten, A. (2009, April 26). Officials in three states pin water woes on gas drilling. *ProPublica*. Retrieved from http://www.propublica.org/article/officials-in-three-states-pin-water-woes-on-gas-drilling-426

[194] Lustgarten, A. (2008, November 13). Buried secrets: Is natural gas drilling endangering U.S. water supplies? *ProPublica*. Retrieved from http://www.propublica.org/article/buried-secrets-is-natural-gas-drilling-endangering-us-water-supplies-1113

[195] Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management. (2008, September 1). *Report on the investigation of the natural gas invasion of aquifers in Bainbridge Township of Geauga County, Ohio*. (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.ohiodnr.com/mineral/bainbridge/tabid/20484/default.aspx

[196] Bair, E. S., Freeman, D. C., & Senko, J. M. (2010, June). *Expert panel technical report, subsurface gas invasion Bainbridge Township, Geauga County, Ohio* (Rep.). Retrieved from http://oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov/portals/oilgas/pdf/bainbridge/DMRM%200%20Title%20Page,%20Preface,%20Acknowledgements.pdf

[197] Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Order Number 2009-17 (Apr. 14, 2009) (see attachments A, B).

problem of cement and well casing impairment is abating. Indeed, a 2014 analysis of more than 75,000 compliance reports for more than 41,000 wells in Pennsylvania found that newer wells have higher leakage rates and that unconventional shale gas wells leak more than conventional wells drilled within the same time period. Industry has no solution for rectifying the chronic problem of well casing/cement leakage.

- July 9, 2015 – As part of a larger examination of the potential health and environmental impacts of fracking in California, the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) documented cases of well failures triggered by underground movements that caused well casings to shear. Sheared well casings can allow gas and fluids from the fracking zone to migrate to overlying aquifers. The CCST team identified several mechanisms by which casing shears can occur in California as oil wells age: surface subsidence, heaving, reservoir compaction, and earthquakes. Prolonged drought can also damage the integrity of well casings: as groundwater levels fall, landforms can sink and contribute to casing shear.[198]

- June 30, 2015 – According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Findings Statement, "there is a risk that well integrity can fail, especially over time, and questions have arisen about whether high-volume hydraulic fracturing can cause seismic changes which could potentially result in fracturing fluid migration through abandoned wells or existing fissures and faults. Thus, high-volume hydraulic fracturing could result in significant adverse impacts to water resources from well construction and fracturing fluid migration."[199]

- June 4, 2015 – As part of a draft assessment of fracking's impact on drinking water, the U.S. EPA examined cases of water contamination across the United States and concluded that "construction issues, sustained casing pressure, and the presence of natural faults and fractures can work together to create pathways for fluids to migrate toward drinking water resources." Fracking older wells poses additional risks, the draft study notes, because aging itself "can contribute to casing degradation, which can be accelerated by exposure to corrosive chemicals, such as hydrogen sulfide, carbonic acid, and brines" and because many older wells were never designed to withstand the high pressures and stress of fracking operations. The EPA estimates that 6 percent of the 23,000 U.S. oil and gas wells (= 1,380 wells) first fracked in 2009 or 2010 were drilled more than ten years earlier.[200]

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[198] Stringfellow, W. T., Cooley H., Varadharajan, C., Heberger, M., Reagan, M. T., Domen, J.K., Sandelin, W. … Houseworth, J. E. (2015, July 9). Volume II, Chapter 2: Impacts of well stimulation on water resources. In: *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California.* California Council on Science and Technology, Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-II-chapter-2.pdf

[199] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2015, June 30). Final supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program: regulatory program for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus Shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs, findings statement. Retrieved from http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/findingstatehvhf62015.pdf

[200] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2015, June 30). *Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources*, executive summary (draft). Retrieved from http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/hf_es_erd_jun2015.pdf

- December 2, 2014 – Problems with structural integrity have been documented in a well at the only hydraulically fractured site in the United Kingdom. Email messages obtained under freedom of information laws reveal that problems with wellbore integrity emerged in April of 2014 and attempts were made to remediate the problem, although nothing was reported at that time to regulators. The drilling company, Cuadrilla Resources, continues to deny that any problems exist with the well, emphasizing that "no leak of fluids" occurred and that "the issue" was resolved during the abandonment process. Cuadrilla had previously been reprimanded for failing to disclose a more minor deformation in the well casing. The well was abandoned at the end of last year, following two earthquakes in 2011, which scientists determined to have been caused by fracking at the site.[201]

- August 11, 2014 – Researchers affiliated with multiple universities and with the Los Alamos National Laboratory summarized recent field observations of wellbore-integrity failure, concluding that, because at least some well failures are not identified, reported barrier failure rates of 1-10% of wells and reported rates of groundwater contamination of 0.01-0.1% of wells constitute a "lower bound" for possible environmental problems. Citing hydraulic fracturing, as well as temperature and pressure changes, as operations that can induce pathways for leaks, the authors point out that few studies have considered the very-long-term fate (">50 years") of wellbore systems. They include "whether unconventional resource development alters the frequency of well integrity failures" as a critical topic for future research.[202]

- July 30, 2014 – Based on records obtained from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (PA-DEP), Scranton's *Times-Tribune* reported that five natural gas wells in Bradford County have leaked methane for years because of persistent casing and cement problems. In the most recent violation, a PA-DEP inspector found combustible gas flowing through vents connected to the cement between layers of pipe. The agency issued a notice of violation for each well, saying combustible gas outside the well's surface casing violates state regulations. Each of the wells has four layers of steel casing, but nothing prevents leaking (stray) methane from flowing into the atmosphere. No evidence of water contamination has yet been seen. None of the wells have produced any gas for sale.[203]

- June 30, 2014 – A study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by a Cornell University research team projected that over 40 percent of shale gas wells in Northeastern Pennsylvania will leak methane into groundwater or the atmosphere over time. Analyzing more than 75,000 state inspections of more than 41,000 oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania since 2000, the researchers identified high occurrences of casing and

[201] Bryant, B. (2014, December 2). The only fracked site in the United Kingdom suffered structural failure. *Vice News*. Retrieved from https://news.vice.com/article/the-only-fracking-site-in-the-united-kingdom-suffered-structural-failure

[202] Jackson R. B., Vengosh, A., Carey, J. W., Davies, R. J., Darrah, T. H., O'Sullivan, F., & Pétron, G. (2014). The environmental costs and benefits of fracking. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 39*, 327–62. doi: 10.1146/annurev-environ-031113-144051

[203] Gibbons, B. (2014, July 30). Five gas wells leaked methane for years. *Times-Tribune*. Retrieved from http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/five-gas-wells-leaked-methane-for-years-1.1727537

cement impairments inside and outside the wells. A comparative analysis showed that newer, unconventional (horizontally fracked) shale gas wells were leaking at six times the rate of conventional (vertical) wells drilled over the same time period. The leak rate for unconventional wells drilled after 2009 was at least six percent, and rising with time. In the state's northeastern counties between 2000-2012, over nine percent of shale gas wells drilled leaked within the first five years.[204] The study also discovered that over 8,000 oil and gas wells drilled since 2000 had not received a facility-level inspection. This study helps explain the results of earlier studies that documented elevated levels of methane in drinking water aquifers located near drilling and fracking operations in Pennsylvania and points to compromised structural integrity of well casings and cement as a possible mechanism.

- May 22, 2014 – In a 69-page report, University of Waterloo researchers warned that natural gas seeping from 500,000 wellbores in Canada represents "a threat to environment and public safety" due to groundwater contamination, greenhouse gas emissions, and explosion risks wherever methane collects in unvented buildings and spaces. The report found that 10 percent of all active and suspended gas wells in British Columbia now leak methane. Additionally, the report found that some hydraulically fractured shale gas wells in that province have become "super methane emitters" that spew as much as 2,000 kilograms of methane a year.[205, 206]

- May 1, 2014 – Following a comprehensive review of evidence, the Council of Canadian Academies identified inherent problems with well integrity as one of its top concerns about unconventional drilling and fracking. According to one expert panel, "the greatest threat to groundwater is gas leakage from wells from which even existing best practices cannot assure long-term prevention."[207] Regarding their concerns related to well integrity and cement issues, the panel wrote:

> Two issues of particular concern to panel members are water resources, especially groundwater, and GHG emissions. Both related to well integrity…. Natural gas leakage from improperly formed, damaged, or deteriorated cement seals is a long-recognized yet unresolved problem …. Leaky wells due to improperly placed cement seals, damage from repeated fracturing treatments, or cement deterioration over time, have the potential to create pathways for contamination of groundwater resources and to increase GHG emissions.

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[204] Ingraffea, A., Wells, M., Santoro, R., & Shonkoff, S. (2014). Assessment and risk analysis of casing and cement impairment in oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania, 2000–2012. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Retrieved from http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/06/25/1323422111.abstract

[205] Dusseault, M. B., Jackson, R. E., & MacDonal, D. (2014, May 22). *Towards a road map for mitigating the rates and occurrences of long-term wellbore leakage*. *Geofirma*. Retrieved from http://www.geofirma.com/Links/Wellbore_Leakage_Study%20compressed.pdf

[206] Nikiforuk, A. (2014, June 5). Canada's 500,000 leaky energy wells: 'Threat to public' *The Tyee*. Retrieved from http://www.thetyee.ca/News/2014/06/05/Canada-Leaky-Energy-Wells/

[207] Council of Canadian Academies. (2014, May 1). *Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction in Canada: the Expert Panel on Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction.* Retrieved from http://bit.ly/1nNicuf

They further explain:

> Cement may crack, shrink, or become deformed over time, thereby reducing the tightness of the seal around the well and allowing the fluids and gases … to escape into the annulus between casing and rock and thus to the surface…. The challenge of ensuring a tight cement seal [will] be greater for shale gas wells that are subjected to repeated pulses of high pressure during the hydraulic fracturing process than for conventional gas wells. This pressure stresses the casing and therefore the cement that isolates the well from surrounding formations repeatedly.

- January 8, 2013 – According to state inspections of all 6,000 wells drilled in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale before 2013, six to ten percent of them leaked natural gas, with the rate of leakage increasing over time. The rate was six percent in 2010 (97 well failures out of 1,609 wells drilled); 7.1 percent in 2011 (140 well failures out of 1,972 wells drilled); and 8.9 percent in 2012 (120 well failures out of 1,346 wells drilled).[208] These data include wells that were cited for leakage violations, and wells that were noted to be leaking by inspectors but which had not been given violations. The NYS DEC forecasts that 50,000 wells could be drilled over the life of the Marcellus Shale play. If they fail at the same rate as wells in Pennsylvania, 4,000 wells would fail and leak in New York almost immediately.[209]

- March 2009 – A study published by the Society of Petroleum Engineers of more than 315,000 oil, gas, and injection wells in Alberta, Canada, found that 4.5 percent of the wells had unintended gas flow to the surface. In one designated area, officials required testing for gas migration outside the well casings in addition to routine testing for gas leaks within the rings of steel casings (annuli). Within this special testing zone, 15.5 percent of wells (3,205 of 20,725) leaked gas, and the incidence of gas leaks was four times percent higher in horizontal or deviated wells than in vertical wells.[210]

- Autumn 2003 – Schlumberger, one of the world's largest companies specializing in hydraulic fracturing and other oilfield services, reported in its in-house publication, *Oilfield Review*, that more than 40 percent of approximately 15,500 wells in the outer continental shelf area in the Gulf of Mexico were leaking gas. These included actively producing wells, in addition to shut-in and temporarily abandoned wells. In many cases, the gas leaked through the spaces (annuli) between layers of steel casing that drilling companies had injected with cement precisely to prevent such gas leaks. Leakage rates

[208] Ingraffea, A. R. (2013). Some scientific failings within high volume hydraulic fracturing proposed regulations. Retrieved from http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/data/NYS_DEC_Proposed_REGS_comments_Ingraffea_Jan_2013.pdf

[209] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (2-1, Rep.).

[210] Watson, T. L., & Bachu, S. (2009). Evaluation of the potential for gas and CO2 leakage along wellbores, Society of Petroleum Engineers. *SPE Drilling & Completion, 24,* 115-126. doi: 10.21.18/106817-PA

increased dramatically with age: about five percent of the wells leaked immediately; 50 percent were leaking after 15 years; and 60 percent were leaking after about 30 years.[211] Gas leaks pose serious risks including loss of life from explosions and migration of gas and associated contaminants into drinking water supplies. Leaks also allow the venting of raw methane into the atmosphere where it acts as a powerful greenhouse gas.

- November 2000 – Maurice Dusseault, a specialist in rock mechanics at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, and two co-authors presented a paper published by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, in which they reported that oil and natural gas wells routinely leak gas through cracks in their cement casings, likely caused by cement shrinkage over time and exacerbated by upward pressure from natural gas. According to their paper, in Alberta, it is common for wells to leak natural gas into aquifers. "Because of the nature of the mechanism, the problem is unlikely to attenuate," they wrote, "and the concentration of the gases in the shallow aquifers will increase with time."[212]

Radioactive releases

High levels of radiation documented in fracking wastewater from many shale formations raise special concerns in terms of impacts to groundwater and surface water. Measurements of radium in fracking wastewater in New York and Pennsylvania, from the particularly radioactive Marcellus Shale, have been as high as 3,600 times the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) limit for drinking water. One study found toxic levels of radiation in a Pennsylvania waterway even after fracking wastewater was disposed of through an industrial wastewater treatment plant. In addition, the disposal of radioactive drill cuttings is a concern. A recent study found high levels of radon in buildings specifically in heavily drilled areas of Pennsylvania, with levels of radon rising since the start of the fracking boom. Unsafe levels of radon and its decay products in natural gas produced from the Marcellus Shale may also contaminate pipelines and compressor stations, as well as pose risks to end-users when allowed to travel into homes.

- April 9, 2015 – A Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health study found that levels of radon in Pennsylvania homes—a region with some of the highest indoor radon concentrations in the US—have been rising since 2004, around the time the fracking industry arrived in the state.[213] Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer

[211] Brufatto, C. (2003). From mud to cement - Building gas wells. *Oilfield Review, 15*(3). Retrieved from http://www.slb.com/resources/publications/industry_articles/oilfield_review/2003/or2003aut06_building_gas_wells.aspx

[212] Dusseault, M. B., Gray, M. N., & Nawrocki, P. A. (2000). Why oil wells leak: Cement behavior and long-term consequences. *Society of Petroleum Engineers*. Retrieved from http://www.hydrorelief.org/frackdata/references/65704543-Casing-Leaks.pdf

[213] Casey, J. A., Ogburn, E. L., Rasmussen, S. G., Irving, J. K., Pollak, J., Locke, P. A., & Schwartz, B. S. (2015). Predictors of indoor radon concentrations in Pennsylvania, 1989-2013. *Environmental Health Perspectives*. Advance online publication: http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1409014

worldwide, after cigarette smoking.[214] Researchers found that buildings in counties where the most fracking has taken place in the past decade have had significantly higher radon readings compared with those in low-fracking areas, a difference that did not exist before 2004. Use of well water was associated with 21 percent higher indoor radon concentrations than in buildings using public water sources. This study, the first to define and evaluate the predictors of indoor radon concentrations in Pennsylvania, concluded that radon's presence was related to geology, water sources, weather, and natural gas drilling.[215]

- April 2, 2015 – A team of toxicologists, geochemists, and radiation scientists led by the University of Iowa analyzed the contribution of various naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) to the total radioactivity of fracking waste fluids, finding evidence of long-lived, environmentally persistent radioactive decay products.[216] "NORM is emerging as a contaminant of concern in hydraulic fracturing/unconventional drilling wastes, yet the extent of the hazard is currently unknown." The study determined that previous testing and study methods likely underestimate radioactivity by focusing only on radium. The researchers developed a new method to accurately predict the concentrations of uranium, thorium, and radium and their alpha-emitting progeny, polonium and lead, in fracking wastewater. They found that, under certain conditions, radioactivity increased over time, due to ingrowth of alpha-emitting radioactive progeny of long-lived parent radionuclides such as radium. The authors warned that these decay products may potentially contaminate recreational, agricultural, and residential areas, and that a more detailed understanding is needed of how radionuclides accumulate in higher organisms. In an accompanying article in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, James Burch, a University of South Carolina epidemiologist who was not involved in the study, said that fracking activities and wastewater disposal, which often take place in close proximity to where people live and work, raise risks for human exposure. "The technology is vastly outpacing what we know about the health effects."[217]

- May 8, 2014 – A group of leading medical experts and the American Lung Association of the Northeast detailed research and growing concerns about potential health impacts of radon and radium associated with natural gas production and the Marcellus Shale, in particular. High levels of radiation in the Marcellus Shale could pose health threats if high concentrations of radon and its decay products travel with natural gas, a problem

[214] National Cancer Institute (2011, Dec. 6). Radon and cancer fact sheet. Retrieved from http://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/radon/radon-fact-sheet
[215] Hurdle, J. & Phillips, S. (2015, April 9). New study raises possible link between gas drilling and radon levels. *StateImpact Pennsylvania.* Retrieved from http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/04/09/new-study-raises-possible-link-between-gas-drilling-and-radon-levels/
[216] Nelson, A. W., Eitrheim, E. S., Knight, A. W., May, D., Mehrhoff, M. A., Shannon, R., . . . Schultz, M.K. (2015). Understanding the radioactive in growth and decay of naturally occurring radioactive materials in the environment: An analysis of produced fluids from the Marcellus Shale. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 123*(7). Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1408855
[217] Konkel, L. (2015). What's NORMal for fracking? Estimating total radioactivity for produced fluids. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 123*(7). Retrieved from http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/123-a186/

compounded by the short distance Marcellus gas could travel in pipelines to people's homes.[218]

- March 24, 2014 – A team led by toxicology researchers at the University of Iowa identified high levels of radioactivity in fracking wastewater as a significant concern and noted that the testing methods used and recommended by state regulators in the Marcellus Shale region can dramatically underestimate the amount of radioactivity—specifically radium—in fracking wastewater.[219] Results obtained using EPA-recommended protocols can be obscured by the presence of other contaminant mixtures. Regarding the use of EPA protocols with fracking wastewater or other highly saline solutions, Duke University geochemist Avner Vengosh noted, "People have to know that this EPA method is not updated."[220]

- February 2014 – The Marcellus Shale is known to have high uranium and radium content. According to Mark Engle, USGS geochemist, the concentration of radium-226 can exceed 10,000 picoCuries/Liter (pCi/L) in the shale. Radium-226 has a half-life of 1,600 years. Radium and other naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) can be released from shale rock during drilling and fracking and can emerge with flowback and produced waters. It can thus enter the ambient environment and become concentrated in the sludge that results from treatment of flowback water, and in river sediment around water treatment facilities. It can also be found in landfills in which sludge and sediment have been disposed. Some radium can be found in drinking water. Geochemist Avner Vengosh warned, "Once you have a release of fracking fluid into the environment, you end up with a radioactive legacy."[221]

- October 2, 2013 – A peer-reviewed study of the impacts of drilling wastewater treated and discharged into a creek by a wastewater facility in western Pennsylvania documented radium levels approximately 200 times greater in sediment samples near the discharge location than in sediment samples collected upstream of the plant or elsewhere in western Pennsylvania. "The absolute levels that we found are much higher than what you allow in the U.S. for any place to dump radioactive material," one of the authors told *Bloomberg News.* The pollution occurred despite the fact that the treatment plant removed a substantial amount of the radium from the drilling wastewater before discharging it. The

[218] Campbell, J. (2014, May 8). Fracking critics keep pushing for state-backed health study. *Politics on the Hudson*. Retrieved from http://polhudson.lohudblogs.com/2014/05/08/fracking-critics-keep-pushing-state-backed-health-study/

[219] Nelson, A. W., May, D., Knight, A. W., Eitrheim, E. S., Mehrhoff, M., Shannon, R., . . . Schultz, M. K. (2014). Matrix complications in the determination of radium levels in hydraulic fracturing flowback water from Marcellus shale. *Environmental Science & Technology, 1*(3), 204-208. doi: 10.1021/ez5000379

[220] Kelly, S. (2014, March 24). Research shows some test methods miss 99 percent of radium in fracking waste. *Desmogblog.com*. Retrieved from http://www.desmogblog.com/2014/03/23/some-testing-methods-can-miss-99-percent-radium-fracking-waste-new-research-reports

[221] Brown V. J. (Feb 2014). Radionuclides in fracking wastewater. *Environmental Health Perspectives 122*(2), A50-A55.

researchers wrote that the accumulation of radium in sludge removed from the wastewater "could pose significant exposure risks if not properly managed."[222, 223]

- February 2013 – In an analysis of fracking sludge samples from Pennsylvania, researchers "… confirmed the presence of alpha, beta, and gamma radiation in the soil and water in reserve pits located on agricultural land." Total beta radiation exceeded regulatory guideline values by more than 800 percent, and elevated levels of some of the radioactive constituents remained in a vacated pit that had been drained and leveled. It is imperative, the research team concluded, "that we obtain better knowledge of the quantity of radioactive material and the specific radioisotopes being brought to the earth's surface from these mining processes."[224]

- July 26, 2012 – Responding to concern about radon in natural gas produced from the Marcellus Shale, the USGS analyzed ten samples of gas collected near the wellheads of three Pennsylvania gas wells. The agency found radon levels ranging from 1 to 79 picocuries per liter, with an average of 36 and a median of 32. (The highest radon activity reported here would decay to 19.8 pCi/L in approximately a week; by comparison, the EPA's threshold for indoor air remediation is 4 pCi/L.) Asserting they knew of no previous published measurements of radon in natural gas from the Appalachian Basin, which contains the Marcellus Shale, agency scientists concluded that the number of samples "is too small to … yield statistically valid results" and urged "collection and interpretation of additional data."[225]

- January 11, 2012 – In its review of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on high volume fracturing, the EPA expressed concerns about the diffusion of responsibility for the ultimate disposal of radioactive wastes generated by treatment or pretreatment of drilling wastewater. The EPA also raised concerns about the lack of analysis of radon and other radiation exposure. "Who is responsible for addressing the potential health and safety issues and associated monitoring related to external radiation and the inhalation of radon and its decay products?" the EPA asked. "Such potential concerns need to be addressed."[226]

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[222] Warner, N. R., Christie, C. A., Jackson, R. B., & Vengosh, A. (2013). Impacts of shale gas wastewater disposal on water quality in Western Pennsylvania. *Environmental Science & Technology, 47*(20), 11849-11857. doi: 10.1021/es402165b

[223] Efstathiou, J., Jr. (2013, October 2). Radiation in Pennsylvania creek seen as legacy of fracking. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-02/radiation-in-pennsylvania-creek-seen-as-legacy-of-frackin.html

[224] Rich, A. L., & Crosby, E. C. (2013). Analysis of reserve pit sludge from unconventional natural gas hydraulic fracturing and drilling operations for the presence of technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM). *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 23*(1), 117-135. doi: 10.2190/NS.23.1.h

[225] Rowan, E. L., & Kraemer, T. F. (2012). *Radon - 222 content of natural gas samples from upper and middle Devonian sandstone and shale reservoirs in Pennsylvania: Preliminary data*. United States Geological Survey. (Rep.). Retrieved from http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2012/1159/ofr2012-1159.pdf

[226] Environmental Protection Agency. (2012, January 11). *EPA comments on revised draft NYSDEC revised dSGEIS for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-*

- September 7, 2011 – The USGS reported that radium levels in wastewater from oil and gas wells in New York and Pennsylvania, including those in the Marcellus Shale, "have a distinctly higher median … than reported for other formations in the Appalachian Basin, and range to higher values than reported in other basins." The median level of radium found in Marcellus Shale wastewater in New York, 5,490 pCi/L, is almost 1,100 times the maximum contaminant level for drinking water, which is five pCi/L. In other words, if a million gallons of Marcellus Shale wastewater contaminated with the median level of radium found in New York were to spill into a waterway, 1.1 billion gallons of water would be required to dilute the radium to the maximum legal level.[227] (The EPA's health-based goal for radium in drinking water is zero.) Over time, radium naturally decays into radioactive radon gas. Thus, higher radium levels also suggest that higher levels of radon may also be present in natural gas produced from the Marcellus Shale.

- February 27, 2011 – The *New York Times* reported on the threat to New York's drinking water from Pennsylvania drilling waste due to the presence of chemical contaminants, including high levels of radioactivity. The investigation found that sewage treatment plants were neither testing for nor capable of removing that radioactivity, which was subsequently discharged into waterways that supply drinking water, and that, in some cases, wastewater contained radium levels that were hundreds of times higher than the drinking water standard. Drillers sent some of this waste to New York State for disposal even though, as the article noted, EPA scientists had warned the state about this very problem in a December 2009 letter that advised against sewage treatment plants accepting drilling waste with radium levels 12 or more times as high as the drinking water standard.[228]

- 2008-2009 – The New York State DEC found that wastewater from 11 of 13 vertical wells drilled in New York's Marcellus Shale in 2008 and 2009 contained radium levels ranging from 400 times to nearly 3,400 times EPA's safe levellimit for radium in drinking water. These figures later informed the 2011 study of radium in drilling wastewater conducted by the USGS.[229]

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permeability gas reservoirs [Press release]. Retrieved from http://www.epa.gov/region2/newsevents/pdf/EPA%20R2%20Comments%20Revised%20dSGEIS%20Enclosure.pdf

[227] Rowan, E. L., Engle, M. A., Kirby, C. S., & Kraemer, T. F. (2011, September 7). *Radium content of oil- and gas-field produced waters in the northern Appalachian basin (USA): Summary and discussion of data*. (Rep United States Geological Survey. Retrieved from http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2011/5135/ http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/radionuclides.cfm

[228] Urbina, I. (2011, February 26). Regulation lax as gas wells' tainted water hits rivers. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/27/us/27gas.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

[229] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (5-133, 5-141, 7-60, Appendix 12, Appendix 13, Rep.).

Occupational health and safety hazards

Drilling and fracking jobs are among the most dangerous jobs in the nation. Occupational hazards include head injuries, traffic accidents, blunt trauma, burns, toxic chemical exposures, heat exhaustion, dehydration, and sleep deprivation. An investigation of occupational exposures found high levels of benzene in the urine of wellpad workers, especially those in close proximity to flowback fluid coming up from wells following fracturing activities. Exposure to silica dust, which is definitively linked to silicosis and lung cancer, was singled out by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as a particular threat to workers in fracking operations where silica sand is used. At the same time, research shows that many gas field workers, despite these serious occupational hazards, are uninsured or underinsured and lack access to basic medical care.

- June 29, 2015 – An investigation by the Center for Public Integrity (CPI) found that lung-damaging silica is not sufficiently regulated to prevent silicosis (which is incurable and has no effective treatment) or lung cancer in the workplace. Rules governing occupational exposure to silica dust are far outdated, and advocacy efforts to tighten them are four decades old. At particular risk, say the authors, are workers in oil and gas fields where silica sand is used in fracking operations. Citing research by NIOSH, the CPI team noted that nearly 80 percent of the air samples on the well pads were above the recommended exposure limit for silica dust.[230]

- June 15, 2015 – *EnergyWire* examined issues surrounding exposure to crystalline silica from frack sand mining, which is a health concern to those living near mines and to those working in the industry. Families living near industrial sand mining reported that their health has been compromised by sand mine development and are concerned that companies are not properly monitoring their extraction sites. The article noted that the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) is working on a new exposure rule for workers that OSHA estimates would save nearly 700 lives and prevent 1,600 new cases of silicosis annually. The oil and gas industry is fighting the rule because of the cost associated with complying with a more stringent permissible exposure limit. Crispin Pierce, public health researcher at the University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire, is in the midst of a three-pronged research project to look at the industry's air effects. Among other findings, his project's air monitors around sand plants have found consistently finding higher readings than the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' reported regional values.[231]

- June 15, 2015 – In an update, NIOSH noted that silicosis death rates are rising again, reversing an earlier, decade-long decline. In the list of job tasks with known high silica exposures, the update named hydraulic fracturing of gas and oil wells. These results are

[230] Morris, J., Hopkins, J. S., & Jameel, M. (2015, June 30). Unequal risk: Slow-motion tragedy for American workers. *The Center for Public Integrity.* Retrieved from http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/06/29/17518/slow-motion-tragedy-american-workers

[231] King, P. (2015, June 15). Frac sand towns question whether rules protect them against silica pollution. *EnergyWire.* Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060020192

particularly concerning in light of earlier research showing significant under-detection of silicosis among deceased workers with known exposure to silica dust.[232]

- June 13, 2015 – Reporting on North Dakota's fracking boom, the Center for Investigative Reporting found that the major oil companies have largely written the rules governing their own accountability for accidents. Deeply entrenched corporate practices and weak federal oversight, according to the report, have led to high injury and death rates and a shift of assigned responsibility to others. Using data from U.S. and Canadian regulators, the journalists verified 74 on-the-job deaths among workers in Bakken Shale drilling and fracking operations since 2006. The actual number of deaths is likely higher than currently reported because federal regulators do not have a systematic way to record oil- and gas-related deaths, and OSHA does not include certain fatalities, including those of independent contractors. The report concluded that there was too little oversight from OSHA, that laws to protect workers were outdated, and that there was a culture of self-regulation by the industry.[233]

- May 29, 2015 – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published statistics on work-related fatalities during the fracking boom. The occupational fatality rate among U.S. oil and gas industry extraction workers between 2003 and 2013 remained an average of seven times higher than among U.S. workers in general (25.1 versus 3.7 deaths per 100,000 workers per year). Within this 11-year period, the industry doubled the size of its workforce and increased drilling rigs by 71 percent. The number of occupational deaths increased 27.6 percent, with a total of 1,189 deaths, but it did not increase as much as the number of workers, resulting in an overall decrease in the fatality rate of 36.3 percent. Transportation accidents and contact with objects and equipment were the most frequent fatal events. Evidence suggests that the increased use of automated technologies on drilling rigs may be contributing to the decline in death rates.[234]

- April 22, 2015 – The AFL-CIO published data for job injuries, illnesses and deaths in a national and state-by-state profile of worker safety and health in the United States, presenting comparisons by state and industry. For the third year in a row, North Dakota had the highest on-the-job fatality rate in the nation: 14.9 deaths per 100,000 workers, a rate that is more than four times the national average, and which has more than doubled since 2007. The fatality rate in the mining and oil and gas extraction sector in North Dakota was 84.7 per 100,000, which is nearly seven times the national fatality rate of

[232] Mazurek, J. M. & Weissman, D. (2015, June 15). Silicosis update. *NIOSH Science Blog*. Retrieved from http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2015/06/15/silicosis-update/
[233] Gollan, J. (2015, June 13). In North Dakota's Bakken oil boom there will be blood. *Reveal; Center for Investigative Reporting*. Retrieved from https://www.revealnews.org/article/in-north-dakotas-bakken-oil-boom-there-will-be-blood/
[234] Mason, K. L., Retzer, K. D., Hill, R., & Lincoln, J. M. (2015, May 29). Occupational fatalities during the oil and gas boom—United States, 2003-2013. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 64,* 551-554. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6420a4.htm

12.4 per 100,000 in this industry.[235, 236]

- April 10, 2015 – In a study that was that was inclusive of fracking-based extraction but not specific to it, NIOSH researchers updated their investigation into the sudden deaths of nine oil and gas extraction workers found near hatches where hydrocarbons were stored. All nine victims died between 2010 and 2014 and were unobserved or working alone at the time of their deaths. The first report attributed the fatalities to "inhalation of volatile petroleum hydrocarbons."[237] The update noted that when workers open hatches on production tanks, a plume of hydrocarbon gases and vapors can be rapidly released due to high internal pressure. Exposure to high concentrations of these low-molecular-weight hydrocarbons creates asphyxiation and explosive hazards and can have narcotic effects, resulting in disorientation, dizziness, and light-headedness. The authors cited reports of other sudden deaths following butane and propane inhalation, exposure to which can induce irregular heartbeat, insufficient oxygen supply, and respiratory depression.[238] As reported by the *Denver Post*, most of the death certificates listed natural causes or heart failure as the cause likely because medical examiners can easily miss signs of toxic inhalation during a routine autopsy. The nomadic nature of the industry presents obstacles to proper training in tank handling techniques.[239] NIOSH issued recommendations for worker protections, including respiratory protection training and engineering controls for remote gauging and venting.[240]

- February 15, 2015 – Burn injuries among North Dakota workers surged to more than 3,100 over the past five years as the area has become the epicenter of a massive drilling and fracking boom, as reported by the *Star Tribune*. Despite the flammability of Bakken crude oil and the danger of oil rig work, North Dakota has no burn centers, and burn victims must be transported out of state, typically to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area some 600 miles away. The article also covered the severe, debilitating, costly, and sometimes fatal aspects of these occupational injuries.[241]

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[235] AFL-CIO Safety and Health Department, (2015, April 22). Death on the job: The toll of neglect. Retrieved from http://www.aflcio.org/Issues/Job-Safety/Death-on-the-Job-Report

[236] Kasperkevic, J. (2015, April 29). About 150 US workers are killed on the job every day – report. *The Guardian.* Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/apr/29/north-dakota-deadliest-state-workers-third-year-running

[237] NIOSH. (2015, March 15). Suspected inhalation fatalities involving workers during manual tank gauging, sampling, and fluid transfer operations on oil and gas well sites, 2010-2014. *CDC Workplace Safety & Health Topics*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fog/data.html#_ftn1

[238] King, B., Esswein, E., Retzer, K., Snawder, J., Ridl, S., Breitenstein, M. Alexander-Scott, M., & Hill, R. (2015, April 10*). NIOSH Science Blog*, Centers for Disease Control. Retrieved from http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2015/04/10/flowback-3/

[239] Whaley, M. (2015, May 18). Toxic vapors suspected in deaths of three Colorado oil and gas workers. *The Denver Post.* Retrieved from http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28136543/colorado-oil-and-gas-workers-fell-victim-little

[240] Associated Press. (2015, May 18). 9 oil well deaths lead to warning about inhaling chemicals. *Times-Call.* Retrieved from http://www.timescall.com/news/nationworldnews/ci_28138297/9-oil-well-deaths-lead-warning-about-inhaling

[241] Rao, M. (2015, February 15). Twin Cities hospitals are front line in treating Bakken burn victims. StarTribune.com. Retrieved from http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/291967611.htmlpage=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue

- February 13, 2015 – NIOSH reported that while silicosis death rates declined between 2001 and 2010, silicosis deaths were still occurring among young persons aged 15 to 44 years old, indicating extremely high exposures to respirable silica dust. Among emerging new settings that put workers at risk for silicosis, the authors named oil and gas extraction industry workers.[242]

- January 14, 2015 – The *Charleston Gazette-Mail* reported that, due to an increase in workplace deaths that has accompanied the boom in natural gas drilling and production from the Marcellus Shale fields in Northern West Virginia, the Governor there has called for a study aimed at reversing that trend. "Between 2009 and 2013, as the industry boomed in the Marcellus region, 15 natural gas workers died on the job in West Virginia, according to the federal data. During the previous five-year period, from 2004 to 2008, three workers died in West Virginia's oil and gas industry, according to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics]."[243]

- January 12, 2015 – Oil and gas production employs less than one percent of the U.S. workforce, but in the past five years it has had more than ten percent of all workplace fatalities from fires and explosions. A review by *EnergyWire* of federal labor statistics last year found the industry had more deaths from fires and explosions than any other private industry. The only "industry" with more fire and explosion fatalities than oil and gas was firefighting, the report stated. These statistics are inclusive of deaths related to fracking operations but are not specific to them.[244]

- December 26, 2014 – A report in the *Houston Chronicle* illustrated the difficulties oil and gas workers encounter when injured on the job. In one case a worker fell from a rig, injuring his head. Supervisors did not record the accident. After he became too ill to work, he was shifted to other jobs and soon after, sent home. His daughter filed a Worker's Compensation claim, which was denied for "late reporting, no knowledge of injury by employer and no medical reports." The article noted that oilfield injuries are generally undercounted nationally. These include injuries related to drilling and fracking operations as well as those linked to other techniques of extraction.[245]

- December 4, 2014 – Benzene, a naturally occurring component of crude oil and natural gas, is a known carcinogen, with no known threshold of safety. Although the American Petroleum Institute in 1948 stated that "the only absolutely safe concentration … is zero," the organization since then undertook an intensive campaign to combat strict exposure

[242] Bang, K. M., Mazurek, J. M., Wood, J. M.. White, G. E., Hendricks, S. A., & Weston, A. (2015), Silicosis mortality trends and new exposures to respirable crystalline silica – United States, 2001-2010, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, *64*(05), 117-120. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6405a1.htm

[243] Ward, K. (2015, January 14). Tomblin calls for study of increased deaths from gas-drilling boom. *Charleston Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20150114/GZ01/150119573/1419

[244] Soraghan, M. (2015, January 12). At least 16 drilling industry workers died in fires, explosions last year. *EnergyWire.* Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060011452

[245] Olsen, L. (2014, December 16). Many oilfield injuries go unreported. *Houston Chronicle.* Retrieved from http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Many-oilfield-injuries-go-unreported-5980350.php

limits. An investigation by the Center for Public Integrity found that, "[f]or decades, the petrochemical industry spent millions on science seeking to minimize the dangers of benzene. … Taken together, the documents—put in context by interviews with dozens of lawyers, scientists, academics, regulators and industry representatives—depict a 'research strategy' built on dubious motives, close corporate oversight and painstaking public relations."[246]

- December, 2014 – In a report intended to inform employers and workers about the known hazards that result from hydraulic fracturing and flowback operations, OSHA noted that there is no publicly available worker injury, illness, or fatality data specific for fracking or flowback operations. At the same time, more workers are exposed to fracking- and flowback-related hazards due to the huge increase in the numbers of these operations over the past ten years. "In light of this, OSHA has determined that additional information concerning hydraulic fracturing and flowback operations hazards should be provided to educate and protect workers."[247]

- November 11, 2014 – University of Wisconsin toxicologist Crispin Pierce documented super-fine dust drifting from facilities that process silica sand for fracking operations. Pierce and his team detected silica dust in ambient air near frac sand operations at levels that exceed EPA air quality standards by a factor of four. Occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica is linked in adult workers to silicosis, lung cancer, and pulmonary tuberculosis. Health threats to the general public from frac sand-related air pollution have not yet been studied directly. One of the first investigations of silica dust levels in the community environment, the Wisconsin study will appear next year in the *National Journal of Environmental Health*.[248]

- November 11, 2014 – A high-pressure water line ruptured, killing one worker and seriously injuring two others during the hydraulic fracturing of an oil well in Weld County, Colorado.[249]

- October 6, 2014 – Toxicologist Peter Thorne, chair of University of Iowa's Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, warned the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors about potential community impacts and cancer risks of silica exposure from sand used for fracking operations. Thorne's ongoing investigation, which involves air sampling, risk assessments, and inhalation toxicology studies, focuses on the public

[246] Lombardi, K. (2014, December 4). Benzene and worker cancers: 'An American tragedy.' The Center for Public Integrity. Retrieved from http://www.publicintegrity.org/2014/12/04/16320/benzene-and-worker-cancers-american-tragedy

[247] U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (2014). Hydraulic fracturing and flowback hazards other than respirable silica. OSHA 3763-12 2014.

[248] Kremer, R. (2014, November 11). High levels of super-fine dust are detected around Wisconsin frac sand mines. *Wisconsin Public Radio*. Retrieved from http://www.wpr.org/high-levels-super-fine-dust-are-detected-around-wisconsin-frac-sand-mines?utm_content=buffer8947f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

[249] Paul, J. (2014, November 11). Brighton man ID'd as victim in fatal Weld County fracking blast. *The Denver Post.* Retrieved from http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_26937782/brighton-man-idd-victim-fatal-weld-county-fracking?source=pkg

health hazards of mining, processing, and storing sand. His team has documented spikes in silica particulate matter related to the transport of the silica sand by rail. The study aims to determine if mining poses an "unacceptable exposure" to the public and quantify the level of risk. For silica-exposed workers, NIOSH continues to identify needed heath protections. Thorne noted, "Workers handling materials should be using respirators, but most are not."[250]

- September 25, 2014 – The Civil Society Institute's Boston Action Research, in cooperation with Environmental Working Group and Midwest Environmental Advocates, issued a report on the hazards of silica mining. The report noted that frac sand mining is expanding rapidly in the United States and poses a little-understood threat to public health, the environment, and local economies. Given the pace of the drilling and fracking boom, silica extraction could spread to a dozen other states with untapped or largely untapped sand deposits, including Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, and Virginia. The *International Business Times* published a summary of the findings.[251, 252]

- August 29, 2014 – In a peer-reviewed study, NIOSH partnered with oil and gas operators and service companies to evaluate worker exposures to, and internal uptake of, volatile organic chemicals at six sites in Colorado and Wyoming where wells were being prepared for production. The study found benzene in the urine of well pad workers. Benzene is "naturally present in flowback fluids and the time spent working around flowback and production tanks … appears to be the primary risk factor for inhalation exposures." In some cases, airborne concentrations of benzene exceeded the NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limit concentrations and, in a few instances, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists' Threshold Limit Value, "when workers performed work tasks near a point source for benzene emissions."[253]

- July 29, 2014 – As part of an investigation into the health impacts of drilling and fracking on animal health, veterinarian Michelle Bamberger and Cornell biochemist Robert Oswald, published an interview with a twenty-year oil and gas industry worker about his experiences and worker safety. His account included injuries, 16-hour workdays, fatigue, exposure to chemicals, and inadequate health and safety training. "No one out there tells you about stuff that has latency. That is the last thing they are going to do is tell you that

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[250] Strandberg, S. (2014, October 6). U of I researcher informs supervisors about frac-sand impact. *Decorah Newspapers*. Retrieved from http://www.decorahnewspapers.com/Content/Home/Home/Article/U-of-I-researcher-informs-supervisors-about-frac-sand-impact/-2/-2/35735

[251] Chapman, E., Hopkins, L., Jasset, A., Sheldon, S., & Smith, G. (2014, September 25). Communities at risk: Frac sand mining in the Upper Midwest--A report by Boston Action Research (a project of Civil Society Institute). Retrieved from http://216.30.191.148/fracsandmining/ and www.bit.ly/fracsandmining

[252] Gallucci, M. (2014, September 25). US oil & gas fracking boom could drive silica sand mining operations in 12 more states, environmental groups say. *International Business Times.* Retrieved from http://www.ibtimes.com/us-oil-gas-fracking-boom-could-drive-silica-sand-mining-operations-12-more-states-1695246

[253] Esswein, E., Snawder, J., King, B., Breitenstein, M., Alexander-Scott, M., & Kiefer, M. (2014). Evaluation of some potential chemical risks during flowback operations in unconventional oil and gas extraction: Preliminary results. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene, 11*, D174-0184.

something that you are handling will take you out in 20 years or 10 years or cause you some kind of ailment, or you can potentially drag this home to your family."[254]

- July 14, 2014 – As part of an analysis of safety and research needs associated with drilling and fracking, researchers at the Colorado School of Public Health and the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wyoming documented high injury and on-the-job mortality rates among gas and oilfield workers. The occupational fatality rate was 2.5 times higher than that of the construction industry and seven times higher than that of general industry. By contrast, injury rates were lower than the construction industry, suggesting that injuries are underreported. Researchers documented crystalline silica levels above occupational health standards and identified the existence of other hazards, including particulate matter, benzene, noise, and radiation. The team called for exposure assessments for both chemical hazards and physical hazards that lead to occupational illness (noise, radioactivity); screening and surveillance systems to assess incidence and prevalence of occupational illness; industry/academic collaboration to conduct occupational epidemiologic studies; and assessment of the effectiveness of industry interventions to reduce exposures.[255]

- July 2014 – The British labor journal *Hazards*, identified health concerns in the drilling and fracking industry: increased rate of death on the job, toxic releases, silica exposure, and exposure to hydrocarbons and endocrine disruptors. The union that organizes the construction, rig, and transport workers, on which fracking would rely, agreed at its July 2014 national conference to lobby for a moratorium on fracking because "[d]elegates want union members to be made aware of the dangers of fracking and be advised not to work on fracking sites."[256]

- June 29, 2014, and August 31, 2014 – An initial report and follow-up analysis in *The Columbus Dispatch* examined fire hazards at well pads. In one notable case, malfunctioning hydraulic tubing allowed a well pad fire in Monroe County, Ohio to spread rapidly, prompting evacuations. Local firefighters had neither the correct equipment nor did they know the chemicals they were trying to extinguish. One firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation. [257, 258]

- May 19, 2014 – Underscoring the dangerous nature of chemicals used in fracking operations, NIOSH reported that at least four gasfield workers have died since 2010 from

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[254] Bamberger, M., & Oswald, R. (2014). The shale gas revolution from the viewpoint of a former industry insider. *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy.* Early Online View. doi: 10.2190/NS.EOV.1

[255] Witter, R. Z., Tenney, L., Clark, S., & Newman, L. S. (2014). Occupational exposures in the oil and gas extraction industry: State of the science and research recommendations. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 57*(7), 847-856. Retrieved from http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajim.22316/full

[256] O'Neill, R. (editor). (July 2014). Chemicals, dust and deaths and the new rush for oil and gas. *Hazards Magazine*. Special Online Report. Retrieved from http://www.hazards.org/oil/fracking.htm#top

[257] Richards, J. S. (2014, June 29). Glitch sparks smoky fire at gas well. *The Columbus Dispatch.* Retrieved from http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/06/29/glitchsparks-smoky-fire-at-gas-well.html

[258] Arenschield, L. (2014, August 31). Fracking fire points out failings. *The Columbus Dispatch* Retrieved from http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/06/29/glitchsparks-smoky-fire-at-gas-well.html

acute chemical exposures during flowback operations and warned that flowback operations can "result in elevated concentrations of volatile hydrocarbons in the work environment that could be acute exposure hazards." The agency further noted that such volatile hydrocarbons "can affect the eyes, breathing, and the nervous system and at high concentrations may also affect the heart causing abnormal rhythms."[259, 260]

- May 16, 2013 – A NIOSH study revealed that worker exposure to crystalline silica dust from sand used in fracking operations exceeded "relevant occupational health criteria" at all eleven tested sites, and the magnitude of some exposures exceeded NIOSH limits by a factor of 10 or more. "[P]ersonal respiratory protection alone is not sufficient to adequately protect against workplace exposures." Inhalation of crystalline silica can cause incurable silicosis, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kidney disease and autoimmune diseases.[261] Although community exposures distant from mines are possible, there are no federal or state standards for silica in ambient air. A first-ever study on public health risks from frac sand is now in progress.[262]

- May 8, 2014 – A report by the AFL-CIO found that the fracking boom has made North Dakota the most dangerous state for U.S. workers—with a fatality rate five times higher than the national average—and that North Dakota's fatality rate has doubled since 2007. The AFL-CIO called North Dakota "an exceptionally dangerous and deadly place to work." U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez called the rising rate of workplace deaths suffered in the oil and gas sector "unacceptable."[263]

- April 24, 2014 – A University of Texas San Antonio report commissioned by the Methodist Healthcare Ministries found that many oil and gas field workers in the Eagle Ford Shale are uninsured or underinsured and that "the most noticeable health impacts so far are work-related illnesses and injuries: heat exhaustion, dehydration, sleep deprivation, exposure to oil and gas spills and accidents." The study also noted that oil and gas production has put strain on healthcare facilities.[264]

- April 10, 2014 –West Virginia University researcher Michael McCawley reported that some of the nation's highest rates of silicosis are in heavily drilled areas within the

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[259] Snawder, J., Esswein, E., King, B., Breitenstein, M., Alexander-Scott, M., Retzer, K., . . . Hill, R. (2014, May 19). Reports of worker fatalities during flowback operations [Web log post]. *NIOSH Science Blog.* Retrieved from http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2014/05/19/flowback/

[260] Iafolla, R. (2014, May 20). Four fatalities linked to used fracking fluid exposure during 'flowback,' NIOSH reports. *Bloomberg BNA*. Retrieved from http://www.bna.com/four-fatalities-linked-n17179890610/

[261] Esswein, E. J., Breitenstein, M., Snawder, J., Kiefer, M., & Sieber, W. K. (2013). Occupational exposures to respirable crystalline silica during hydraulic fracturing. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene, 10*(7), 347-356. doi: 10.1080/15459624.2013.788352

[262] University of Iowa Environmental Health Sciences Research Center. (2012). Exposure assessment and outreach to engage the public on health risks from frac sand mining. Retrieved from http://cph.uiowa.edu/ehsrc/fracsand.html

[263] Picchi, A. (2014, May 8). The most dangerous U.S. state for workers. *CBS News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-most-dangerous-us-state-for-workers/

[264] Ghahremani, Y. (2014, April 24). Fractured Healthcare: Pumping Resources Back into the Eagle For Shale Communities/Executive Summary: Methodist Healthcare Ministries and Center for Community and Business Research at the University of Texas San Antonio. Retrieved from http://www.joomag.com/en/newsstand/fractured-healthcare-pumping-resources-back-into-the-eagle-ford-shale-communities-apr-2014/0368470001398347080

Northern Panhandle of West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. A disease that hardens the lungs through inflammation and development of scar tissue, silicosis is entirely attributable to exposure to silica dust, a known occupational hazard at drilling and fracking operations. Two years earlier, OSHA and NIOSH issued a joint "Hazard Alert" to warn fracking workers of the health hazards of exposure to silica dust, including silicosis.[265]

- February 25, 2014 – A year-long investigation by the *Houston Chronicle* found that fracking jobs are deadly, with high fatality rates and high rates of serious injury. Within just one year in Texas, 65 oil and gas workers died, 79 lost limbs, 82 were crushed, 92 suffered burns and 675 broke bones. From 2007 to 2012, at least 664 U.S. workers were killed in oil and gas fields.[266, 267]

- December 27, 2013 –National Public Radio (NPR) reported spiking rates of fatalities related to oil and gas drilling operations, which had increased more than 100 percent since 2009. NPR noted that in the previous year, 138 workers were killed on the job, making the fatality rate among oil and gas workers nearly eight times higher than the average rate of 3.2 deaths for every 100,000 workers across all industries.[268]

- October 30, 2012 – In a policy statement, the American Public Health Association (APHA) asserted that, high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) "poses potential risks to public health and the environment, including groundwater and surface water contamination, climate change, air pollution, and worker health." The statement also noted that the public health perspective has been inadequately represented in policy processes related to HVHF.[269] The policy statement added:

  > [H]ydraulic fracturing workers are potentially exposed to inhalation health hazards from dust containing silica. There may also be impacts on workers and communities affected by the vastly increased production and transport of sand for HVHF. Inhalation of fine dusts of respirable crystalline silica can cause silicosis. Crystalline silica has also been determined to be an occupational lung carcinogen.

- 2005 – A researcher at Stanford University examined hazards associated with oil and gas extraction from exposure to radiation and determined that inhalation of high levels of

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[265] Hicks, I. (2014, April 10). Gas workers risk silica exposure. *The Intelligencer, Wheeling News-Register*. Retrieved from http://www.news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/598589/Gas-Workers-at-Risk-Of-Silica-Ex---.html

[266] Olsen, L. (2014, February 22). Houston Chronicle exclusive: Drilling boom, deadly legacy. Retrieved from http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/special-reports/article/Houston-Chronicle-exclusive-Drilling-boom-5259311.php#/0

[267] Hsieh, S. (2014, February 25). Why are so many workers dying in oil fields? Retrieved from http://www.thenation.com/blog/178523/why-are-so-many-workers-dying-oil-fields

[268] Schneider, A., & Geewax, M. (2013, December 27). On-the-job deaths spiking as oil drilling quickly expands. Retrieved from http://www.npr.org/2013/12/27/250807226/on-the-job-deaths-spiking-as-oil-drilling-quickly-expands

[269] American Public Health Association. (2012, October 30). The environmental and occupational health impacts of high-volume hydraulic fracturing of unconventional gas reserves. Retrieved from http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1439

radon gas is a serious concern to workers and those living nearby. Because the boiling point of radon lies between those of propane and ethane, gaseous radon (222Rn) will concentrate in ethane and propane fractions. "Elevated Rn activity concentration values have been measured at several processing plant sites…. It is well known that the radiological impact of the oil and gas-extracting and processing industry is not negligible."[270]

- May 9, 2003 – A New York Medical College study re-evaluated the chest X-rays of patients with exposure to silica who died from various respiratory problems and found that more than eight percent had undiagnosed silicosis. The study suggested that occupational lung disease may be undercounted in high-risk occupations. The authors of this study said that improved OSHA standards, with ongoing exposure monitoring and medical surveillance, would significantly improve the recognition of cases and justify more stringent preventive measures to reduce exposure. They further noted that practitioners need skills in taking an occupational exposure history. Although ten years have passed since this study was published, both recommendations have yet to be implemented.[271]

Public Health Effects, Measured Directly

By several measures, evidence for fracking-related health problems is emerging across the United States. In Pennsylvania, as the number of gas wells increase in a community, so do rates of hospitalization. Drilling and fracking operations are correlated with elevated motor vehicle fatalities (Texas), self-reported skin and respiratory problems (southwestern Pennsylvania), ambulance runs and emergency room visits (North Dakota), infant deaths (Utah), birth defects (Colorado), and low birthweight (multiple states). Benzene levels in ambient air surrounding drilling and fracking operations are sufficient to elevate risks for future cancers in both workers and nearby residents, according to studies.

- July 15, 2015 – A study by University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University researchers found that drilling and fracking activity was associated with increased rates of hospitalization in Pennsylvania. During a period of dramatic increase in drilling and fracking activity between 2007 and 2011, inpatient prevalence rates surged for people living near shale gas wells. Cardiology inpatient prevalence rates were significantly associated with number of wells per zip code and their density, while neurology inpatient prevalence rates were significantly associated with density of wells. Hospitalizations for cancer, skin conditions, and urological problems also rose significantly. During the same time period, no such increase in health problems was observed in a control Pennsylvania county without any drilling and fracking activity. In communities with the most wells, the

[270] Steinhäusler, F. (2005). Radiological impact on man and the environment from the oil and gas industry: Risk assessment for the critical group. *Nato Science Series: IV: Earth and Environmental Sciences.* doi: 10.1007/1-4020-2378-2_19. http://rd.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/1-4020-2378-2_19

[271] Goodwin, S. S., Stanbury, M., Wang, M.-L., Silbergeld, E., & Parker, J. E. (2003). Previously undetected silicosis in New Jersey decedents. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine, 44,* 304-11. doi: 10.1002/ajim.10260

rate of cardiology hospitalizations was 27 percent higher than in control communities with no fracking. "While the clinical significance of the association remains to be shown, [fracking] has just begun in Pennsylvania, and thus observing a significant association over this short time is striking.… Our study also supports the concept that health care utilization should be factored into the value (costs and benefits) of hydraulic fracturing over time."[272] In a related *Newsweek* story, lead researcher Reynold Panettieri, Jr. said, "At this point, we suspect that residents are exposed to many toxicants, noise and social stressors due to hydraulic fracturing near their homes and this may add to the increased number of hospitalizations."[273]

- July 9, 2015 – As part of a scientific assessment of well stimulation treatments, including fracking, the California Council on Science and Technology studied the potential impacts of well stimulation on human health in California. The risk factors directly attributable to well stimulation stem largely from the use of a very large number and quantity of stimulation chemicals. The unknown number and toxicity of chemicals that are mixed together in well stimulation fluids made it difficult to fully quantify risk to the environment and to human health, but the study highlighted the potential health risks from exposure to fracking-related air pollution for the people of Los Angeles, 1.7 million of whom live or work within one mile of an active oil or gas well.[274] Jane Long, co-author, said, "officials should fully understand the toxicity and environmental profiles of all chemicals before allowing them to be used in California's oil operations," according to the *Los Angeles Times*.[275]

- June 22, 2015 – A longtime midwife reported her personal analysis of an ongoing spike in infant deaths, miscarriages, and placental abnormalities in Utah's Uintah Basin that has followed the advent of drilling and fracking activity there and appears linked to air pollution episodes.[276]

- June 3, 2015 – A University of Pittsburgh study linked fracking to low birthweight in three heavily drilled Pennsylvania counties. The more exposure a pregnant woman had to gas wells, the higher her risk for a smaller-than-normal baby. Exposure was determined as proximity and density of wells in relation to the residence of the pregnant woman. Compared to mothers whose homes had the fewest surrounding gas wells, mothers whose

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[272] Jemielita T., Gerton G. L., Neidell M., Chillrud S., Yan B., Stute M., … Panettieri, Jr., R. A. (2015), Unconventional gas and oil drilling is associated with increased hospital utilization rates. *PLoS ONE* 10, e0131093. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0131093

[273]Schlanger, Z. (2015, July 15). Living near fracking wells linked to increased hospitalization rates. *Newsweek*. Retrieved from http://www.newsweek.com/living-near-fracking-wells-linked-increased-hospitalization-rates-354093

[274] Shonkoff, S. B. C., Maddalena, R. L., Hayes, J., Stringfellow, W., Wettstein, Z. S., Harrison, R., Sandelin W., & McKone, T. E. (2015, July 9). Potential impacts of well stimulation on human health in California, in California Council of Science and Technology and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well stimulation in California, vol. 2: Potential Environmental Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing and Acid Stimulations*. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/2015SB4-v2.pdf

[275] Cart, J. (2015, July 9). Water and wildlife may be at risk from fracking's toxic chemicals, panel finds. *Los Angeles Times.* Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-california-science-panel-warns-that-fracking-poses-unknown-risk-20150709-story.html

[276] Solotaroff, P. (2015, June 22). What's killing the babies of Vernal, Utah? *Rolling Stone*. Retrieved from http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/fracking-whats-killing-the-babies-of-vernal-utah-20150622

homes were nearest to a high density of wells were 34 percent more likely to have babies who were "small for gestational age," meaning they weighed significantly less than expected for the number of weeks of pregnancy. Although the study did not investigate mechanisms, researchers identified air as the likely route of exposure. They supported this argument by referencing another study done in Western Pennsylvania where airborne particulate pollution correlated with low birth weight and by noting that particulates are established shale gas infrastructure emissions.[277, 278] Low birth weight is a leading cause of infant mortality.

- March 3, 2015 – A follow-up study of 21 case studies from five states found that the distribution of symptoms in animals and humans affected by nearby fracking operations was, since 2012, unchanged for humans and companion animals. In food animals, reproductive problems decreased over time while respiratory problems and growth problems increased. "This longitudinal case study illustrates the importance of obtaining detailed epidemiological data on the long-term health effects of multiple chemical exposures and multiple routes of exposure that are characteristic of the environmental impacts of unconventional drilling operations."[279]

- March 3, 2015 – A cross-sectional study by Yale University School of Medicine researchers using companion animals as sentinels of human exposure to fracking-related chemicals investigated possible associations between reported health conditions of companion and backyard animals in Southwest Pennsylvania and household proximity to drilling and fracking operations. Among dogs living in households located less than one kilometer from a gas well, risks for health problems were elevated, especially for dermal conditions, compared to animals living more than two kilometers from a well.[280]

- January 1, 2015 – A Yale-led team studied the relationship between household proximity to drilling and fracking operations and reported health symptoms in Washington County, Pennsylvania where 624 gas wells were in active operation, most of which had been drilled in the past five to six years. Researchers found that health symptoms reported by residents increased in frequency as distance between household and gas wells decreased. Among persons living less than one kilometer from drilling and fracking operations, rashes and upper respiratory problems were more prevalent. The authors of this study, the largest to date on the link between reported symptoms and natural gas drilling activities, say that their findings are "… consistent with earlier reports of respiratory and dermal

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[277] Shaina, L. S., Brink, L. L, Larkin, J. D., Sadovsky, Y, Goldstein, B. C., Pitt, B. R., & Talbott, E. O. (2015). Perinatal outcomes and unconventional natural gas operations in southwest Pennsylvania. *PLoS One, 10,* e0126425. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0126425

[278] Preidt, R. (2015, June 3). 'Fracking' linked to low birth weight babies, *WebMD*. Retrieved from http://www.webmd.com/parenting/baby/news/20150603/fracking-linked-to-low-birth-weight-babies

[279] Bamberger, M. & Oswald, R. E. (2015). Long-term impacts of unconventional drilling operations on humans and animal health. *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A*: *Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering, 50,* 447-59. doi: 10.1080/10934529.2015.992655

[280] Slizovskiy, I. B., Conti, L. A., Trufan, S. J., Reif, J. S., Lamers, V. T., Stowe, M. H., Dziura, J., & Rabinowitz, P. M. (2015). Reported health conditions in animals residing near natural gas wells in southwestern Pennsylvania, *Journal of Environmental Science and Health, Part A: Toxic/Hazardous Substances and Environmental Engineering*, *50*(5), 473-481, doi: 10.1080/10934529.2015.992666

conditions in persons living near natural gas wells." They also cite literature demonstrating the biological plausibility of a link between oil and gas extraction activities and both categories of health effects reported.[281]

- December 17, 2014 – As part of a lengthy review that became the foundation for New York State's ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) identified environmental problems associated with fracking that could contribute to adverse public health impacts. Among them: air pollution (particulate matter, ozone, diesel exhaust, and volatile organic compounds) that could affect respiratory health; drinking water contamination from underground migration of methane and/or fracking chemicals associated with faulty well construction or seismic activity; drinking water contamination from inadequate water treatment of fracking waste or from surface spills of fracking chemicals or wastewater; earthquakes and the creation of fissures; increased vehicle traffic; increased noise; increased demand for housing and medical care; and public health problems related to climate change impacts from methane and other greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. The NYSDOH Public Health Review also discussed findings from surveys of health symptoms among residents living near high volume hydraulic fracturing activities. These included skin rash, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, breathing difficulties, cough, nosebleed, anxiety, stress, headache, dizziness, eye irritation, and throat irritation in populations living near drilling and fracking operations. The NYSDOH Public Health Review noted that ongoing studies by both government agencies and several academic institutions were exploring the public health risks and impacts of fracking but that many of these studies were years from completion. The review concludes:

  > … significant gaps exist in the knowledge of potential public health impacts from [high volume hydraulic fracturing]…. The existing science investigating associations between [high volume hydraulic fracturing] activities and observable adverse health outcomes is very sparse and the studies that have been published have significant scientific limitations. Nevertheless, studies are suggestive of potential public health risks related to [high volume hydraulic fracturing] activity that warrant further careful evaluation.

  In an accompanying letter to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, MD, concluded,

  > … the overall weight of the evidence from the cumulative body of information contained in this Public Health Review demonstrates that there are significant uncertainties about the kinds of adverse health outcomes that may be associated with [high volume hydraulic fracturing], the likelihood of the occurrence of adverse health outcomes and the effectiveness of some of the mitigation measures

[281] Rabinowitz, P. M. Slizovskiy, I. B, Lamers, V., Trufan, S. J., Holford, T. R., Dziura, J. D., … Stowe, M. H. (2015). Proximity to natural gas wells and reported health status: results of a household survey in Washington County, Pennsylvania. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 123*, 21-26. doi: 10.1289/ehp.1307732. See also footnote 29.

in reducing or preventing environmental impacts which could adversely affect public health. Until the science provides sufficient information to determine the level of risk to public health from [fracking] to all New Yorkers and whether the risks can be adequately managed, DOH recommends that high volume hydraulic fracturing should not proceed in NYS.[282]

- October 13, 2014 – According to the North Dakota Health Department, the number of HIV and AIDS cases in North Dakota more than doubled between 2012 and 2014, and cases were shifting to the state's western oil fields, where 35 to 40 percent of all new cases occurred. Previously, only 10 percent of cases were in that region.[283] This trend followed on the heels of an upsurge in sexually transmitted chlamydia cases in the same region. The North Dakota state director of disease control, Kirby Kruger, attributed the uptick in HIV cases to the drilling and fracking industry and attempted to spread HIV prevention messages at the "man camps" that house young male workers in the oil industry.[284] Human trafficking for purposes of prostitution accompanied the fracking boom, but there was a shortage of medical professionals to address this public health crisis, according to Kruger, who noted that it was difficult to hire nurses and medical staff who could live in the area on a public health wage.

- October 2, 2014 – According to researchers from the University of Pennsylvania's Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology, an increasing number of gas wells in Pennsylvania is significantly correlated with inpatient rates of hospitalization. The research team collected data from seven different insurance providers for three counties; the study's publication is forthcoming.[285]

- September 11, 2014 – In Texas, commercial vehicle accidents have increased more than 50 percent since 2009 when the state's ongoing drilling and fracking boom began, according to an investigation by the *Houston Chronicle* and Houston Public Media News 88.7. "For six decades, highway deaths have dropped steadily all across the United States…. But in Texas all motor vehicle fatalities – and accidents involving commercial trucks – have turned back upward since the state's oil drilling and fracking boom began in 2008." This rising motor vehicle death toll is especially felt in formerly rural counties in the Eagle Ford and Permian Basin, now places of heavy drilling and fracking. A new Department of Public Safety "Road Check" program finds annually, "… 27 to 30 percent of Texas' commercial trucks shouldn't be operating at all due to potentially life-

[282] New York State Department of Health. (2014, December 17). *A public health review of high volume hydraulic fracturing for shale gas development*. Retrieved from http://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf
[283] Associated Press. (2014, October 13). North Dakota HIV/AIDs rate rises with population growth. Retrieved from http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/north-dakota-hiv-aids-rate-rises-with-population-growth/article_a939fed6-f737-5cfb-957f-ab800673f4d7.html
[284] Heitz, D. (2014, September 30). Oil Boom helps fuel surge in HIV in North Dakota. *HealthlineNews.* Retrieved from http://www.healthline.com/health-news/oil-boom-helps-fuel-hiv-surge-north-dakota-093014#1
[285] Skrapits, E. (2014, October 2). Study: More gas wells in area leads to more hospitalizations. *The Citizen's Voice*. Retrieved from http://citizensvoice.com/news/study-more-gas-wells-in-area-leads-to-more-hospitalizations-1.1763826

threatening safety problems like defective brakes, bald tires, inoperable safety lights and unqualified, unfit or intoxicated drivers."[286, 287]

- August 3, 2014 – Hospitals in the Bakken Shale region reported a sharp rise in ambulance calls and emergency room visits after 2006. "Mercy Medical Center in Williston and the Tioga Medical Center in neighboring Williams County saw their ambulance runs increase by more than 200 percent. Tioga's hospital saw a staggering leap in trauma patients by 1,125 percent. Mercy had a 373 percent increase." Drugs (including overdoses of prescription drugs, methamphetamine, and heroin) explain many of the cases, with oilfield related injuries such as "fingers crushed or cut off, extremity injuries, burns and pressure burns" accounting for 50% of the cases in one of the region's hospital emergency rooms.[288]

- May 21, 2014 – Raising questions about possible links to worsening air pollution from the Uintah Basin's 11,200 oil and gas wells, health professionals reported that infant deaths in Vernal, Utah, rose to six times the normal rate over the past three years. Physician Brian Moench said, "We know that pregnant women who breathe more air pollution have much higher rates of virtually every adverse pregnancy outcome that exists…. And we know that this particular town is the center of an oil and gas boom that's been going on for the past five or six years and has uniquely high particulate matter and high ozone."[289] Although it formerly had pristine air quality, Uintah County, Utah received a grade "F" for ozone in the American Lung Association's 2013 State of the Air Report.[290]

- January 28, 2014 – Congenital heart defects, and possibly neural tube defects in newborns, were associated with the density and proximity of natural gas wells within a 10-mile radius of mothers' residences in a study of almost 25,000 births from 1996-2009 in rural Colorado. The researchers note that natural gas development emits several chemicals known to increase risk of birth defects (teratogens).[291]

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[286] Olsen, L. (2014, 11 September). Fatal truck accidents have spiked during Texas' ongoing fracking and drilling boom. *Houston Chronicle.* Retrieved from http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/article/Fracking-and-hydraulic-drilling-have-brought-a-5747432.php?cmpid=email-premium&cmpid=email-premium&t=1a9ca10d49c3f0c8a9#/0

[287] Schneider, A. (2014, 12 October). In Texas, traffic deaths climb amid fracking boom. *National Public Radio.* Retrieved from http://www.npr.org/2014/10/02/352980756/in-texas-traffic-deaths-climb-amid-fracking-boom

[288] Bryan, K. J. (2014, August 3). Drugs, oilfield work, traffic pushing more people through doors of Watford City ER. *Bakken Today.* Retrieved from http://www.bakkentoday.com/event/article/id/37101/

[289] Schlanger, Z. (2014, May 21). In Utah boom town, a spike in infant deaths raises questions. *Newsweek.* Retrieved from http://www.newsweek.com/2014/05/30/utah-boom-town-spike-infant-deaths-raises-questions-251605.html

[290] American Lung Association. (2013). American Lung Association state of the air 2013. Retrieved from http://www.stateoftheair.org/2013/states/utah/uintah-49047.html

[291] McKenzie, L. M., Guo, R., Witter, R. Z., Savitz, D. A., Newman, L. S., & Adgate, J. L. (2014). Birth outcomes and maternal residential proximity to natural gas development in rural Colorado. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 122*, 412-417. doi: 10.1289/ehp.1306722

- January 4, 2014 – Preliminary data from researchers at Princeton University, Columbia University, and MIT showed elevated rates of low birthweight among infants born to mothers living near drilling and fracking operations during their pregnancies.[292]

- October 2013 – A preliminary study of the health impacts of oil and gas extraction on infant health in Colorado found that proximity to wells—linked with air pollutants from fracking operations—was associated with reductions in average birthweight and length of pregnancy as well as increased risk for low birthweight and premature birth.[293] A study by the same author, currently under review, which analyzed births to Pennsylvania mothers residing close to a shale gas well in Pennsylvania from 2003-2010, also identified increased risk of adverse effects. This includes low birth weight, as well as a 26 percent increase in APGAR scores under 8. (APGAR—or American Pediatric Gross Assessment Record—is a measure of newborn responsiveness. Scores of less than 8 predict an increase in the need for respiratory support.)[294]

- August 26, 2013 – Medical experts at a rural clinic in heavily-drilled Washington County, Pennsylvania reported case studies of 20 individuals with acute symptoms consistent with exposure to air contaminants known to be emitted from local fracking operations.[295, 296]

- May 2, 2013 – A community-based participatory research study in Pennsylvania tested air and water quality and surveyed self-reported health symptoms of more than 100 residents living near drilling and fracking operations. The team detected a total of 19 volatile organic compounds in ambient air sampled outside of homes. The reported health symptoms closely matched the established effects of chemicals detected through air and water testing at those nearby sites. Moreover, those symptoms occurred at significantly higher rates in households closer to the gas facilities than those farther away.[297] Indicative of the growing prevalence of such health impacts in the state, a poll showed that two-thirds of Pennsylvanians support a moratorium on fracking because of concern about negative health impacts.[298]

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[292] Whitehouse, M. (2014, January 4). Study shows fracking is bad for babies. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-01-04/study-shows-fracking-is-bad-for-babies

[293] Hill, E. L. (2013, October). The impact of oil and gas extraction on infant health in Colorado. Retrieved from http://www.elainelhill.com/research

[294] Hill, E. L. (2013, December). Shale gas development and infant health: Evidence from Pennsylvania (under review). Retrieved from http://www.elainelhill.com/research.

[295] Abrams, L. (2013, August 26). Fracking's real health risk may be from air pollution. *Salon*. Retrieved from http://www.salon.com/2013/08/26/frackings_real_health_risk_may_be_from_air_pollution/

[296] Dyrszka, L., Nolan, K., & Steingraber, S. (2013, August 27). *Statement on preliminary findings from the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project study* [*Press release*]. Concerned Health Professionals of NY. Retrieved from http://concernedhealthny.org/statement-on-preliminary-findings-from-the-southwest-pennsylvania-envir. . .

[297] Steinzor, N., Subra, W., & Sumi, L. (2013). Investigating links between shale gas development and health impacts through a community survey project in Pennsylvania. *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 23*(1), 55-83. doi: 10.2190/NS.23.1.e

[298] Phillips, S. (2013, May 14). Poll shows support for a drilling moratorium in Pennsylvania. *StateImpact*. Retrieved from http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2013/05/14/poll-shows-support-for-a-drilling-moratorium-in-pennsylvania/

Noise pollution, light pollution, and stress

Drilling and fracking operations and ancillary infrastructure expose workers and nearby residents to continuous noise and light pollution that is sustained for periods lasting many months. Chronic exposure to light at night is linked to adverse health effects, including breast cancer. Sources of fracking-related noise pollution include blasting, drilling, flaring, generators, compressor stations, and truck traffic. Exposure to environmental noise pollution is linked to cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, and sleep disturbance. Workers and residents whose homes, schools, and workplaces are in close proximity to well sites are at risk from these exposures as well as from related stressors. A UK Health Impact Assessment (HIA) identified stress and anxiety resulting from drilling-related noise—as well as from a sense of uncertainty about the future and eroded public trust—as key public health risks related to fracking operations.

- July 9, 2015 – As part of its assessment of potential health impacts, the California Council of Science and Technology looked at the impacts of noise and light pollution from oil and gas operations in California. The researchers noted that a number of activities associated with drilling and fracking generated noise levels greater than that considered dangerous to public health. Noise is a biological stressor that can aggravate or contribute to the development of hypertension and heart problems. In California, noise from well stimulation was associated with both sleep disturbance and cardiovascular disease in a dose-response relationship. Exposure to artificial light at night has been linked to breast cancer in women, although almost no research has been conducted on the public health implications of light pollution from oil and gas extraction specifically.[299]

- December 17, 2014 – The New York State Department of Health identified community impacts related to noise as a potential contributor to a variety of negative health impacts from drilling and fracking operations but noted that considerable scientific uncertainty remains on the issue of noise exposure per se as a risk factor. Noise, air pollution, traffic, vibration, odors, and nighttime lighting may all increase together as proximity to a drilling site decreases.[300]

- December 1, 2014 – Range Resources Corporation warned supervisors in Pennsylvania's Donegal Township that a "big burn" natural gas flare will continue for as long as a week and "will produce a continuous noise of as much as 95 decibels at the well pad. Sustained decibel levels between 90 and 95 can result in permanent hearing loss, but workers will be equipped with ear protection." Township supervisor Doug Teagarden expressed concern for residents, saying, "They told us the flare would be double the size of other

[299] Shonkoff, S. B. C., Jordan, P., Hays, J., Stringfellow, W. T., Wettstein, Z. S., Harrison, R., Sandelin, W., & McKone, T. E. (2015, July 9). Volume II, Chapter 6: Potential impacts of well stimulation on human health in California. In: *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California.* California Council on Science and Technology, Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-II-chapter-6.pdf

[300] New York State Department of Health. (2014, December 17). *A public health review of high volume hydraulic fracturing for shale gas development*. Retrieved from http://www.health.ny.gov/press/reports/docs/high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing.pdf

well flares, and the noise will be like a siren on a firetruck…. There are houses within a couple of hundred yards of the well pad, and those folks are going to hear it."[301]

- November 6, 2014 – Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health in Lancashire, UK, reported on a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the two proposed shale gas exploration sites in Lancashire. Karunanithi's study determined that key risks to the health and well-being of the residents who live near the two proposed sites in Lancashire include stress and anxiety from uncertainty that could lead to "poor mental wellbeing," and noise-related health effects due to continuous drilling. The HIA also noted a lack of public trust and confidence.[302, 303]

- September 2014 – The Ohio Shale Country Listening Project, a collaborative effort to solicit, summarize, and share the perspectives and observations of those directly experiencing the shale gas build out in eastern Ohio, found that the more shale gas wells a community has, the less popular the oil and gas industry becomes. Many residents reported that they had not experienced the economic benefits promised by the oil and gas industry. They complained of increased rents and costs of gas and groceries, an influx of out-of-state workers, more vehicular accidents, road destruction from large trucks, and damaged landscape and cropland. Locals reported feeling less secure and more financially strapped.[304]

- June 20, 2014 – In its discussion of "Oil and Gas Drilling/Development Impacts," the U.S. Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development detailed noise pollution from bulldozers, drill rigs, diesel engines, vehicular traffic, blasting, and flaring of gas. "If noise-producing activities occur near a residential area, noise levels from blasting, drilling, and other activities could exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. The movement of heavy vehicles and drilling could result in frequent-to-continuous noise…. Drilling noise would occur continuously for 24 hours per day for one to two months or more depending on the depth of the formation."[305] Exposure to chronic noise can be deadly. The World Health Organization has documented the connection between environmental noise and health effects, including cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, sleep disturbance, and tinnitus. At least one million

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[301] Hopey, D. (2014, December 1). Gas flare to light up part of Washington County. *Pittsburgh Post Gazette.* Retrieved from http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/companies-powersource/2014/12/01/Gas-flare-to-light-up-part-of-Washington-County/stories/201411250224

[302] Karunanithi, S. (2014, November 6). Potential health impacts of the proposed shale gas exploration sites in Lancashire. *Reported at a meeting of the Lancashire County Council Cabinet, Thursday, 6th November, 2014 at 2.00 pm in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston, Item 9 on the agenda(1-68).* Retrieved from http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/documents/b11435/Potential%20Health%20Impacts%20of%20the%20Proposed%20Shale%20Gas%20Exploration%20Sites%20in%20Lancashire%2006th-Nov-2014%2014.pdf?T=9

[303] Dunkley, E. (2014, November 7). Fracking in Lancashire 'may affect mental health', report finds. *BBC NEWS Lancashire.* Retrieved from http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-29944212

[304] Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC)'s Communities United for Responsible Energy (CURE), with support from the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), FracTracker.org, and Laborers Local 809 of Steubenville. (2014, September). Ohio Shale Country Listening Project. Retrieved from http://carrollconcernedcitizens.org/uploads/2014_Shale_Report__small_.pdf

[305] Oil and Gas Drilling/Development Impacts. (n.d.). *Oil and gas drilling/development impacts*. Retrieved from http://teeic.indianaffairs.gov/er/oilgas/impact/drilldev/index.htm

"healthy life years" are lost every year from traffic-related noise in the western part of Europe.[306]

- February 24, 2014 – In a review of the health effects from unconventional gas extraction published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, leading researchers noted, "Noise exposure is a significant hazard due to the presence of multiple sources, including heavy equipment, compressors, and diesel powered generators. Loud continuous noise has health effects in working populations. It is likely that exposure to noise is substantial for many workers, and this is potentially important for health because drilling and servicing operations are exempt from some sections of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration noise standard." They noted that research should investigate stressors such as noise and light in the context of drilling and fracking operations in order to understand the overall effect of chemical and physical stressors together.[307]

- May 30, 2014 – The *Denver Post* reported that in order to help meet Colorado's noise limits for fracking operations in suburban neighborhoods (and partially block the glare of floodlights), Encana Oil and Gas erected 4-inch-thick polyvinyl walls up to 32 feet high and 800 feet long. Residents said that the plastic walls do not completely solve the problem.[308]

- October 25, 2013 – An analysis of well location and census data by the *Wall Street Journal* revealed that at least 15.3 million Americans now live within a mile of a well that has been drilled since 2000. According to this investigation, the fracking boom has ushered in "unprecedented industrialization" of communities across wide swaths of the nation and, with it, "24/7" industrial noise, stadium lighting, earth-moving equipment, and truck traffic.[309]

- April 16, 2013 – In a presentation on oil field light pollution for a conference on "Sustainable Environment and Energy: Searching for Synergies," Roland Dechesne of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada described problems of "light trespass," glare, and poorly-aimed fixtures in oil fields in Alberta. He described resulting "mass waterfowl mortality" linked to artificial illumination and other biochemical impacts of light pollution on wildlife, as well as the possibility of these effects on humans, including circadian disruption, melatonin suppression, and possible resulting hormonally-linked diseases.[310] Known to have ecological impacts, outdoor light pollution from drilling and

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[306] Rodier, G. (2011, June 1). Burden of disease from environmental noise - Quantification of healthy life years lost in Europe. *WHO*. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/e94888/en/

[307] Adgate, J. L., Goldstein, B. D., & McKenzie, L. M. (2014). Potential public health hazards, exposures and health effects from unconventional natural gas development [Abstract]. *Environmental Science & Technology*. doi: 10.1021/es404621d

[308] Finley, B. (2014, May 29). Oil and gas industry building giant walls to try to ease impact. *The Denver Post*. Retrieved from http://www.denverpost.com/ci_25859469/oil-and-gas-industry-building-giant-walls-try

[309] Gold, R. & McGinty, T. (2014, Oct. 25). Energy boom puts wells in America's backyards. *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303672404579149432365326304

[310] Dechesne, R. (2013). Limiting oil field light pollution for safety and the environment. Sustainable Environment and Energy CPANS 2013 Conference. Retrieved from http://www.cpans.org/assets/Uploads/Presentations/NewFolder/Session-46Roland-Dechesne.pdf

fracking operations may also be linked to artificial light-associated health effects documented in humans, including breast cancer.[311]

- April 2013 – Led by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, a study of community members living in proximity to Marcellus Shale drilling in Pennsylvania found adverse impacts to mental health, with stress the most frequently reported symptom. At least half of all respondents in each set of interviews reported these specific stressors, including: being taken advantage of; health concerns; concerns/complaints ignored; corruption; denied information or provided with false information. Many also reported the desire to move or leave community, estrangement from community, and financial damages. Researchers noted that stress can result in direct health impacts.[312] Notably, mounting evidence indicates that chronic stress magnifies individuals' susceptibility to effects of pollution; for children, this interactive effect can begin during prenatal life.[313]

- September 7, 2011 – A study by researchers at Boise State University and Colorado State University at Fort Collins modeled the potential impacts of compressor station noise from oil and gas operations on Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. The study found the sound of 64 compressors outside Mesa Verde elevated the sound level within the park by 34.8 decibels on average, and by 56.8 decibels on the side of the park located closest to the compressors. According to the EPA, 55 decibels is the highest "safe noise level" to avoid damage to the human ear.[314]

Earthquakes and seismic activity

A growing body of evidence from Ohio, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado links fracking wastewater injection (disposal) wells to earthquakes of magnitudes as high as 5.7, in addition to swarms of minor earthquakes and fault slipping. Many recent studies focus on the mechanical ability of pressurized fluids to trigger seismic activity. In some cases, the fracking process itself has been linked to earthquakes and seismic activity as significant as magnitude 4.4. The question of what to do with wastewater remains a problem with no viable, safe solution.

- July 27, 2015 – During a seven-day period in late July, the state of Oklahoma experienced 40 earthquakes. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), three registered above magnitude 4.0, one of which was strong enough to be felt by 1.9 million

[311] Chepesiuk, R. (2009). Missing the dark: Health effects of light pollution. *Environmental Health Perspectives,117*(1), A20–A27.
[312] Ferrar, K. J., Kriesky, J., Christen, C. L., Marshall, L. P., Malone, S. L., Sharma, R. K., Michanowicz, D. R., & Goldstein, B.D. (2013). Assessment and longitudinal analysis of health impacts and stressors perceived to result from unconventional shale gas development in the Marcellus Shale region. *International Journal of Occupational & Environmental Health*, *19*(2),104-112. doi: 10.1179/2049396713Y.0000000024
[313] Cooney, C.M. (2011). Stress–pollution interactions: An emerging issue in children's health research. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 119*, a430-a435. http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.119-a430
[314] Barber, J. R., Burdett, C.L., Reed, S. E., Warner, K.A., Formichella, C., Crooks, K.R., Theobald, D.M., &. Fristrup, K. M. (2011). Anthropogenic noise exposure in protected natural areas: estimating the scale of ecological consequences. *Landscape Ecology 26*(9),1281-1295.

people, including residents of several surrounding states.[315] In response, gas and oil operators voluntarily shut down two nearby wastewater injection wells and reduced operations by half at a third well.[316] According to the Oklahoma Geological Survey, the recent quakes are occurring along a fault line that extends north of Oklahoma City and signal greater potential for a larger earthquake.[317] Ten days before the voluntary shutdowns, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, which regulates the oil and gas industry, put 211 wastewater disposal wells under extra review.[318] As we go to press, Oklahoma regulators, acknowledging that previous efforts have been unsuccessful in reducing seismic activity, asked operators of 23 injection wells to decrease the amount of wastewater injected by 38 percent and signaled that more sweeping regulatory actions may follow.[319]

- July 1, 2015 – Two researchers, from the USGS and the Geological Survey of Canada, offered a summary of the history, basic geology, and engineering of fracking fluid injection and induced seismicity. Noting that since 2001 Oklahoma had experienced two earthquakes of very large magnitude (5.0 and 5.3), the authors called for "a detailed understanding of the physical processes involved in inducing large magnitude events and a detailed understanding of the geology and hydrology at the site of the earthquakes." They also noted that many important parameters are either unknown or not easily constrained, making it "difficult to determine the wells that will induce earthquakes and those that will not."[320]

- June 30, 2015 – The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that homeowners who have sustained injuries or property damage that they believe is due to earthquakes caused by oil and gas operations can sue for damages in state trial courts. The number of earthquakes with magnitude 3.0 or higher has skyrocketed in Oklahoma, with 1,100 predicted to occur in 2015. Earlier this year, scientists at the state's geological survey reversed prior views and embraced the conclusion that the majority of the recent earthquakes in central and north-central Oklahoma were "very likely triggered" by underground wastewater disposal. Industry lawyers have complained that liability for such damages will be economically unsustainable. A separate class action lawsuit is

[315] U.S. Geological Survey, (2015, July 27). M4.5 – 6 km NNE of Crescent, Oklahoma. Retrieved from http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us200030gd#impact_pager
[316] Oklahoma Corporation Commission (2015, July 28). Media advisory: new actions taken in response to earthquake activity in the Crescent area. Retrieved from http://www.occeweb.com/News/Crescent%20wells.pdf
[317] Murphy, S. (2015, July 28). 2 injection wells shut down after Oklahoma quakes. *Associated Press.* Retrieved from http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/business/20150728/2-injection-wells-shut-down-after-oklahoma-quakes
[318] Oklahoma Corporation Commission (2015, July 17). OCC announces next step in continuing response to earthquake concerns, 200-plus more disposal wells added to action list, press release. Retrieved from http://www.occeweb.com/News/DIRECTIVE-2.pdf
[319] Wines, M. (2015, August 4). Oklahoma Acts to Limit Earthquake Risk at Oil and Gas Wells. *The New York Times.* Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/05/us/oklahoma-acts-to-limit-earthquake-risk-at-oil-and-gas-wells.html?_r=0
[320] Rubenstein, J. L. & Mahani, A. B. (2015). Myths and facts on wastewater injection, hydraulic fracturing, enhanced oil recovery, and induced seismicity. *Seismological Research Letters, 86*(4), 1060-1067.

planned.[321]

- June 19, 2015 – By compiling a database of 187,570 injection wells in the central and eastern United States, University of Colorado Boulder and USGS researchers were able to test for associations between fracking waste disposal and earthquakes. Results showed far more injection wells were potentially related to earthquakes than had previously been realized, and active disposal-only wells were more than 1.5 times more likely than active oil extraction wells to be associated with an earthquake. In addition, high-rate injection wells, receiving more than 300,000 barrels of fluid per month, were much more likely than lower-rate wells to be associated with an earthquake, while other factors, including wellhead injection pressure, appeared unrelated to increased earthquake activity. The study called for managing injection rates as "a useful tool to minimize the likelihood of induced earthquakes." The researchers did not address the impact of hydrofracturing activities *per se* as a potential confounding variable.[322, 323]

- June 18, 2015 – Close examination of several areas in Oklahoma by Stanford University geophysicists revealed that dramatic increases in recent earthquake activity followed 5- to 10-fold increases in deep-well injection of briny "produced water," the highly salty fluid that rises to the surface from water-bearing oil reserves and requires disposal. The rate of earthquake occurrence, which began to increase in 2009, is now 600 times higher than it was before the onset of widespread fracking in the state. The disposal of this type of waste in Oklahoma mostly occurs via injection into geological formations that appear to be in hydraulic communication with potentially active faults in the crystalline basement. The study proposed that increasing pressure, spreading away from injection wells over time, could eventually trigger slips on critically stressed faults, resulting in earthquake activity. It is likely that, "even if injection from many wells were to stop immediately, seismicity would continue as pressure continues to spread out from past injection."[324]

- June 12, 2015 – Researchers in France uncovered an unexpected mechanism by which subsurface fluid injections, such as those used in high volume hydrofracturing, can cause earthquakes. They found that injection of pressurized water can cause fault lines to "creep" rather than slip suddenly as occurs during earthquakes. Earthquakes did follow this slow movement but took place in a portion of the fault outside the pressurized zone. This research demonstrated that subsurface injection of fluids under pressure can cause

[321] Oppel Jr., R.A. (2015, June 30). Oklahoma court rules homeowners can sue oil companies over quakes. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/01/us/oklahoma-court-rules-homeowners-can-sue-oil-companies-over-quakes.html?emc=edit_tnt_20150630&nlid=66402583&tntemail0=y&_r=0

[322] Weingarten, M. Ge, S., Godt, J. W., Bekins, B. A., & Rubinstein, J. L. (2015). High-rate injection is associated with the increase in U.S. mid-continent seismicity. *Science, 348*(6241), 1336-1340.

[323] Rosen, J. (2015). Pumped up to rumble: massive studies of wastewater injection wells show fast pumping raises earthquake risk. *Science, 368*(6241),1299.

[324] Wall, F.R. III & Zobakc, M.D. (2015). Oklahoma's recent earthquakes and saltwater disposal. Science Advances, 1(5), e1500195.

primary gradual slippage of fault planes leading to secondary sudden seismic activity.[325, 326]

- June 11, 2015 – As reported by the Vancouver news magazine *The Tyee,* seismic events of magnitude greater than 2.0 (but less than 4.0) in the Fox Creek area were reported in Alberta, Canada since the initiation in February of a novel "traffic light system" for responding to measured seismic activity. The system requires varying responses according to the magnitude of the event, ranging from no action up to ceasing operations and informing the Alberta Energy Regulator for events at magnitudes greater than 4.0. Experts noted that the system does not work well when the largest event in the sequence is the first event. Moreover, once a sequence of earthquakes is initiated, the sequence may continue, sometimes with larger earthquakes, long after potentially causally related drilling or injection activities have ceased.[327]

- June 1, 2015 – In a data-rich presentation, a team of researchers from St. Louis University, Colorado State University, and USGS concluded that "a fundamental change in the earthquake-triggering process has occurred" in central Oklahoma. Using advanced field monitoring and high-performance software, computer models illustrate active earthquake sequences associated with long fault structures "that might be capable of supporting large earthquakes (M 5 to 6)" and possibly cascades of earthquakes, which could occur near population centers and expensive infrastructure associated with the oil and gas industry, such as a large underground crude-oil storage facility.[328]

- May 11, 2015 – A series of directives from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission revealed a slowly evolving approach to the regulation of disposal well operations in that state, and the gradual tightening of a "traffic light system" introduced in 2013 to determine whether disposal wells for fracking waste should be permitted, permitted only with special restrictions and requirements, or not permitted, in light of the now-proven connection between the injection of liquid waste and the soaring frequency of earthquakes in Oklahoma. Since 2013, earthquake activity in Oklahoma has continued to increase in rate and intensity.[329, 330]

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[325] Guglielmi, Y., Cappa, F., Avouac, J.-P., Henry, P., & Elsworth, D. (2015). Seismicity triggered by fluid injection–induced aseismic slip. *Science, 348*(6240), 1224-1226.
[326] Johnson, S. K. (2015, June 11). Making tiny earthquakes to understand fracking-driven quakes. *arstechnica.* Retrieved from http://arstechnica.com/science/2015/06/making-tiny-earthquakes-to-understand-fracking-driven-quakes/
[327] Nikiforuk, A. (2015, June 11). More industry linked earthquakes recorded in Alberta. *TheTyee.ca.* Retrieved from http://thetyee.ca/News/2015/06/11/More-Fracking-Earthquakes/
[328] McNamara, D. E., Rubinstein, J. L., Myers, E., Smoczyk, G., Benz, H. M., Williams, R. A., . . . Earle, P. (2015). Efforts to monitor and characterize the recent increasing seismicity in central Oklahoma. *The Leading Edge, 34*(6). doi: 10.1190/tle34060628.1
[329] Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oil & Gas Conservation Division. (2015, May 11). Media advisory: Ongoing OCC earthquake response. Retrieved from http://www.occeweb.com/News/2015/ADVISORY%20-%20TRAFFIC%20LIGHT.pdf
[330] Oklahoma Corporation Commission. (n.d.) Seismic statement. Retrieved from http://www.occ.state.ok.us/SeismicStatementB.pdf

- April 23, 2015 – In a first-of-its-kind approach, the USGS is updating its National Seismic Hazard Model (NSHM) to address the rapidly increasing, highly variable, and difficult-to-predict hazards of induced earthquakes.[331] This initial report identified 17 areas within eight states (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas) with increased rates of induced seismicity, including many areas experiencing earthquakes of large magnitude.[332] Two days before the release of this report, Oklahoma's state government acknowledged for the first time that wastewater disposal related to oil and gas drilling is "very likely" to blame for the huge surge of earthquakes in many areas of Oklahoma, the *New York Times* reported.[333] Several states have developed protocols to shut down existing wells and halt drilling of new disposal wells following an upsurge in earthquake activity.

- April 21, 2015 – Analyzing the unusual increase of seismicity in north Texas since 2008, researchers from Southern Methodist University, the USGS, and University of Texas at Austin concluded that observed earthquake swarms were associated both with extraction (of gas and brine formation waters) and injection (of fracking wastewater), via significant stress changes at earthquake depths. The research team noted that baseline pressure monitoring data, though easy to obtain and routinely collected by industry at well sites, were currently "neither required nor typically available for analysis." Greater transparency and cooperation in regional seismic monitoring is needed to generate more comprehensive data sets that are necessary for robust earthquake hazard analysis, they asserted.[334, 335]

- April 21, 2015 – In a statement reporting on an increase in earthquakes in Oklahoma of greater than magnitude 3.0 from less than two per year historically to over two per day in 2015, the Oklahoma Geological Society acknowledged that that the primary, suspected source of "triggered seismicity" is the injection and disposal of produced water associated with oil and gas production.[336]

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[331] Petersen, M. D., Mueller, C. S., Moschetti, M.P ., Hoover, S. M., Rubinstein, J. L., Llenos, A. L., . . . Anderson, J. G. (2015). Incorporating induced seismicity in the 2014 United States National Seismic Hazard Model—Results of 2014 workshop and sensitivity studies: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2015–1070. Retrieved from http://dx.doi.org/10.3133/ofr20151070

[332] USGS. (2015, April 23). New insight on ground shaking from man-made earthquakes. *USGS Newsroom.* Retrieved from http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article_pf.asp?ID=4202

[333] Pérez-Peña, R. (2015, April 23). U.S. maps pinpoint earthquakes linked to quest for oil and gas. *The New York Times.* Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/us/us-maps-areas-of-increased-earthquakes-from-human-activity.html?ref=us&_r=1

[334] Hornbach, M. J., DeShon, H. R., Ellsworth, W. L., Stump, B. W., Hayward, C., Frohlich, C., . . . Luetgert, J.H. (2015). Causal factors for seismicity near Azle, Texas. *Nature Communications, 6*(6728). doi: 10.1038/ncomms7728

[335] Richter, M. (2015, April 21). Small north Texas quakes likely linked to oil, gas operations – study. *Reuters.* Retrieved from http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/21/us-usa-texas-earthquake-idUSKBN0NC2DY20150421

[336] Andrews, R.D. & Holland, A. (2015, April 21). Statement on Oklahoma Seismicity. Retrieved from http://wichita.ogs.ou.edu/documents/OGS_Statement-Earthquakes-4-21-15.pdf

- March 30, 2015 – *Bloomberg Business* reported that Oklahoma state seismologists had received pressure from oil industry representatives to downplay the evidence linking fracking wastewater disposal to the soaring frequency of earthquakes in the state.[337]

- March 6, 2015 – A careful and detailed analysis of historical data coupled with onsite, real-time measurements of seismic activity in central Oklahoma via rapidly deployed seismic sensors revealed that reactivated ancient faults responsible for thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma are capable of causing larger seismic events. Current hazard maps did not include induced seismicity and therefore underestimate earthquake hazard, the USGS reported. Until new hazard maps become available, providing information about the type, length, and location of these reactivated faults could provide guidance to the oil and gas industry and help inform public policy decisions.[338] In addition, noted lead author Dan McNamara, such information can "aid in adapting building codes to ensure that structures can withstand more damaging earthquakes.[339]

- February 20, 2015 – Scientists with the USGS reported in *Science* about grappling with an unexpected increase in injection-related seismic activity across the middle of North America. In 2014, the number of measured earthquakes with magnitude of 3 or greater in Oklahoma exceeded that in California, and observations increasingly suggested that the effects of fluid injection were not confined to the target formation but instead were communicated, sometimes to greater depths, along pre-existing faults. Making hazard modeling more difficult, "most of these faults are only detected when they are imaged by well-located induced earthquakes." Consequently, predicting and controlling such seismic activity may not be possible, leading to a recommendation that injection projects should be sited away from population centers.[340]

- February 5, 2015 – Citing an association between increased water use and fracking-induced seismic activity, a research scientist at the Geological Survey of Canada offered the quantity of water injected underground as his hypothesis for an observed increase in the frequency and magnitude of earthquake activity in areas near fracking wells. Although the Council of Canadian Academies in 2014 called for more monitoring and data collection, there are only ten monitoring stations in British Columbia, overseeing the operations of thousands of fracking wells, reported the *Vancouver Observer*.[341]

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[337] Elgin, B. & Phillips, M. (2015, March 30). Big oil pressured scientists over fracking wastewater's link to quakes. *Bloomberg Business.* Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-30/big-oil-pressured-scientists-over-fracking-wastewater-s-link-to-quakes

[338] McNamara, D. E., Benz, H. M., Herrmann, R. B., Bergman, E. A., Earle, P., Holland, A., Baldwin, R., & Gassner, A. (2015). Earthquake hypocenters and focal mechanisms in central Oklahoma reveal a complex system of reactivated subsurface strike-slip faulting. *Geophysical Research Letters*, *42*(8), 2742–2749.

[339] Koontz, H. (2015, March 6). News release: Reawakened Oklahoma faults could produce larger future events. *USGS.gov.* Retrieved from http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article_pf.asp?ID=4144

[340] McGarr, A., Bekins, B., Burkardt, N., Dewey, J., Earle, P., Ellsworth, W., Ge, S., … Sheehan, A. (2015). Coping with earthquakes induced by fluid injection. *Science*, *347*(6224), 830-831.

[341] Leahy, D. (2015, February 5). Fracking-induced earthquake puts B.C. gas bonanza on shaky ground. *Vancouver Observer.* Retrieved from http://www.vancouverobserver.com/news/fracking-induced-earthquake-puts-bc-gas-bonanza-shaky-ground

- January 29, 2015 – The industry-funded Alberta Energy Regulator confirmed that the location of an earthquake of magnitude 4.4 near Fox Creek, Alberta, was "consistent with being induced by hydraulic fracturing operations," making it the largest felt earthquake yet believed to be related to fracking. Despite claims from industry that tremors related to deep-level fracking could never reach magnitudes that would allow them to be felt on the surface, Gail Atkinson, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Induced Seismicity Hazards at Western University in Ontario, noted, "With fracking, the magnitudes have been increasing every year."[342]

- January 6, 2015 – Using a specialized program, Miami University researchers analyzed data from multiple seismic stations and determined that a cluster of 77 earthquakes in Poland Township, Ohio, which occurred over the course of a little more than a week, was related temporally and spatially to active hydraulic fracturing operations. When the fracturing operations were shut down, the rate of earthquake activity declined to only 6 events in the next 12 hours and only a single event over approximately the next two months. Among this cluster of seismic activity, an earthquake of magnitude 3.0 ranks as one of the largest earthquakes in the United States to be induced by hydraulic fracturing. The mechanism for these earthquakes appears to be induction of slip along a pre-existing fault or fracture zone. Because "no known fault or historical seismicity had been [previously] identified in the area," regulations prohibiting fracturing within three miles of a known fault would not have been protective.[343, 344]

- December 18, 2014 – In Canada, an investigation by the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission found that induced seismicity in the Horn River Basin could be attributed both to wastewater disposal and to hydraulic fracturing operations. The Commission recommended mitigation of induced seismicity from wastewater disposal by "reducing injection rates, limiting the increase in [subsurface] reservoir pressure, and locating distal from faults," among other mitigation techniques.[345, 346]

- October 23, 2014 – Researchers from USGS and the Global Seismological Services in Golden, Colorado, linked a 2011 magnitude 5.3 earthquake in Colorado, which damaged the foundations of several homes, to underground disposal of fracking wastewater. The study determined that the earthquake ruptured an 8 to 10 kilometer-long segment of normal faults—an unexpectedly long length for a magnitude 5.3 earthquake—suggesting

[342] Nikiforuk, A. (2015, January 29). Did Alberta just break a fracking earthquake world record? *TheTyee.ca.* Retrieved from http://thetyee.ca/News/2015/01/29/Alberta-Fracking-Earthquake/?utm_source=fb-page-editor-post&utm_medium=fb-page&utm_campaign=fb-01-2015
[343] Skoumal, R. J., Brudzinski, M. R. & Currie, B. S. (2015). Earthquakes induced by hydraulic fracturing in Poland Township, Ohio. *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America 105*(1). doi: 10.1785/0120140168
[344] Wines, M. (2015, January 10). New research links scores of earthquakes to fracking wells near a fault in Ohio. *The New York Times.* Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/08/us/new-research-links-scores-of-earthquakes-to-fracking-wells-near-a-fault-in-ohio.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=first-column-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&assetType=nyt_now&_r=0
[345] BC Oil & Gas Commission (2014). *Investigation of observed seismicity in the Montney Trend.* Retrieved from http://www.bcogc.ca/node/12291/download
[346] Nikiforuk, A. (2015, January 10). Fracking industry shakes up Northern BC with 231 tremors. *TheTyee.ca.* Retrieved from http://www.thetyee.ca/News/2015/01/10/Fracking_Industry_Shakes_Up_Northern_BC/

that wastewater disposal may have triggered a low stress drop.[347] Lead author Bill Barnhart, a USGS geophysicist, told *Reuters*, "We saw a big increase in seismicity starting in 2001, including magnitude 5 earthquakes, in many locations in the basin, and that coincided with a surge in gas production and injection of wastewater."[348]

- September 23, 2014 – Youngstown State University geologist Ray Beiersdorfer described increased seismic activity in Youngstown, Ohio in an essay that explores how fracking and fracking-related processes are causing "earthquake epidemics" across the United States.[349]

- September 15, 2014 – Researchers at the National Energy Technology Laboratory teamed up with researchers from industry and academia to publish data and analysis from a closely watched project that involved field monitoring of the induced fracturing of six horizontal Marcellus Shale gas wells in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Touted in earlier media reports as demonstrating that, during short-term follow-up, fracking chemicals injected into these six wells did not spread to overlying aquifers[350], the study's most notable finding is striking documentation of fractures from three of the six wells extending vertically to reach above an overlying rock layer previously thought to create an impenetrable "frac barrier" (that is, an upper barrier to fracture growth). In one case, a fracture extended vertically 1,900 feet, a surprisingly far distance. No pre-existing fault had been detected at this location, suggesting that small "pre-existing fractures or small-offset (sub-seismic) faults may have focused the energy of hydraulic fractures on certain areas…" Perhaps because of the extremely small sample size and a design focused primarily on monitoring for potential gas and fluid migration, the study's analysis includes no discussion of the seismic relevance of extremely long, vertical induced fractures.[351]

- September 15, 2014 – Scientists from USGS ascribed causality to wastewater injection wells from coal-bed methane production for increases in seismic activity in New Mexico and Colorado and, in particular, for an earthquake that measured magnitude 5.3 in

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[347] Barnhart, W. D., Benz, H.M., Hayes, G.P., Rubinstein, J.L., & Bergman, E. (2014), Seismological and geodetic constraints on the 2011 Mw5.3 Trinidad, Colorado earthquake and induced deformation in the Raton Basin, *J. Geophys. Res. Solid Earth*, *119*, 7923–7933, doi: 10.1002/2014JB011227. Retrieved from http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JB011227/abstract

[348] Zuckerman, L. (2014, October 29). Gas wastewater likely triggered 2011 quake in Colorado: USGS. *Reuters*. Retrieved from http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/29/us-usa-earthquake-colorado-idUSKBN0II2NP20141029

[349] Beiersdorfer, R. (2014, September 23). View: On fracking, earthquakes and Indian Point. *Journal Online.* Retrieved from http://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/09/23/view-geologist-warns-fracking-ties-earthquakes/16100755/

[350] Begos, K. (2014, July 19). DOE study: Fracking chemicals didn't taint water. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-study-finds-fracking-chemicals-didnt-spread

[351] Hammack, R., Harbert, W., Sharma, S., Stewart, B. W., Capo, R. C., Wall, A. J., . . . Veloski, G. (2014). An evaluation of fracture growth and gas/fluid migration as horizontal Marcellus Shale gas wells are hydraulically fractured in Greene County, Pennsylvania. *NETL-TRS-3-2014: EPAct Technical Report Series. US Dept of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory*: Pittsburgh PA. Retrieved from http://www.netl.doe.gov/File%20Library/Research/onsite%20research/publications/NETL-TRS-3-2014_Greene-County-Site_20140915_1_1.pdf

Colorado in 2011—the second largest earthquake to date for which there is clear evidence that the earthquake sequence was induced by fluid injection.[352]

- September 6, 2014 – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources suspended operations at two deep-injection wells for fracking wastewater near Warren in northeastern Ohio after discovering evidence that the operation possibly caused a magnitude 2.1 earthquake. The injection well operator, American Water Management Services, had recently received permission to increase pressures at the site of the wells. In 2012, Governor John Kasich had halted disposal of fracking wastewater surrounding a well site in the same region after a series of earthquakes were tied to a deep-injection well. The company that ran that well has disputed the link. The state placed seismic-monitoring devices in the Warren area under protocols adopted after the series of earthquakes in nearby Youngstown.[353]

- September 1, 2014 – Explaining the need for increased seismic monitoring, Andrew Beaton, Director of the Alberta Geological Survey (AGS), stated that over a long period of time, stresses increase in and around an injection well bore. Seismic movement can be caused if the rate of injection is too fast or if there is a geological feature, such as a fault or fracture in nearby areas. Although Albertans in rural areas have been reporting for years that they can feel tremors under their feet near oil and gas activity, especially around areas of fracking, the Alberta Energy Regulator noted that deep well injections have been shown to create more of an earthquake hazard than hydraulic fracturing. Alberta experienced 819 earthquakes between 1918 and 2009. In comparison, Saskatchewan recorded 13 in the same time period and British Columbia recorded more than 1,200 earthquakes in 2007 alone. There are currently 24 seismic monitors in Alberta, which are tied into other networks, such as those belonging to Environment Canada, University of Calgary, and University of Alberta.[354]

- August 26, 2014 – In a first-of-its-kind lawsuit, a resident of Prague, Oklahoma, sued two energy companies after rocks fell from her chimney and injured her leg during an earthquake of greater than magnitude 5. The lawsuit claims that underground injection of fracking wastewater conducted by New Dominion LLC and Spess Oil Company has caused shifts in fault lines that have resulted in earthquakes.[355]

- July 31, 2014 – William Ellsworth, a research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Science Center, reported that USGS is developing a hazard model that takes

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[352] Rubinstein, J. L., Ellsworth, W. L., McGarr, A. & Benz, H. M. (2014). The 2001-present induced earthquake sequence in the Raton Basin of Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado [abstract]. *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*. Retrieved from http://www.bssaonline.org/content/104/5/2162.abstract?stoc

[353] Smyth, J. C. (2014, September 6). Ohio halts injections at two wells for fracking wastewater after quake. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/09/06/ohio-halts-2-wells-for-fracking-wastewater-after-quake.html

[354] Maclean, R. (2014, September 1). Earthquake hazard linked with deep well injection in Alberta: Deep well disposal of oilfield waste over time leads to increased earthquake risk. *CBC News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/earthquake-hazard-linked-with-deep-well-injection-in-alberta-1.2751963

[355] Rangel, L. (2014, August 26). Prague resident files lawsuit against two Okla. energy companies following earthquake injury. *Newschannel 4 (kfor.com)*. Retrieved from http://kfor.com/2014/08/26/prague-resident-files-lawsuit-against-two-okla-energy-companies-following-earthquake-injury/

induced earthquakes into account. In addition, residents of Oklahoma, where a sharp spike in earthquake activity has been noted over the past decade, are showing an increased interest in obtaining earthquake insurance.[356]

- July 3, 2014 – Using data from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, a team of researchers led by Cornell University geophysicist Katie Keranen found that a steep rise in earthquakes in Oklahoma can be explained by fluid migration from wastewater disposal wells. Moreover, injected fluids in high volume wells triggered earthquakes over 30 kilometers (over 18 miles) away. All of the wells analyzed were operated in compliance with existing regulations. Similar mechanisms may function in other states with high volumes of underground injection of wastewater from unconventional oil and gas production.[357] Reporting on the study and the increase in earthquakes across the United States and the link to fracking and wastewater disposal, the *Associated Press* noted that some states, including Ohio, Oklahoma, and California, have introduced new rules compelling drillers to measure the volumes and pressures of their injection wells as well as to monitor seismicity during fracking operations.[358]

- July 1, 2014 – Seismologists linked the emergence of a giant sinkhole that formed in August 2012 near Bayou Corne in southeast Louisiana to tremors (earthquakes) caused by high-pressure pulses of either natural gas or water charged with natural gas. The surges of natural gas that caused the explosive tremors (earthquakes) may have weakened an adjacent salt cavern and caused its collapse. Alternatively, part of the salt cavern may have collapsed, causing a nearby gas pocket to give off surges of gas, later followed by the complete collapse of the salt cavern. These findings help illuminate the role of pressurized fluids in triggering seismic events.[359]

- June 24, 2014 – Following two earthquakes within a one-month period, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission directed High Sierra Water Services to stop disposing wastewater into one of its Weld County injection wells. Monitoring by a team of seismologists from the University of Colorado had picked up evidence of continuing low-level seismic activity near the injection site, including a magnitude 2.6 event less than a month following a magnitude 3.4 earthquake that shook the Greeley area on May 31, 2014.[360]

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[356] Eaton, J. (2014, July 31). Oklahoma grapples with earthquake spike—and evidence of industry's role: Spike in seismic activity is linked with oil and gas wastewater disposal. *National Geographic*. Retrieved from http://news.nationalgeographic.com/energy/2014/07/140731-oklahoma-earthquake-spike-wastewater-injection/

[357] Keranen, K. M., Weingarten, M., Abers, G. A., Bekins, B. A., & Ge, S. (2014). Sharp increase in central Oklahoma seismicity since 2008 induced by massive wastewater injection. *Science, 345*(6195), 448-451. doi: 10.1126/science.1255802

[358] Schmall, E. & Jouzapavicius, J. (2014, July 14). States with fracking see surge in earthquake activity. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/14/fracking-earthquake_n_5585892.html

[359] Nayak, A. & Dreger, D. S. (2014). Moment tensor inversion of seismic events associated with the sinkhole at Napoleonville Salt Dome, Louisiana. *Bulletin of Seismological Society of America 104(4),* 1763-1776. doi: 10.1785/0120130260

[360] Tomasic, J. (2014, June 24). Colorado drilling regulators halt injection-well activity in reaction to Greeley quake. *Colorado Independent*. Retrieved from http://www.coloradoindependent.com/147934/colorado-drilling-regulators-halt-injection-well-activity-in-reaction-to-greeley-quake (see also Baker, B. (2014, June 24). Colorado regulators

- May 2, 2014 – The USGS and Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) jointly issued an official earthquake warning for Oklahoma, pointing out that the number of earthquakes in the state has risen 50 percent since just October—when the two agencies had issued a prior warning. The advisory stated that this dramatic increase in the frequency of small earthquakes "significantly increases the chance for a damaging quake in central Oklahoma." Injection wells used for the disposal of liquid fracking waste have been implicated as the presumptive cause of the earthquake swarm. According to the OGS, about 80 percent of the state of Oklahoma is closer than ten miles from an injection well.[361] Since the joint earthquake advisory was released in May, the number of earthquakes in Oklahoma has continued to rise. During the first four months of 2014, Oklahoma had experienced 109 earthquakes of magnitude 3 or higher on the Richter scale. By mid-June, the number of earthquakes had topped 200, exceeding the frequency of earthquakes in California.[362]

- May 2, 2014 – At the annual meeting of the Seismological Society of America, leading geologists warned that the risks and impacts of earthquakes from fracking and injection wells are even more significant than previously thought, pointing out that such earthquakes could occur tens of miles away from wells themselves, including quakes greater than magnitude 5.0. Justin Rubinstein, a research geophysicist at the USGS said, "This demonstrates there is a significant hazard. We need to address ongoing seismicity."[363] Seismologist Gail Atkinson reported, "We don't know how to evaluate the likelihood that a [fracking or wastewater] operation will be a seismic source in advance."[364]

- April 11, 2014 – State geologists reported a link between fracking and a spate of earthquakes in Ohio, prompting the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to place a moratorium on drilling in certain areas and to require greater seismic monitoring.[365]

- April 3, 2014 – Researchers linked earthquakes in Mexico to fracking in the Eagle Ford Shale, which extends beneath both southern Texas and northern Mexico. They also noted a statistical correlation between seismic activity and fracking, particularly in the border

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halt fracking wastewater injection operation after earthquake strikes area for second time in a month. *Ecowatch*. Retrieved from http://ecowatch.com/2014/06/24/colorado-wastewater-injection-earthquake/)

[361] Geological Survey Joint Statement. (2014, May 2). Record number of Oklahoma tremors raises possibility of damaging earthquakes. United States Geological Survey. Retrieved from http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/ceus/products/newsrelease_05022014.php

[362] Branson-Potts, H. (2014, June 17). Oklahoma coming to terms with unprecedented surge in earthquakes. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-oklahoma-earthquakes-20140618-story.html#page=1

[363] Walsh, B. (2014, May 1). The seismic link between fracking and earthquakes. *Time*. Retrieved June 9, 2014, from http://time.com/84225/fracking-and-earthquake-link/

[364] Kiger, P. J. (2014, May 2). Scientists warn of quake risk from fracking operations. *National Geographic*. Retrieved from http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/energy/2014/05/140502-scientists-warn-of-quake-risk-from-fracking-operations/

[365] Dave, P. (2014, April 12). Ohio finds link between fracking and sudden burst of earthquakes. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-ohio-finds-link-fracking-earthquakes-20140411-story.html#axzz2yrnpHW1h

state of Nuevo Leon, which registered at least 31 quakes between magnitude 3.1 and 4.3.[366]

- April 2014 – Researchers from the University of Alberta and the Alberta Geological Survey published a study in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* that found wastewater injection in Alberta is highly correlated with spikes of seismic activity between October 2006 and March 2012.[367] On November 13, 2014, *CBC News* reported on a more recent increase in earthquakes, which may also be linked to injection wells.[368]

- March 7, 2014 – USGS researchers published a study confirming that Oklahoma's damaging magnitude 5.7 earthquake in 2011 was caused by fracking wastewater injection.[369] One of the authors of the study, seismologist Elizabeth Cochran, noted, "Even if wastewater injection only directly affects a low-hazard fault, those smaller events could trigger an event on a larger fault nearby."[370]

- January 30, 2014 – A USGS research team linked the rise in earthquakes in Colorado to fracking wastewater injection wells and announced that a study will be published in six to nine months.[371]

- December 12, 2013 – The *New York Times* detailed the growing link between fracking wastewater injection wells and earthquakes, as well as between fracking itself and earthquakes, with a focus on Oklahoma and a recent magnitude 4.5 earthquake there. As The *New York Times* noted, "Oklahoma has never been known as earthquake country, with a yearly average of about 50 tremors, almost all of them minor. But in the past three years, the state has had thousands of quakes. This year has been the most active, with more than 2,600 so far, including 87 last week…. State officials say they are concerned, and residents accustomed to tornadoes and hail are now talking about buying earthquake insurance."[372]

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[366] Godoy, E. (2014, April 3). Fracking, seismic activity grow hand in hand in Mexico. *Inter Press Service*. Retrieved from http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/04/fracking-seismic-activity-grow-hand-hand-mexico/

[367] Schultz, R., Stern, V. & Gu, Y. J. (2014). An investigation of seismicity clustered near the Cordel Field, west central Alberta, and its relation to a nearby disposal well. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth, 119*, 3410–3423, doi: 10.1002/2013JB010836

[368] Trynacity, K., & Siekierska, A. (2014, November 13). Fracking linked to Alberta earthquakes, study indicates. *CBC News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fracking-linked-to-alberta-earthquakes-study-indicates-1.2829484

[369] Sumy, D. F., Cochran, E. S., Keranen, K. M., Wei, M., & Abers, G. A. (2013). Observations of static Coulomb stress triggering of the November 2011 M5.7 Oklahoma earthquake sequence [Abstract]. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth, 119*(3), 1904-1923. doi: 10.1002/2013JB010612

[370] Oskin, B. (2014, March 07). Wastewater injection triggered Oklahoma's earthquake cascade. *Live Science*. Retrieved from http://www.livescience.com/43953-wastewater-injection-earthquake-triggering.html

[371] McClurg, L. (2014, January 30). Earthquakes in southern Colorado linked to oil and gas production. *Colorado Public Radio*. Retrieved from http://www.cpr.org/news/story/earthquakes-southern-colorado-linked-oil-and-gas-production#sthash.UVvw0JWe.UQwWtYJS.dpuf

[372] Fountain, H. (2013, December 12). Experts eye oil and gas industry as quakes shake Oklahoma. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/13/science/earth/as-quakes-shake-oklahoma-scientists-eye-oil-and-gas-industry.html

- November 19, 2013 – *Reuters* reported that a series of Oklahoma earthquakes in September of 2013 damaged several homes, and that more scientists in a number of states are concerned about earthquakes related to oil and gas development. Seismologist Austin Holland with the University of Oklahoma said, "This is a dramatic new rate of seismicity."[373]

- July 19, 2013 – A study from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory linked 109 earthquakes in Youngstown, Ohio to fracking wastewater disposal.[374, 375]

- July 11, 2013 – A study in *Science* by Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory showed that deep-well injection of fracking waste can stress geological faults in ways that make them vulnerable to slipping. The research shows that distant natural earthquakes triggered swarms of smaller earthquakes on critically stressed faults. The researchers wrote, "The fluids [in wastewater injection wells] are driving the faults to their tipping point…. Areas with suspected anthropogenic earthquakes are more susceptible to earthquake-triggering from natural transient stresses generated by the seismic waves of large remote earthquakes."[376]

- April 2013 – A group of British researchers stated that hydraulic fracturing itself was the likely cause of at least three earthquakes powerful enough to be felt by human beings at the surface. The researchers proposed that increases in the fluid pressure in fault zones were the causal mechanism for these three known instances of "felt seismicity" in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The largest of these earthquakes was a magnitude 3.8 in the Horn River Basin, Canada.[377]

- March 26, 2013 – Scientists from the University of Oklahoma, Columbia University and USGS linked a 2011 swarm of earthquakes in Oklahoma to fracking waste disposal in that state.[378] This included a magnitude 5.7 earthquake—possibly the largest ever triggered by wastewater injection—that injured two people, destroyed 14 homes, and was felt across 17 states.[379] The research team concluded in a paper in the journal *Geology*

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[373] Gillam, C. (2013, November 19). In Oklahoma, water, fracking - and a swarm of quakes. *Reuters*. Retrieved from http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/19/us-usa-earthquakes-fracking-oklahoma-idUSBRE9AI12W20131119

[374] Kim, W. (2013). Induced seismicity associated with fluid injection into a deep well in Youngstown, Ohio. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth, 118*(7), 3506-3518. doi: 10.1002/jgrb.50247

[375] Chameides, B. (2013, September 5). Fracking waste wells linked to Ohio earthquakes. *Scientific American*. Retrieved from http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/fracking-waste-wells-linked-to-ohio-earthquakes/

[376] Begley, S. (2013, July 11). Study raises new concern about earthquakes and fracking fluids. *Reuters*. Retrieved from http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/11/us-science-fracking-earthquakes-idUSBRE96A0TZ20130711

[377] Davies, R., Foulger, G., Bindley, A., & Styles, P. (2013). Induced seismicity and hydraulic fracturing for the recovery of hydrocarbons. *Marine and Petroleum Geology, 45*, 171-185. doi: 10.1016/j.marpetgeo.2013.03.016

[378] Drajem, M., & Efstathiou, J., Jr. (2013, March 26). Quake tied to oil-drilling waste adds pressure for rules. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-26/oklahoma-earthquake-in-2011-tied-to-wastewater-wells-in-fracking.html

[379] Behar, M. (2013, March/April). Fracking's latest scandal? Earthquake swarms. *Mother Jones*. Retrieved from http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2013/03/does-fracking-cause-earthquakes-wastewater-dewatering?page=1

that their data called into question the previously predicted maximum size of injection-induced earthquakes.[380, 381]

- December 14, 2012 – At a 2012 American Geophysical Union meeting, scientists presented data and concluded that some U.S. states, including Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado, have experienced a significant rise in seismic activity coinciding with a boom in gas drilling, fracking and wastewater disposal. Scientists further found that Oklahoma has seen a significant increase in earthquakes linked to wastewater injection, that a 5.3 earthquake in New Mexico was linked to wastewater injection, and that earthquakes were increasingly common within two miles of injection wells in the Barnett Shale region of Texas. Art McGarr, a researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Science Center, concluded that, "The future probably holds a lot more in induced earthquakes as the gas boom expands."[382]

- November 30, 2012, January 11, 2012, December 22, 2009 – In three sets of comments on proposed fracking guidelines and regulations, citing scientific reports linking oil and gas infrastructure to seismic activity, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) raised serious concerns about the impacts of potential seismic activity from fracking-related activities on New York City's water supply infrastructure.[383, 384, 385] The NYC DEP has consistently raised concerns that seismic activity surrounding New York City's aquifers and watershed infrastructure could threaten the city's drinking water supply by triggering microseismic events and small induced earthquakes that could threaten the integrity of the aging, 100-mile-long aqueducts that carry drinking water from the Catskill Mountains into the New York City metropolitan area. The agency expressed specific concerns about the ability of hydraulic fracturing fluids to migrate underground and to intercept and reactivate faults miles away.

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[380] Keranen, K. M., Savage, H. M., Abers, G. A. & Cochran, E.S. (2013). Potentially induced earthquakes in Oklahoma, USA: Links between wastewater injection and the 2011 Mw 5.7 earthquake sequence. *Geology.* doi: 10.1130/G34045.1

[381] Diep, F. (2013, March 28). Study: wastewater injection caused Oklahoma's largest-ever earthquake. *Popular Science.* Retrieved from http://www.popsci.com/science/article/2013-03/largest-earthquake-ever-linked-lightly-regulated-wastewater-wells

[382] Leber, J. (2012, December 14). Studies link earthquakes to wastewater from fracking. *MIT Technology Review*. Retrieved from http://www.technologyreview.com/news/508151/studies-link-earthquakes-to-wastewater-from-fracking/

[383] New York City Department of Environmental Protection. (2009, December 22). *New York City comments on: Draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program - Well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus Shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/natural_gas_drilling/nycdep_comments_final_12-22-09.pdf

[384] New York City Department of Environmental Protection. (2012, January 11). *Comments on the revised draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement*. (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/natural_gas_drilling/nycdep_comments_on_rdsgeis_for_hvhf_20120111.pdf

[385] New York City Department of Environmental Protection. (2012, November 30). *Comments on the revised high-volume hydraulic fracturing regulations* (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/natural_gas_drilling/revised_high_volume_hydraulic_fracturing_regulations_comments_letter_010713.pdf

- September 6, 2012 – The British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission determined that fracking itself causes earthquakes, pointing to the results of a probe into 38 seismic events near fracking operations in the Horn River Basin. The report noted that no quakes had been recorded in the area prior to April 2009, before fracking activities began. The report recommended that the link between fracking and seismic activity be further examined.[386]

- March 29, 2012 – The USGS found that between 2001 and 2011, there was a six-fold increase in earthquakes greater than magnitude 3.0 in the middle of the United States that "are almost certainly manmade." The agency reported that the increase appears to be linked to oil and gas production and deep injection of drilling wastewater.[387, 388]

- July 31, 2011 – Numerous earthquakes in Arkansas motivated the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission to shut down a disposal well and enact a permanent moratorium on future disposal wells in a nearly 1,200 square-mile area of the Fayetteville Shale.[389]

- March 10, 2010 – In Texas, a 2008-2009 swarm of earthquakes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where the Barnett Shale is being developed, was linked to produced water disposal wells.[390]

- June 12, 2009 – *The Wall Street Journal* reported that earthquakes shook Cleburne, Texas, a small town at the epicenter of fracking activity, including a number of earthquake clusters in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The USGS noted that more earthquakes were detected during that period of fracking activity than in the previous 30 years combined.[391]

[386] The Canadian Press. (2012, September 6). Fracking causes minor earthquakes, B.C. regulator says. *CBC News*. Retrieved from http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/fracking-causes-minor-earthquakes-b-c-regulator-says-1.1209063

[387] Ellsworth, W. (2011, April 18). Are seismicity rate changes in the midcontinent natural or manmade? Retrieved from http://www2.seismosoc.org/FMPro?-db=Abstract_Submission_12&-sortfield=PresDay&-sortorder=ascending&-sortfield=Special+Session+Name+Calc&-sortorder=ascending&-sortfield=PresTimeSort&-sortorder=ascending&-op=gt&PresStatus=0&-lop=and&-token.1=ShowSession&-token.2=ShowHeading&-recid=224&-format=%2Fmeetings%2F2012%2Fabstracts%2Fsessionabstractdetail.html&-lay=MtgList&-find

[388] Soraghan, M. (2012, March 29). 'Remarkable' spate of man-made quakes linked to drilling, USGS team says. *E&E Publishing, LLC*. Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1059962190

[389] Zilk, C. (2011, July 31). Permanent disposal-well moratorium issued. *Arkansas Online*. Retrieved from http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2011/jul/31/permanent-disposal-well-moratorium-issued-20110731/

[390] Frohlich, C., Hayward, C., Stump, B., & Potter, E. (2011). The Dallas-Fort Worth Earthquake Sequence: October 2008 through May 2009. *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, 101*(1), 327-340. doi: 10.1785/0120100131

[391] Casselman, B. (2009, June 12). Temblors rattle Texas town. *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB124476331270108225

Abandoned and active oil and natural gas wells as pathways for gas and fluid migration

Millions of abandoned and undocumented oil and gas wells exist across the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. All serve as potential pathways for gas and fluid migration, heightening the risks of groundwater contamination and other problems. Vertical channels can be opened when fractures from new drilling and fracking operations intersect with old, abandoned wells. Research from Pennsylvania shows that, cumulatively, abandoned wells are a significant source of methane leakage into the atmosphere and may exceed cumulative total leakage from oil and gas wells currently in production. No state or federal agency routinely monitors methane leakage from abandoned wells. Industry experts, consultants and government agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the U.S. General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office), Texas Department of Agriculture, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission have all warned about problems with abandoned wells due to the potential for pressurized fluids and gases to migrate through inactive and in some cases, active wells.

- July 9, 2015 – As part of an extensive, peer-reviewed assessment of fracking in California, the California Council on Science and Technology identified leakage through failed, inactive wells as a known mechanism for fracking-related water contamination in other states, including Texas and Ohio, and said that it is not known whether abandoned wells in California likewise function as conduits for groundwater contamination and gas leakage. In California, there are more inactive than active wells. Of the state's nearly quarter million oil and gas wells, more than half (116,000) have been plugged and abandoned, while another 1,800 inactive wells are "buried" with only an approximate location known. The locations of another 338 old wells are entirely unknown. California also has 110 orphaned wells, that is, abandoned wells with no owners. Most of California's abandoned wells (53 percent) are located in Kern County.[392]

- May 11, 2015 – *CBC News* reported that falling gas and oil prices have prompted many smaller companies to abandon their operations in Alberta, Canada, leaving the provincial government to close down and dismantle their wells. In the past year alone, the number of orphaned wells in Alberta increased from 162 to 702. At the current rate of work, deconstructing the inventory of wells abandoned just in the past year alone will be a 20-year task.[393]

- April 27, 2015 – In a peer-reviewed study, researchers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documented 5,002 wells located on National Wildlife Refuge System units, in

[392] Stringfellow, W. T., Cooley H., Varadharajan, C., Heberger, M., Reagan, M. T., Domen, J.K., . . . Houseworth, J. E. (2015, July 9). Volume II, Chapter 2: Impacts of well stimulation on water resources. In: *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California.* California Council on Science and Technology, Sacramento, CA. Retrieved from http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-II-chapter-2.pdf

[393] Johnson, T. (2015, May 11). Alberta sees huge spike in abandoned oil and gas wells. *CBC News.* Retrieved from http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/alberta-sees-huge-spike-in-abandoned-oil-and-gas-wells-1.3032434

addition to 1,339 miles of pipeline. Almost half of the wells were inactive, while one-third were active and the remainder either plugged and abandoned or with status unknown. Highlighting the impacts of leaks, spills, and routine operation and maintenance on wildlife conservation efforts, the authors called for regular on-site ecological assessments, improved efforts to plug inactive wells and restore inactive well sites, and a "consolidated and robust regulatory framework" to protect the public's interests.[394]

- December 8, 2014 – A Princeton University team found that abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania, left over from prior decades of conventional drilling, leak significantly more methane than previously thought. Between 300,000 and 500,000 abandoned oil and gas wells are located in Pennsylvania, and many go unchecked and unmonitored for leaks. Based on direct measurements of methane flow from 19 such wells, most of which were a half century old or older, the researchers estimated that the methane leaks from abandoned wells alone could account for between 4 and 7 percent of human-caused methane emissions in the state. Based on these measurements of positive methane flow from decades-old wells, the authors concluded that cumulative emissions from these abandoned wells "may be significantly larger than the cumulative leakage associated with oil and gas production, which has a shorter lifetime of operation." Further, methane flow rates from plugged wells measured in this study were not consistently lower than unplugged wells and indeed were sometimes higher, even though wells are plugged for the precise purpose of limiting the escape of gases. The authors noted that an estimated three million abandoned oil and gas wells are scattered across the United States and likely represent "the second largest potential contribution to total US methane emissions above US Environmental Protection Agency estimates." In the United States, no regulatory requirements for monitoring methane leaks from abandoned wells exist.[395, 396]

- December 1, 2013 – An analysis of reports from the NYS DEC found that three-quarters of the state's abandoned oil and gas wells were never plugged. New York State has approximately 48,000 such wells; many of their locations remain unknown.[397]

- Aug. 4, 2011 – A report from the EPA to Congress in 1987—and discovered by the *New York Times*—concluded that abandoned natural gas wells may have served as a pathway for hydraulic fracturing fluids to migrate underground from a shale gas well to a water well in West Virginia. In noting that the water well was polluted due to hydraulic fracturing and that such contamination was "illustrative" of contamination from oil and

[394] Ramirez Jr., P. & Mosley, S. B. (2015). Oil and gas wells and pipelines on U.S. wildlife refuges: Challenges for managers. *PLoS ONE, 10*(4). doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0124085
[395] Kang, M., Kanno, C. M., Reid, M. C., Zhang, X., Mauzerall, D. L., Celia, M. A., Chen, Y., & Onstott, T. C. (2014, December 8). Direct measurements of methane emissions from abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania. *Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences*, Advance online publication. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1408315111
[396] Magill, B. (2014, June 19). Derelict oil wells may be major methane emitters. Climate Central. Retrieved from http://www.climatecentral.org/news/abandoned-oil-wells-methane-emissions-17575
[397] Bishop, R. E. (2014). Historical analysis of oil and gas well plugging in New York: Is the regulatory system working? *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 21*, 103-116. Retrieved from http://baywood.metapress.com/media/16ut607yqg1yrw9ydad3/contributions/b/0/4/7/b047j34r87552325.pdf

natural gas drilling, the report suggested that additional cases of groundwater contamination from hydraulic fracturing may exist.[398]

- April 4, 2011 – *ProPublica* reported that abandoned wells have caused problems across the nation including contamination of drinking water in Colorado, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Texas, and other states. *ProPublica* also found that a draft report from the Pennsylvania DEP described a 2008 incident in Pennsylvania in which a person died in an explosion triggered by lighting a candle in a bathroom after natural gas had seeped into a septic system from an abandoned well. The same draft report documented at least two dozen additional cases in which gas leaked from old wells, and three in which gas from new wells migrated into old wells, seeping into water supplies and requiring the evacuation of homes.[399]

- May 20, 2010 – The British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission issued a safety advisory after hydraulic fracturing caused a large "kick," or unintentional entry of fluid or gas, into a nearby gas well. The commission reported that it knew of 18 incidents in British Columbia and one in Western Alberta in which hydraulic fractures had entered nearby gas wells. "Large kicks resulted in volumes up to 80 cubic meters [about 100 cubic yards] of fluids produced to surface. Invading fluids have included water, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, sand, drilling mud, other stimulation fluids and small amounts of gas." These cases occurred in horizontal wells with a distance between wellbores of up to 2,300 feet. The Commission wrote, "It is recommended that operators cooperate through notifications and monitoring of all drilling and completion operations where fracturing takes place within 1000m [3,280 feet] of well bores existing or currently being drilled." Such communication between active wells raises the potential that similar communication can occur between active wells and abandoned wells.[400]

- 2010 – The NYS DEC cautioned that "abandoned wells can leak oil, gas and/or brine; underground leaks may go undiscovered for years. These fluids can contaminate ground and surface water, kill vegetation, and cause public safety and health problems." As the agency reported, "DEC has at least partial records on 40,000 wells, but estimates that over 75,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled in the State since the 1820s. Most of the wells date from before New York established a regulatory program. Many of these old wells were never properly plugged or were plugged using older techniques that were less reliable and long-lasting than modern methods."[401] The agency published similar comments in 2008 and 2009.

- January 2009 – In a presentation before the Society of Petroleum Engineers, industry consultant Michael C. Vincent reported on evidence that fractures from hydraulically

[398] Urbina, I. (2011, August 4). A tainted water well, and concern there may be more. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/04/us/04natgas.html
[399] Kusnetz, N. (2011, April 4). Danger in honeycomb of old wells. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/nation/2011/04/04/Danger-in-honeycomb-of-old-wells/stories/201104040149
[400] British Columbia Oil & Gas Commission. (2010, May 20). Safety advisory: communication during fracture stimulation. Retrieved from https://www.bcogc.ca/node/5806/download
[401] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2010). New York oil, gas and mineral resources 2010. Retrieved from http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/10anrpt1.pdf

fractured wells can communicate with nearby oil and gas wells. In spite of numerous examples of fractures intersecting with adjacent wellbores, the industry is reluctant to publish reports documenting these cases because "such information could unnecessarily alarm regulators or adjacent leaseholders." Vincent added, "Although computing tools have improved, as an industry we remain incapable of fully describing the complexity of the fracture, reservoir, and fluid flow regimes." These findings raise the possibility that there could be similar communications between existing fracked wells that are fractured and abandoned wells and that operators cannot accurately predict how these will interact.[402]

- 2005 – M.K. Fisher, Vice President of Business Management at Pinnacle, a service of Halliburton that specializes in hydraulic fracturing, reported in an article published by the Society of Petroleum Engineers that a single fracture produced during a fracking operation in the Texas Barnett Shale had unexpectedly spread 2,500 feet laterally in two directions. He also described fractures in the Barnett Shale as "extremely complex."[403] These findings raise the possibility that well communication over very large distances could occur due to fractures that spread "unexpectedly."

- October 1999 – The U.S. Department of Energy reported that there were approximately 2.5 million abandoned oil and gas wells in the U.S.[404]

- Early 1990s – An underground waste disposal well in McKean County, Pennsylvania, contaminated groundwater when the wastewater traveled up a nearby abandoned, unmapped, and unplugged oil well. Owners of private water wells that were contaminated by the incident eventually had to be connected to a public water system.[405]

- July 1989 – In the past, the investigative agency for Congress, the U.S. General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office—GAO) studied oil and natural gas underground injection disposal wells and found serious cases of contamination. The agency reported that, in several cases, wastewater from oil and natural gas operations had migrated up into abandoned oil and natural gas wells, contaminating underground water supplies. The GAO found that "if these abandoned wells are not properly plugged—that is, sealed off —and have cracked casings, they can serve as pathways for injected brines [waste fluids from natural gas and oil drilling] to enter drinking water…. Because groundwater moves very slowly, any contaminants that

[402] Vincent, M. C. (2009, January 19). Examining our assumptions – Have oversimplifications jeopardized our ability to design optimal fracture treatments? Lecture presented at Society of Petroleum Engineers hydraulic fracturing technology conference in The Woodlands, Texas. See http://www.spe.org/dl/docs/2010/MikeVincent.pdf
[403] Fisher, M., Wright, C., Davidson, B., Steinsberger, N., Buckler, W., Goodwin, A., & Fielder, E. (2005). Integrating fracture-mapping technologies to improve stimulations in the Barnett Shale. *SPE Production & Facilities, 20*(2). doi: 10.2118/77441-PA
[404] United States Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy. (1999, October 5). *Environmental benefits of advanced oil and gas exploration and production technology*. (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.netl.doe.gov/kmd/cds/disk25/oilandgas.pdf
[405] Hopey, D. (2012, January 3). Wastewater disposal wells under scrutiny following Irvin leak. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/news/environment/2012/01/03/Wastewater-disposal-wells-under-scrutiny-following-Irvin-leak.html

enter it will remain concentrated for long periods of time, and cleanup, if it is technically feasible, can be prohibitively costly."[406]

- December 1987 – The EPA submitted a report to Congress on oil and natural gas wastes in which the agency cautioned that abandoned wells must be plugged with cement in order to avoid "degradation" of ground and surface waters as a result of pressurized brine or injected waste from wastewater disposal wells migrating into to aquifers, rivers, or streams.[407] While the EPA did not address the potential for contamination through abandoned wells as a result of hydraulic fracturing, both hydraulic fracturing and underground injection disposal wells require underground injection of fluid under pressure, raising the potential that there is a similar risk of groundwater contamination when hydraulic fracturing occurs near abandoned wells.

- 1985 – In an investigation of 4,658 complaints due to oil and natural gas production, the Texas Department of Agriculture found that "when a water well is experiencing an oilfield pollution problem (typically, high chlorides), the pollution source is often difficult to track down. The source could be a leak in the casing of a disposal well, leakage behind the casing due to poor cement bond, old saltwater evaporation pits, or, most often, transport of contaminants through an *improperly plugged abandoned well*" (emphasis in original). The agency found more than a dozen confirmed or suspected cases in which pollutants had migrated up abandoned wells and contaminated groundwater. In one case, drilling wastewater migrated up an abandoned well a half mile away from where the wastewater was injected underground for disposal.[408]

- November 1978 – In a report later cited by the EPA in its 1987 report to Congress (cited above), the state of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency found that oil and natural gas wastes injected underground could migrate through abandoned oil and natural gas wells and contaminate groundwater. The agency wrote, "In old production areas, abandoned wells may pose a serious threat to ground water quality. Unplugged or improperly plugged wells provide possible vertical communication between saline and fresh water aquifers."[409]

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[406] United States Government Accountability Office. (1989, July 5). Drinking water: Safeguards are not preventing contamination from injected oil and gas wastes. Retrieved from http://www.gao.gov/products/RCED-89-97. (2, 4, Rep.).

[407] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (1987). *Report to Congress: Management of wastes from the exploration, development, and production of crude oil, natural gas, and geothermal energy* (III-47, Rep.). Retrieved from http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=20012D4P.pdf

[408] Texas Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources. (1985). *Agricultural land and water contamination: From injection wells, disposal pits, and abandoned wells used in oil and gas production* (pp. 5, 12-15). Austin, TX: Dept. of Agriculture, Office of Natural Resources.

[409] Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Water Quality Management Planning. (1978). *Illinois oil field brine disposal assessment* (pp. 44-45, Rep.).

Flood risks

Massive land clearing and forest fragmentation that necessarily accompany well site preparation increase erosion and risks for catastrophic flooding, as do access roads, pipeline easements, and other related infrastructure. Compared to an acre of forest or meadow, an acre of land subject to fracking construction activity releases 1,000 to 2,000 times more sediment during rainstorms. In addition, in some cases, operators choose to site well pads on flood-prone areas in order to have easy access to water for fracking, to abide by setback requirements intended to keep well pads away from inhabited buildings, or to avoid productive agricultural areas. In turn, flooding increases the dangers of unconventional gas extraction, heightening the risks of contamination of soils and water supplies, the overflow or breaching of containment ponds, and the escape of chemicals and hazardous materials.

- June 12, 2015 – At the beginning of 2015, after a month of record-breaking rainfall, Fish and Wildlife Service officials at the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge in Texas found that floodwaters flowing through oil production well pads in the refuge had inundated dozens of jackpumps, pipelines, and other oil and gas infrastructure, leaving bubbling, oily water and a gassy stench. In 1989, the Government Accountability Office called for "bold action" to address fossil fuel production activities incompatible with the mission of the refuge system. Subsequent reforms have been exceedingly slow, according to a report from *Greenwire*. In most cases, the Fish and Wildlife Service does not know how much fossil fuel is produced or spilled on refuges, and remediation efforts are inadequate. Severe weather events are expected to increase in frequency and severity as climate change progresses, amplifying flood related concerns.[410]

- June 20, 2014 – The *Coloradoan* reported that Noble Energy storage tanks damaged by spring flooding in Colorado dumped 7,500 gallons of crude oil, fracking chemicals, and fracking wastewater into the Cache la Poudre River, which is both a National Heritage area and a habitat for Colorado's only self-sustaining population of wild trout. Recent high river flows had undercut the bank where the oil tank was located, which caused the tank to drop and break a valve.[411]

- March 2014 – An extraordinary flood that struck the Front Range of Colorado killed ten people, forced the evacuation of 18,000 more, destroyed more than 1,850 homes, and damaged roads, bridges, and farmland throughout the state. More than 2,650 oil and gas wells and associated facilities were also affected, with 1,614 wells lying directly within the flood impact zone. Many of these storm-damaged facilities and storage tanks leaked uncontrollably. In a later accounting, Matt Lepore, Director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, estimated the flooding had resulted in the release to the environment of 48,250 gallons of oil or condensate and 43,479 gallons of fracking wastewater from 50 different spill sites across the state. In Colorado, more than 20,850 oil and gas wells lie within 500 feet of a river, stream, or other drainage. According to

[410] Hiar, C. (2015, June 12). Wildlife refuges: Floods expose weakness in FWS's oil and gas oversight. *E&E Publishing.* Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060020169

[411] Handy, R. (2014, June 20). Crude oil spills into Poudre near Windsor. *Coloradoan.* Retrieved from http://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/local/2014/06/20/crude-oil-spills-poudre-near-windsor/11161379/

Director Lepore, setback requirements that keep drilling and fracking operations away from residential areas inadvertently encourage operators to drill in unoccupied floodplains. At the same time, oil and gas operators prefer locations close to supplies of water for use in fracking. These twin factors result in a clustering of drilling and fracking operations in low-lying areas prone to catastrophic flooding.[412]

- 2004-2013 – In at least six of the last ten years (2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011, and 2013), several counties targeted for shale gas drilling in New York State have experienced serious flooding. These include the counties of Albany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chenango, Delaware, Erie, Greene, Madison, Orange, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster. In at least five of the past 10 years (2004, 2005, 2006, 2009 and 20011), floods have exceeded 100-year levels in at least some of the counties.[413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419]

- February 7, 2013 – In its 2012 annual report to investors, oil and natural gas drilling company Noble Energy stated, "Our operations are subject to hazards and risks inherent in the drilling, production and transportation of crude oil and natural gas, including … flooding which could affect our operations in low-lying areas such as the Marcellus Shale."[420]

- September 7, 2011 – The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) draft shale gas drilling plan recommended that drilling be prohibited within 100-year floodplains but acknowledged that many areas in the Delaware and Susquehanna River basins that were affected by flooding in 2004 and 2006 were located

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[412] Lepore, M. (2014, March). "Lessons Learned" in the front range flood of September 2013: a staff report to the commissioners of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Retrieved from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission website: http://cogcc.state.co.us/Announcements/Hot_Topics/Flood2013/FinalStaffReportLessonsLearned20140314.pdf

[413] Brooks, L. T. (2005). *Flood of September 18-19, 2004 in the upper Delaware River basin, New York* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Geological Survey website: http://ny.water.usgs.gov/pubs/of/of051166/

[414] Suro, T. P., & Firda, G. D. (2006). *Flood of April 2–3, 2005, Neversink River basin, New York* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Geological Survey website: http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1319/

[415] Suro, T. P., Firda, G. D., & Szabo, C. O. (2009). *Flood of June 26–29, 2006, Mohawk, Delaware and Susquehanna River basins, New York* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Geological Survey website: http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2009/1063/pdf/ofr2009-1063.pdf

[416] Szabo, C. O., Coon, W. F., & Niziol, T. A. (2010). *Flash floods of August 10, 2009, in the villages of Gowanda and Silver Creek, New York* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Geological Survey website: http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5259/pdf/SIR%202010-5259.pdf

[417] Szabo, L. (2011, September 8). *Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee cause record flooding in the Susquehanna River basin* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Geological Survey website: http://ny.water.usgs.gov/leeindex.html

[418] Giordano, S. (2013, January 29). Several eastern counties in central New York under water after heavy flooding. *Syracuse Post-Standard*. Retrieved from http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/06/several_eastern_counties_in_ce.html

[419] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (2-32, 33, Rep.).

[420] Noble Energy, Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 7, 2013) at 42.

outside of officially designated flood zones.[421] In 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2011, flooding in New York exceeded 100-year levels in at least some of the counties where drilling and fracking may occur.

- 1992 – In its Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for oil and natural gas drilling, which was predicated on conventional drilling, the NYS DEC raised concerns that storage tanks holding drilling wastewater, spent hydraulic fracturing fluid, or other contaminants could be damaged by flooding and leak. At the time, the GEIS called for at least some of these tanks to be properly secured.[422] Shale gas extraction via horizontal fracking would require many more storage tanks for fracking fluids and wastewater than conventional drilling operations anticipated in 1992 when the agency estimated that oil and gas wells in the state would each require 20,000 to 80,000 gallons of fracking fluid.[423] As of 2011, the agency anticipated that high volume, horizontally fracked shale gas wells in New York State would each require 2.4 to 7.8 million gallons of fluid—roughly 100 times the 1992 estimate.[424]

Threats to agriculture and soil quality

Drilling and fracking take agricultural land out of production and pose risks to the agricultural sector. In California, fracking wastewater illegally injected into aquifers has threatened crucial irrigation supplies to farmers in a time of severe drought. The reuse of fracking wastewater for irrigation in California's San Joaquin Valley raises questions about contamination of food crops via bioabsorption through roots. Studies and case reports from across the country have highlighted instances of deaths, neurological disorders, aborted pregnancies, and stillbirths in cattle and goats associated with livestock coming into contact with wastewater. Potential water and air contamination put soil quality as well as livestock health at risk. Additionally, farmers have expressed concern that nearby fracking operations can hurt the perception of agricultural quality and nullify value-added organic certification.

- May 2, 2015 – The *Los Angeles Times* reported that farmers in Kern County, California purchased over 21 million gallons of treated oil field wastewater to use for crop irrigation.

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[421] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (ES-22, 2-32, 33, Rep.).

[422] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (8-42, 8-43, 9-35, Rep.).

[423] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (1992). *Generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program* (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/dgeisv1ch8.pdf (9-26, Rep.).

[424] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (ES-8, Rep.).

The article identified lingering questions about chemicals remaining after treatment and their potential impact both on the crops and those who consume them. Independent testing identified chemicals including acetone and methylene chloride, along with oil, in the treated irrigation water.[425] Acetone and methylene chloride are powerful industrial solvents that are highly toxic to humans, and samples of the wastewater contained concentrations of both that were higher than those seen at oil spill disaster sites. (Chevron's own report confirmed the presence of acetone, benzene, and xylene, though in lesser concentrations; Chevron did not appear to test for methylene chloride.[426]) Broader testing requirements involving chemicals covered under California's new fracking disclosure regulations went into effect June 15, 2015.[427]

- April 24, 2015 – Unconventional technologies in gas and oil extraction facilitated the drilling of an average of 50,000 new fractured wells per year in North America over the past 15 years. An interdisciplinary study published in *Science* demonstrated that the accumulating land degradation has resulted in continent-wide impacts, as measured by the reduced amount of carbon absorbed by plants and accumulated as biomass. This is a robust metric of essential ecosystem services, such as food production, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat, and its loss "is likely long-lasting and potentially permanent." The land area occupied by well pads, roads, and storage facilities built during this period is approximately three million hectares, roughly the land area of three Yellowstone National Parks. The authors concluded that new approaches to land use planning and policy are "necessary to achieve energy policies that minimize ecosystem service losses."[428]

- January 26, 2015 – Two Colorado scientists performed a detailed analysis of vegetative patterns – followed chronologically – over a selected group of well pads in Colorado managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, including two undisturbed reference sites. They documented the disturbance of plant and soil systems linked to contemporary oil and gas well pad construction, and found that none of the oil and gas well pads included in the study returned to pre-drilling condition, even after 20 to 50 years. Full restoration may require decades of intensive effort.[429]

- October 14, 2014 – State documents obtained by the Center for Biological Diversity show that almost three billion gallons of fracking wastewater have been illegally dumped into central California aquifers that supply drinking water and farming irrigation. The California Water Board confirmed that several oil companies used at least nine of 11

[425] Cart, J. (2015, May 2). Central Valley's growing concern: Crops raised with oil field water. *Los Angeles Times.* Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-drought-oil-water-20150503-story.html#page=1
[426] Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc. (2015, June 15). Technical report: Reclaimed water impoundments sampling, Cawelo Water District Ponds, Kern River Oil Field, Kern County, California, Prepared for Chevron U.S.A. Inc. Retrieved from https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1ccgD60cwq7dWE5Y0c2ZDh5WnM/view
[427] Ross, D. (2015, June 19). Has our food been contaminated by Chevron's wastewater? *Truthout.* Retrieved from http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/31470-has-our-food-been-contaminated-by-chevron-s-wastewater
[428] Allred, B. W., Kolby Smith, W., Tridwell, D., Haggerty, J. H., Running, S. W., Naugle, D. E., & Fuhlendorf, S. D. (2015). Ecosystem services lost to oil and gas in North America. *Science, 348* (6233), 401-402.
[429] Minnick, T. J. & Alward, R. D. (2015). Plant–soil feedbacks and the partial recovery of soil spatial patterns on abandoned well pads in a sagebrush shrubland. *Ecological Applications 25*(1), 3-10.

injection wells that connect with high-quality water sources for disposal of fracking wastewater, which included high levels of arsenic, thallium, and nitrates. The California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has shut down 11 oil field injection wells and is scrutinizing almost 100 others for posing a "danger to life, health, property, and natural resources." At least one farming company has sued oil producers in part for contaminating groundwater that farms use for irrigation.[430]

- September 6, 2014 – *Al Jazeera America* examined the challenges that North Dakota farmers are facing in light of wastewater spills from oil and gas development. Notably, in heavily drilled Bottineau County, some levels of chloride, from sites where an estimated 16,800 to 25,200 gallons of wastewater had seeped into the ground, were so high that they exceeded the levels measurable with the North Dakota Department of Health's test strips. State records, testimonies from oil workers and various residents, and the decades-long failure of contaminated fields to produce crops indicate that wastewater spills are a significant hazard in the current fracking boom.[431]

- August 6, 2014 – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection found that leaks of fracking wastewater from three impoundments contaminated soil and groundwater. The findings prompted the state to issue a violation and increase monitoring and testing.[432]

- August 5, 2014 – Michelle Bamberger, a veterinarian and researcher, and Robert Oswald, a professor of molecular medicine at Cornell University, published a book that describes their research into the impacts of drilling and fracking on agriculture and animal health. They detail results of 24 case studies from six gas drilling states, including follow-up on cases they previously published in the peer-reviewed literature, raising numerous concerns about the effects of drilling and fracking on agriculture and the health of animals.[433]

- August 1, 2014 – At least 19,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid spilled during completion of a fracking well on an alfalfa farm in Kingfisher County, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported concerns about rain pushing chemical runoff into a nearby creek that flows into the town of Hennessey's water system. The responsible company, Blake Production, planned to pay for the alfalfa crop for six years. The

[430] Dechert, S. (2014, October 14). Fracking wastewater spoils California drinking, farm supplies. *Clean Technica*. Retrieved from http://cleantechnica.com/2014/10/14/fracking-wastewater-spoils-california-drinking-farm-supplies/
[431] Gottesdiener, L. (2014, September 6). In shadow of oil boom, North Dakota farmers fight contamination. *Al Jazeera America*. Retrieved from http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/9/6/north-dakota-wastewaterlegacy.html
[432] Hopey, D. (2014, August 6). State: Fracking waste tainted groundwater, soil at three Washington County sites. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.* Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/local/washington/2014/08/06/Pa-finds-tainted-water-soil-at-three-Washington-County-shale-sites/stories/201408050198
[433] Bamberger, M. & Oswald, R. (2014). The real cost of fracking: How America's shale gas boom is threatening our families, pets, and food. Boston: Beacon Press.

landowner and a neighbor were pursuing litigation.[434]

- May 4, 2014 – In an analysis of state data from Colorado, the *Denver Post* reported that fracking related to oil and gas drilling is putting soil quality and farmlands at risk due to significant amounts of toxic fluids penetrating the soil. According to report, 578 spills were reported in 2013, which means that, on average in the state, a gallon of toxic liquid penetrates the ground every eight minutes. Colorado State University soil scientist Eugene Kelly, said that the overall impact of the oil and gas boom "is like a death sentence for soil."[435]

- November 28, 2012 – In conjunction with the Food & Environment Reporting Network, *The Nation* reported that serious risks to agriculture caused by fracking are increasing across the country and linked these concerns to risks to human health.[436]

- January 2012 – A study of gas drilling's impacts on human and animal health concluded that the drilling process may lead to health problems. The study reported and analyzed a number of case studies, including dead and sick animals in several states that had been exposed to drilling or hydraulic fracturing fluids, wastewater, or contaminated ground or surface water.[437] The researchers cited 24 cases in six states where animals and their owners were potentially affected by gas drilling. In one case, a farmer separated 96 head of cattle into three areas, one along a creek where fracking wastewater was allegedly dumped and the remainder in fields without access to the contaminated creek; the farmer found that, of the 60 head exposed to the creek, 21 died and 16 failed to produce, whereas the unexposed cattle experienced no unusual health problems. In another case, a farmer reported that of 140 head of cattle that were exposed to fracking wastewater, about 70 died, and there was a high incidence of stillborn and stunted calves in the remaining cattle.[438]

- January 2011 – U.S. Forest Service researchers reported dramatic negative effects on vegetation caused by the drilling and fracking of a natural gas well in an experimental forest in northeastern West Virginia.[439] In June 2008, the researchers found browning of foliage near the well pad, a lack of ground foliage, and that many trees nearby had

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[434] Passoth, K. (2014, August 1). Major oil field spill in Kingfisher Co. *KOCO.com Oklahoma City*. Retrieved from http://www.koco.com/news/major-oil-field-spill-in-kingfisher-county/27236612

[435] Finley, B. (2014, May 4). Colorado faces oil boom "death sentence" for soil, eyes microbe fix. *The Denver Post*. Retrieved from http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_25692049/colorado-faces-oil-boom-death-sentence-soil-eyes

[436] Royte, E. (2012, November 28). Fracking our food supply. *The Nation*. Retrieved from http://www.thenation.com/article/171504/fracking-our-food-supply

[437] Bamberger, M., & Oswald, R. E. (2012). Impacts of gas drilling on human and animal health. *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 22*(1), 51-77. doi: 10.2190/NS.22.1.e

[438] Ramanujan, K. (2012, March 7). Study suggests hydrofracking is killing farm animals, pets. *Cornell Chronicle*. Retrieved from http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2012/03/reproductive-problems-death-animals-exposed-fracking

[439] Adams, M., Edwards, P. J., Ford, W. M., Johnson, J. B., Schuler, T. M., Thomas-Van Gundy, M., & Wood, F. (2011, January). *Effects of development of a natural gas well and associated pipeline on the natural and scientific resources of the Fernow experimental forest* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Department of Agriculture website: http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs76.pdf. (1-4, Rep.).

dropped their foliage. They attributed these impacts to the loss of control of the wellbore on May 29, 2008, which caused an aerial release of materials from the well. Trees showed no apparent symptoms the following summer.[440] However, the researchers also found "dramatic impacts on vegetation" where drilling and fracking wastewater had been sprayed on the land as a disposal technique following completion of the well. Just after the spraying of approximately 60,000 gallons of wastewater at the first disposal site, the Forest Service researchers found 115 damaged trees and other evidence of harm. This figure grew to 147 trees almost a year later.[441] At a second site, where about 20,000 gallons of wastewater was sprayed, the damage was less dramatic, yet the researchers still found "considerable leaf browning and mortality of young northern red oak seedlings."[442] The researchers concluded that the spraying of the drilling fluids resulted in an "extreme" dose of chlorides to the forest.[443]

- May 2010 – Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture quarantined 28 cows in Tioga County after the animals wandered through a spill of drilling wastewater and may have ingested some of it. The Department was concerned that beef eventually produced from the cows could be contaminated as a result of any exposure. In May 2011, only ten yearlings were still quarantined, but the farmer who owned the cows, Carol Johnson, told National Public Radio that of 17 calves born to the quarantined cows in the spring of 2011, only six survived, and many of the calves that were lost were stillborn. "They were born dead or extremely weak. It's highly unusual," she said, continuing, "I might lose one or two calves a year, but I don't lose eight out of eleven."[444]

- March 2010 – A Pennsylvania State Extension analysis of dairy farms in the state found a decline in the number of dairy cows in areas of the state where fracking was prevalent. Pennsylvania counties that had both more than 10,000 dairy cows and more than 150 Marcellus Shale wells experienced a 16-percent decline in dairy cows between 2007 and 2010.[445]

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[440] Adams, M., Edwards, P. J., Ford, W. M., Johnson, J. B., Schuler, T. M., Thomas-Van Gundy, M., & Wood, F. (2011, January). *Effects of development of a natural gas well and associated pipeline on the natural and scientific resources of the Fernow experimental forest* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Department of Agriculture website: http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs76.pdf. (10-11, Rep.).

[441] Adams, M., Edwards, P. J., Ford, W. M., Johnson, J. B., Schuler, T. M., Thomas-Van Gundy, M., & Wood, F. (2011, January). *Effects of development of a natural gas well and associated pipeline on the natural and scientific resources of the Fernow experimental forest* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Department of Agriculture website: http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs76.pdf. (11-15, Rep.)

[442] Adams, M., Edwards, P. J., Ford, W. M., Johnson, J. B., Schuler, T. M., Thomas-Van Gundy, M., & Wood, F. (2011, January). *Effects of development of a natural gas well and associated pipeline on the natural and scientific resources of the Fernow experimental forest* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Department of Agriculture website: http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs76.pdf. (15, Rep.).

[443] Adams, M., Edwards, P. J., Ford, W. M., Johnson, J. B., Schuler, T. M., Thomas-Van Gundy, M., & Wood, F. (2011, January). *Effects of development of a natural gas well and associated pipeline on the natural and scientific resources of the Fernow experimental forest* (Rep.). Retrieved from United States Department of Agriculture website: http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs76.pdf. (17, Rep.).

[444] Phillips, S. (2011, September 27). Burning questions: Quarantined cows give birth to dead calves. *StateImpact*. Retrieved from http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2011/09/27/burning-questions-quarantined-cows-give-birth-to-dead-calves/

[445] Penn State Extension. (2010, March). *Pennsylvania dairy farms and Marcellus shale, 2007–2010* (Rep.). Retrieved from

- April 28, 2009 – Seventeen cows in Caddo Parish, Louisiana died within one hour after apparently ingesting hydraulic fracturing fluids spilled at a well that was being fractured. "It seemed obvious the cattle had died acutely from an ingested toxin that had drained from the 'fracking' operation going on at the property," Mike Barrington, a state veterinarian said in a document obtained from the state Department of Environmental Quality by *The Times-Picayune*.[446, 447]

- August 1977 – A paper in the *Journal of Arboriculture* describes how natural gas leaks in soil can damage plants and crops. The paper notes that vegetation dies in the vicinity of natural gas leaks. Due to the oxidation of methane by methane-consuming bacteria, gas leaks drive down the oxygen concentration to extremely low levels and cause carbon dioxide concentration to rise. The resulting low oxygen concentration is the greatest contributing factor in the death of trees and other vegetation near natural gas leaks.[448]

Threats to the climate system

A range of studies has shown high levels of methane leaks from gas drilling, fracking, storage, and transportation, undermining the notion that natural gas is a climate solution or a transition fuel. Major studies have concluded that early work by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greatly underestimated the impacts of methane and natural gas drilling on the climate. Drilling, fracking, and expanded use of natural gas threaten not only to exacerbate climate change but also to stifle investments in, and expansion of, renewable energy. Further, the widely touted claim that the U.S. fracking boom is helping to drive recent declines in carbon dioxide emissions in the United States has been upended by new research showing that almost all of the emission reductions between 2007 and 2009 were the result of economic recession rather than coal-to-gas fuel switching, as was previously presumed.

- July 21, 2015 – An international team of researchers investigated the claim that the fracking boom, which has dramatically increased supplies of natural gas in the United States, is the main driver of the modest decline in carbon dioxide emissions since 2007. Conventional wisdom, as expressed by the Third National Climate Assessment of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, attributes the drop in emissions to a shift away from carbon dioxide-intensive coal and toward natural gas in power plants. But this team analyzed the sources of change in carbon dioxide emissions and, using a tool called input-output structural decomposition analysis, documented that the economic downturn, not fuel switching in the power sector, was the explanation for declining carbon dioxide

http://cce.cornell.edu/EnergyClimateChange/NaturalGasDev/Documents/PA%20Dairy%20Farms%20and%20Marcellus%202007%20to%202010.pdf

[446] Schleifstein, M. (2011, March 27). Haynesville natural gas field is the most productive in the U.S. *The Times-Picayune*. Retrieved from http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/03/haynesville_natural_gas_field.html

[447] KSLA. (2009, April 28). Cows in Caddo Parish fall dead near gas well. *KSLA News*. Retrieved from http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=10268585

[448] Davis, S.H., Jr. (1977). The effect of natural gas on trees and other vegetation. *Journal of Arboriculture 3*(8),153-154.

emissions since 2007. The single biggest impact on U.S. emissions was changes in the volume of goods and services consumed. Between 2007 and 2013, driven by a huge drop in the volume of capital investment, emissions associated with capital formation decreased by almost 25 percent. During the same period, emissions related to household consumption decreased by 11 percent.[449]

- July 7, 2015 – A scientific opinion piece by Environmental Defense Fund researchers involved in a group of 11 studies on methane emissions in Texas' Barnett Shale provided an overview and orientation to new research that either measured or estimated methane emissions from oil and gas operations. Research from both top-down estimates (based on measuring atmospheric methane or related compounds at regional or larger scales) and bottom-up measurements (made directly from components or at ground level near studied sites) demonstrated that methane emissions from oil and gas operations in the Barnett Shale region exceeded the emissions expected from the EPA's greenhouse gas inventory, which relies on industry self-reporting and excludes many compressor stations. The new research detailed the importance of addressing high-emitting landfills and natural gas facilities ("super-emitters") and malfunctioning equipment in efforts to control ongoing methane emissions.[450]

- May 28, 2015 – A comprehensive working paper from the New Climate Economy initiative of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate at Stockholm Environment Institute found that the experience in the United States of substituting natural gas for oil was unlikely to be replicated around the globe and probably will not provide climate benefits unless coupled with strict controls on methane leakage, limits on total energy use, and policies to prevent the displacement of non-fossil fuel energy by methane. Citing multiple studies of the net climate impact of "more abundant, cheaper natural gas supplies," the Commission concluded that "both globally and for the United States, the increase in emissions from the scale effect [from increased energy consumption boosted by cheap natural gas and loss of potentially more expensive lower carbon approaches] fully offsets the emission benefits from the substitution effect, net of methane leakage."[451, 452]

- March 24, 2015 – A University of Cincinnati researcher and independent engineers documented that the Bacharach Hi-Flow Sampler (BHFS)—one of the only tools approved by the EPA for measuring and reporting emissions of methane from natural gas

[449] Feng, K., Davis, S. J., Sun, L., & Hubacek, K. (2015). Drivers of the US CO_2 emissions 1997-2013. *Nature Communications, 6*. doi: 10.1038/ncomms8714

[450] Harriss, R., Alvarez, R.A., Lyon, D., Zavala-Araiza, D., Nelson, D. & Hamburg, S.P. (2015). Using multi-scale measurements to improve methane emission estimates from oil and gas operations in the Barnett Shale Region, Texas. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49*, 7524-7526. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b02305

[451] Lazarus, M., Tempest, K., Klevnäs, P., & Korsbakken, J. I. (2015) Natural gas: Guardrails for a potential climate bridge. Stockholm Environment Institute. Retrieved from http://www.sei-international.org/mediamanager/documents/Publications/Climate/NCE-SEI-2015-Natural-gas-guardrails-climate-bridge.pdf

[452] Evans, S. (2015, June 2). The climate benefits of a gas bridge are unlikely to be significant. *Climate Spectator*. Retrieved from http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2015/6/2/policy-politics/climate-benefits-gas-bridge-are-unlikely-be-significant

transmission, storage, and processing facilities—failed to function properly when used as indicated by the manufacturer. The BHFS, unless recalibrated daily and running revised software (or taking measurements in a nearly pure methane environment, which is exceedingly rare in the field), misreported high levels of natural gas by as much as an order of magnitude lower than actual concentration. A reanalysis of 2011 results from the City of Fort Worth Air Quality Study revealed at least seven instances for which the BHFS indicated sample concentrations at or below 5 percent when more reliable canister methane readings indicated concentrations that ranged from 6.1 percent to 90.4 percent. Inaccurate measurements like these can contribute to the discrepancy between "top-down" and "bottom-up" measurements of methane, with ground-level measurements from the BHFS potentially producing reports of falsely low emissions.[453] As we were going to press, this study was followed by another that further documented malfunctions in the BHFS device and called into question the results of a landmark 2013 survey of methane emissions at 190 drilling and fracking sites across the United States. That 2013 survey, from the University of Texas, relied on the BHFS device for collecting data and found very low leakage rates.[454, 455]

- March 9, 2015 – With specialized equipment in a mobile van, University of Colorado, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Defense Fund, and independent researchers continuously measured methane and ethane from public roads at sites downwind of potential emission sources, such as natural gas production wellheads, processing plants, and compressor stations. The sampling method and modeling allowed capture of multiple "accidental" plumes, acquired during long drives across the study region between planned measurements near large facilities. Sampling was not random but documented a large number of facilities with low methane emission rates (equal to or less than 10 kg/hr), with a smaller yet important number of facilities showing much higher emissions. Although the largest measured emission in this study (1,360 kg/hr) corresponded to approximately $1.2 million in lost revenue per year, the authors noted that, in this industry, the "leak fraction" or "proportional loss" levels they documented would generally translate into only a small proportion of lost revenue, probably not sufficient to prompt strong energy-sector self-regulation.[456]

- March 1, 2015 – Using a simulation model, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, writing for Germany's Federal Environmental Agency, found that shale gas was not a cheap option to reduce global

[453] Howard, T., Ferrara, T., & Townsend-Small, A. (2015). Sensor transition failure in the high flow sampler: Implications for methane emission inventories of natural gas infrastructure. *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association, 65*(7), 856-862.
[454] Howard, T. (2015). University of Texas study underestimates national methane emissions at natural gas production sites due to instrument sensor failure. *Energy Science & Engineering*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1002/ese3.81
[455] Allen, D. T., Torres, V. M., Thomas, J., Sullivan, D.W., Harrison, M., Hendler, A., . . . Seinfeld, J. H. (2013). Measurements of methane emissions at natural gas production sites in the United States. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences,* 110,17768–17773. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1304880110
[456] Yacovitch, T. I., Herndon, S. C., Pétron, G., Kofler, J., Lyon, D., Zahniser, M. S., & Kolb, C. E. (2015). Mobile laboratory observations of methane emissions in the Barnett Shale Region. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 7889−7895. doi: 10.1021/es506352j

greenhouse gas emissions. Multiple comparison simulations found that shale gas availability, especially in the short-term, tends to lead to higher emissions due to lower energy prices inducing higher use. The net result is higher costs to achieve compliance with climate targets. In this model, shale gas was also found to compete in an unhelpful way with renewable energy sources, resulting in reduced use of renewable energy sources and reduced investment in energy efficiency measures.[457]

- January 8, 2015 – Using a single integrated modeling program that incorporates detailed estimates of the world's reserves of oil, gas, and coal and is consistent with a wide variety of prior modeling approaches, University College London researchers demonstrated that, around the world, "a third of oil reserves, half of gas reserves and over 80 per cent of current coal reserves should remain unused from 2010 to 2050" in order to meet a target of less than or equal to a 2 degree Celsius rise in global temperature. In addition, "development of resources in the Arctic and any increase in unconventional oil production are incommensurate with efforts to limit average global warming" below the 2 degree threshold. Calling for a "stark transformation" of our understanding of fossil fuel availability, the authors noted that, in a climate-constrained world, fears of scarcity of fossil fuels must be superseded by a commitment to preventing overuse of existing resources and reserves.[458]

- November 26, 2014 – Stanford University and independent researchers compared coal and natural gas for power generation and concluded that the question of "whether natural gas plants are better than coal plants cannot be answered in the general case." During the period of plant operation, "natural gas plants can produce greater near-term warming than coal plants, with the same power output." They found that over time, natural gas plants can produce some reduction in near-term warming, but only if life cycle methane leakage rates are low and power plant efficiency is high. Relative to coal, there is the potential that "deployment of natural gas power plants could both produce excess near-term warming (if methane leakage rates are high) and produce excess long-term warming (if the deployment of natural gas plants today delays the transition to near-zero emission technologies)."[459]

- October 23, 2014 – Adding to the debate about natural gas and climate change, a multi-center, international research team used a sophisticated, integrated approach to the global energy-economy-climate systems question and found no climate benefit to natural gas over other fossil fuels. As summarized by the editor of *Nature*,

[457] Kersting, J., Duscha, V., Schleich, J., & Keramidas, K. (2015). The impact of shale gas on the costs of climate policy. Environmental Research of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Retrieved from https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/publikationen/climate_change_03_2015_the_impact_of_shale_gas_1.pdf

[458] McGlade, C. & Ekins, P. (2015). The geographical distribution of fossil fuels unused when limiting global warming to 2°C. *Nature, 517,* 187-190.

[459] Zhang, X., Myhrvold, N. P., & Calideira, K. (2014). Key factors for assessing climate benefits of natural gas versus coal electricity generation. *Environmental Research Letters, 9.* doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/9/11/114022

> The development of hydraulic fracturing technologies has led to rapid growth in the use of natural gas as an energy source. Some evidence has suggested that this growing adoption of natural gas might lead to a reduced greenhouse gas burden and consequent mitigation of climate change. This collaboration between five energy–climate modelling teams show that instead—under a scenario of abundant natural gas availability—increased consumption will have little or no impact on climate change." The authors concluded, "although market penetration of globally abundant gas may substantially change the future energy system, it is not necessarily an effective substitute for climate change mitigation policy.[460]

- October 6, 2014 – Utilizing satellite data for the Bakken and Eagle Ford formations, scientists from Germany, the United Kingdom, and the University of Maryland confirmed that higher "top-down" estimates of fugitive methane leaks from oil and gas fields (which are obtained via tall tower flask samples, aircraft measurements, and road surveys) are more accurate than lower "bottom-up" estimates (which are obtained by summing emissions from different types of known sources at sites provided by participating utility companies). According to "bottom-up" estimates, the average U.S. leakage rate ranges from 1.2 – 2.0 percent. But satellite data show much higher leakage rates: 10.1 percent (± 7.3 percent) and 9.1 percent (± 6.2 percent), for the Bakken and Eagle Ford formations, respectively. These higher estimates indicate that current inventories likely underestimate fugitive emissions and call into question any immediate climate benefit from switching from coal to natural gas. Similar results were seen for the Marcellus shale region, but as a result of technical and geographical limitations, the authors declined to quantify their results, pending future studies with enhanced equipment.[461]

- September 24, 2014 – According to a paper published by scientists from the University of California and Stanford University, "… without strong limits on [greenhouse gas] emissions or policies that explicitly encourage renewable electricity, abundant natural gas may actually slow the process of decarbonization, primarily by delaying deployment of renewable energy technologies." The study builds on previous research by examining natural gas in a range of supply curves, with a tested economic model, and across three different types and levels of climate policy. Researchers found that abundant natural gas, even with low rates of methane leakage, does little to reduce—and may increase—greenhouse gases. They conclude that delaying deployment of renewable energy technologies "may actually exacerbate the climate change problem in the long term."[462]

- September 2, 2014 – Analyzing the level of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to electricity from natural-gas-fired power plants and coal-fired power plants, economist

[460] McJeon, H., Edmonds, J., Bauer, N., Clarke, L., Fisher, B., Flannery, B., , … Tavoni, M. (2013). Limited impact on decadal-scale climate change from increased use of natural gas. *Nature, 514*, 482–485. doi: 10.1038/nature13837

[461] Schneising, O., Burrows, J. P., Dickerson, R. R., Buchwitz, M., Reuter, M., & Bovensmann, H. (2014). Remote sensing of fugitive methane emissions from oil and gas production in North American tight geologic formations. *Earth's Future 2*(10), 548–558. doi: 10.1002/2014EF000265

[462] Shearer, C., Bistline, J., Inman, M., & Davis, S. J. (2014). The effect of natural gas supply on US renewable energy and CO2 emissions. *Environmental Research Letters, 9.* doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/9/9/094008

Chris Busch and physicist Eric Gimon conclude that, over short time frames and at high rates of leakage, natural gas offers little benefit compared to coal and could exacerbate global warming. Although Busch and Gimon acknowledge that natural gas offers some reductions in greenhouse gas emissions over longer time frames, they point out that such reductions are not large enough for natural gas to play an expanded role in efforts to manage emissions. They conclude that under the best of circumstances, natural gas-fired electric power offers a modest benefit toward abating climate change, while if poorly developed (i.e., with extensive methane leaks, estimated by these authors to be on the order of 4 percent or higher), or if used to displace energy efficiency or renewable energy, natural gas could seriously contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions.[463]

- August 5, 2014 – Reporting in *Scientific American*, the science news organization Climate Central outlined the natural gas-related factors that threaten any ability to achieve climate goals through President Obama's proposed Clean Power Plan. "No one has any idea how much methane is leaking from our sprawling and growing natural gas system. This is a major problem, because without a precise understanding of the leak rate natural gas could actually make climate change worse." Referring to an interactive Climate Central tool that runs various methane leakage scenarios, the article notes that, even given modest leak rates and an aggressive transition, "we could still end up with little or no climate benefits by 2030 after an enormous financial and political investment in natural gas."[464]

- July 25, 2014 –EPA's Office of Inspector General reports that the agency "has placed little focus and attention on reducing methane emissions from pipelines in the natural gas distribution sector." According to this report, the EPA acknowledged in 2012 that leaks from natural gas pipelines "accounted for more than 13 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions," are almost 100 percent methane, and represent more than 10 percent of total methane emissions from natural gas systems in the United States. Nevertheless, as report went on to note, the EPA does not have the partnerships in place to begin controlling methane leaks, such as with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, nor has it conducted a comprehensive analysis of emissions factors, relying instead on a 1996 study with a "high level of uncertainty."[465]

- May 15, 2014 – A recent review of existing data on life cycle emissions of methane from natural gas systems concluded that, as a strategy for addressing climate change, natural gas is a "bridge to nowhere." The review found that, over a 20-year time frame, natural gas is as bad as or worse than coal and oil as a driver of climate change.[466] Referencing this review and other recent studies, *Bloomberg Business News* reported that the EPA has

[463] Busch, C. & Gimon, E. (2014). Natural gas versus coal: Is natural gas better for the climate. *The Electricity Journal, 27*(7), 97-111.
[464] Climate Central. (2014, August 5). Methane leak rate proves key to climate change goals. *Scientific American.* Retrieved from http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/methane-leak-rate-proves-key-to-climate-change-goals/
[465] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General. (2014, July 25). Improvements needed in EPA efforts to address methane emissions from natural gas distribution pipelines. Report No. 14-P-0324. Retrieved from http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2014/20140725-14-P-0324.pdf
[466] Howarth, R. W. (2014). A bridge to nowhere: Methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas [Abstract]. *Energy Science & Engineering*. doi: 10.1002/ese3.35

underestimated the impact of methane leakage resulting from the production, transmission, and distribution of natural gas and is using outdated estimates of methane's potency compared to more recent estimates from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).[467]

- April 25, 2014 – A reassessment of the heat-trapping potential of greenhouse gases revealed that current methods of accounting underestimate the climate-damaging impact of methane pollution from all sources, including drilling and fracking operations.[468]

- April 14, 2014 – A study from researchers at Purdue University, NOAA, Cornell University, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Pennsylvania State University, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found very high levels of methane emissions above many wells being drilled at fracking sites in Pennsylvania. Levels were 100 to 1,000 times above the estimates of federal regulators, who have always assumed very low methane emissions as wells are drilled.[469, 470]

- February 26, 2014 – The United Nations' top environmental official, Achim Steiner, argued that the shale gas rush is "a liability" in efforts to slow climate change and that a switch from coal to natural gas is delaying critical energy transition to renewables.[471]

- February 13, 2014 – A major study in *Science* by Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the U.S. Department of Energy found that methane leaks negate any climate benefits of natural gas as a fuel for vehicles, and that the EPA is significantly underestimating methane in the atmosphere.[472] Lead author Adam R. Brandt told the *New York Times*, "Switching from diesel to natural gas, that's not a good policy from a climate perspective."[473] This study also concluded that the national methane leakage rate is likely between 3.6 and 7.2 percent of production.

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[467] Childers, A. (2014, May 9). EPA underestimates fracking's impact on climate change. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-09/epa-underestimates-fracking-s-impact-on-climate-change.html
[468] Edwards, M. R. & Trancik, J. E. (2014). Climate impacts of energy technologies depend on emissions timing. *Nature Climate Change 4*, 348-352. doi: 10.1038/NCLIMATE2204
[469] Caulton, D. R., Shepson, P. B., Santoro, R. L., Sparks, J. P., Howarth, R. W., Ingraffea, A. R., . . . Miller, B. R. (2014). Toward a better understanding and quantification of methane emissions from shale gas development. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1316546111
[470] Banjeree, N. (2014, April 14). EPA drastically underestimates methane released at drilling sites. *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-methane-emissions-natural-gas-fracking-20140414,0,2417418.story
[471] Goldenberg, S. (2014, February 26). Achim Steiner: Shale gas rush "a liability" in efforts slow climate change. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/feb/26/achim-steiner-shale-gas-rush-climate-change-energy
[472] Brandt, A. R., Heath, G. A., Kort, E. A., O'Sullivan, F., Petron, G., Jordaan, S. M., . . . Harriss, R. (2014). Methane leaks from North American natural gas systems. *Energy and Environment, 343*(6172), 733-735. doi: 10.1126/science.1247045
[473] Davenport, C. (2014, February 13). Study finds methane leaks negate benefits of natural gas as a fuel for vehicles. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/us/study-finds-methane-leaks-negate-climate-benefits-of-natural-gas.html?smid=tw-share

- January 15, 2014 – As reported by the *Guardian*, a new study by BP concluded that shale gas "…will not cause a decline in greenhouse gases" and will do little to cut carbon emissions.[474]

- December 30, 2013 – An analysis of fracking-related truck transportation in the Susquehanna River Basin in Pennsylvania found that greenhouse gas emissions from frack water and waste hauling operations were 70–157 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent per gas well.[475]

- November 11, 2013 – In a letter to California Governor Jerry Brown, twenty of the nation's top climate scientists warned that pro-fracking policies will worsen climate disruption and harm California's efforts to be a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The letter called on Governor Brown to place a moratorium on fracking.[476] On November 21, 2013, a group of Governor Brown's former policy and campaign advisors made a similar request in light of concerns about the effects of fracking on climate change and water pollution. [477]

- October 18, 2013 – A team of researchers from multiple institutions including Harvard, the University of Michigan, and NOAA reported that methane emissions due to drilling activities in the south-central U.S. may be almost five times greater than reported by the world's most comprehensive methane inventory. "These results cast doubt on the US EPA's recent decision to downscale its estimate of national natural gas emissions by 25-30 percent," the authors wrote.[478] As the *New York Times* reported, "The analysis also said that methane discharges in Texas and Oklahoma, where oil and gas production was concentrated at the time, were 2.7 times greater than conventional estimates. Emissions from oil and gas activity alone could be five times greater than the prevailing estimate."[479]

- October 18, 2013 – A major study spearheaded by Stanford University's Energy Modeling Forum concluded that fracking and the shale gas revolution will have no long-

[474] Harvey, F., & Macalister, T. (2014, January 16). BP study predicts greenhouse emissions will rise by almost a third in 20 years. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/jan/15/bp-predicts-greenhouse-emissions-rise-third?CMP=twt_gu

[475] Gilmore, K. R., Hupp, R. L., & Glathar, J. (2014). Transport of Hydraulic Fracturing Water and Wastes in the Susquehanna River Basin, Pennsylvania. *Journal of Environmental Engineering, 140*. doi: 10.1061/(ASCE)EE.1943-7870.0000810

[476] Rogers, P. (2013, November 12). Top climate scientists call for fracking ban in letter to Gov. Jerry Brown. *San Jose Mercury News*. Retrieved from http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_24509392/top-climate-scientists-call-fracking-ban-letter-gov

[477] McNary, S. (2013, November 21). Former advisors to Gov. Brown request fracking ban. *Southern California Public Radio*. Retrieved from http://www.scpr.org/blogs/politics/2013/11/21/15248/former-advisors-to-gov-brown-request-fracking-ban/

[478] Miller, S. M., Wofsy, S. C., Michalak, A. M., Kort, E. A., Andrews, A. E., Biraud, S. C., . . . Sweeney, C. (2013). Anthropogenic emissions of methane in the United States. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 110*(50), 20018-20022. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1314392110

[479] Wines, M. (2013, November 25). Emissions of methane in U.S. exceed estimates, study finds. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/26/us/emissions-of-methane-in-us-exceed-estimates-study-finds.html?_r=0

term climate benefit. The study brought together a working group of about 50 experts and advisors from companies, government agencies, and universities, and modeling teams from 14 organizations. The study also found that build-out of infrastructure for fracking and natural gas will discourage efforts to conserve energy and boost efficiency. The study did not examine methane leaks in order to weigh in on the short-term climate impacts of natural gas.[480]

- October 11, 2013 – As reported in the *Guardian*, key climate scientists argued that the growth in fracking across the United States is hurting the United States' credibility on climate change.[481]

- October 2, 2013 – Updated measurements from the IPCC determined that methane is even worse for the climate than previously thought. The IPCC determined that methane is 34 times more potent as a greenhouse gas in the atmosphere than CO2 over a 100-year timeframe, and 86 times more potent over a 20-year timeframe.[482]

- September 27, 2013 – The IPCC formally embraced an upper limit on greenhouse gases for the first time, warning that the world will exceed those levels and face irreversible climatic changes in a matter of decades unless steps are taken soon to reduce emissions. The IPCC reported that humanity faces a "carbon budget"—a limit on the amount of greenhouse gases that can be produced by industrial activity before irreversible, damaging consequences—of burning about a trillion metric tons of carbon. The world is on track to hit that by around 2040 at the current rate of energy consumption.[483]

- August 12, 2013 – A *New Scientist* review of the science on fracking and global warming concluded that fracking could accelerate climate change rather than slow it.[484]

- May 28, 2013 – A research team led by Jeff Peischl, an associate scientist at NOAA and the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, estimated that the methane leak rate from Los Angeles-area oil and gas operations was about 17 percent.[485, 486]

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[480] Huntington, H. (2013). Changing the game? Emissions and market implications of new natural gas supplies. *Energy Modeling Forum, 1*. Retrieved from https://emf.stanford.edu/publications/emf-26-changing-game-emissions-and-market-implications-new-natural-gas-supplies

[481] Magill, B. (2013, October 11). Fracking hurts US climate change credibility, say scientists. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/oct/11/fracking-us-climate-credibility-shale-gas

[482] Romm, J. (2013, October 2). More bad news for fracking: IPCC warns methane traps much more heat than we thought. *Climate Progress*. Retrieved from http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2013/10/02/2708911/fracking-ipcc-methane/

[483] Gillis, J. (2013, September 27). U.N. climate panel endorses ceiling on global emissions. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/science/global-climate-change-report.html?pagewanted=all

[484] Pearce, F. (2013, August 12). Fracking could accelerate global warming. *New Scientist*. Retrieved from http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn24029-fracking-could-accelerate-global-warming.html#.UpEWqsQ3uSo

[485] Peischl, J., Ryerson, T. B., Brioude, J., Aikin, K. C., Andrews, A. E., Atlas, E., . . . Parrish, D. D. (2013). Quantifying sources of methane using light alkanes in the Los Angeles basin, California. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, 118*(10), 4974-4990. doi: 10.1002/jgrd.50413

[486] Ogburn, S. (2014, May 15). Solving the Case of California's Extra Methane. *Scientific American Global RSS*. Retrieved from http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/solving-the-case-of-californias-extra-machine/

- May 2013 – A group of scientists and journalists studying climate change, led by energy systems analyst Eric Larson of Princeton University and the news organization Climate Central, reported that the often-purported 50 percent climate advantage of natural gas over coal is unlikely to be achieved over the next three to four decades given methane leaks and other factors.[487] The 50 percent claim is based on the fact that natural gas produces half as much carbon dioxide when burned than coal, but it ignores the significant greenhouse gas impacts of methane leakage that occurs throughout the life cycle of natural gas production, transmission, and distribution.

- January 2, 2013 – A NOAA study found methane emissions from oil and gas fields in Utah to be as high as nine percent of production. These levels are considered extremely damaging to the climate.[488]

- November 2012 – A review by the United Nations Environment Programme found that emissions from fracking, as well as other unconventional natural gas extraction methods, could increase global warming in the short-term and be comparable to coal over a 100-year timeframe.[489]

- November 2012 – The International Energy Agency (IEA) found that a large natural gas boom—even with improvements in place to reduce leakage—would eventually lead to greenhouse gas concentrations of 650 parts per million and a global temperature rise of 3.5 degrees Celsius, far exceeding the 2 degree Celsius limit which is critical to avoid the most severe effects of climate change.[490]

- May 29, 2012 – The *Guardian* summarized a special report on natural gas by the IEA: "A 'golden age of gas' spurred by a tripling of shale gas from fracking and other sources of unconventional gas by 2035 will stop renewable energy in its tracks if governments do not take action."[491]

- February 2012 – A study published in *Environmental Research Letters* found that the carbon dioxide emitted from the burning of natural gas —even neglecting the impacts of methane leakage—contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change.[492]

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[487] Larson, E. D. (2013). Natural gas & climate change. *Climate Central*. Retrieved from http://assets.climatecentral.org/pdfs/NaturalGas-and-ClimateChange.pdf

[488] Tollefson, J. (2013). Methane leaks erode green credentials of natural gas. *Nature, 493*(7430), 12-12. doi: 10.1038/493012a

[489] Global Environmental Alert Service. (2012). Gas fracking: Can we safely squeeze the rocks? United Nations Environmental Programme. Retrieved from http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP-GEAS_NOV_2012.pdf

[490], World Energy Outlook 2012, (November 2012). *Golden Rules for a Golden Age of Natural Gas—World Energy Outlook Special Report on Unconventional Gas*, International Energy Agency. Retrieved from http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/name,27408,en.html

[491] Harvey, F. (2012, May 29). 'Golden age of gas' threatens renewable energy, IEA warns. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/may/29/gas-boom-renewables-agency-warns

[492] Myhrvold, N. P., & Caldeira, K. (2012). Greenhouse gases, climate change and the transition from coal to low-carbon electricity. *Environmental Research Letters, 7*(1). doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/7/1/014019

- February 7, 2012 – A NOAA study of Colorado gas fields measured methane emissions of about four percent, a significant percentage that could be very damaging to the climate.[493]

- December 29, 2011 – As reported by the *New York Times,* levels of methane in the atmosphere have been steadily rising since 2007—coinciding with the onset of the fracking boom and posing a serious threat to the Earth's climate.[494]

- October 2011 – A study from the National Center for Atmospheric Research concluded that substituting the use of natural gas for coal will increase, rather than decrease, the rate of global warming for many decades.[495]

- July 6, 2011 – According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration and other research, significant amounts of methane are leaking from aging gas pipelines and infrastructure.[496]

- April 2011 – A comprehensive analysis of the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas from shale formations found that between 3.6 percent to 7.9 percent of the methane from natural gas production wells escapes into the atmosphere, rather than being combusted, thereby undermining any climate benefits of gas over coal as a source of energy.[497, 498]

Threats from fracking infrastructure

The infrastructure for drilling and fracking is complex and widespread. Beginning where silica sand is mined and processed and ending where gas is burned or liquefied for export, infrastructure includes pipelines, compressor stations, dehydrators, processing plants, rail tankers, flare stacks, and storage depots through which gas is moved, filtered, pressurized, stored, and vented. It also includes injection wells and recycling facilities that dispose and treat the prodigious amounts of liquid waste that fracking generates. Air pollution is produced at every stage of the process. Compressor stations and pipelines are major sources of air pollutants,

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[493] Tollefson, J. (2012, February 7). Air sampling reveals high emissions from gas field. *Nature*. Retrieved from http://www.nature.com/news/air-sampling-reveals-high-emissions-from-gas-field-1.9982

[494] Gillis, J. (2011, December 29). The puzzle of rising methane. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/12/29/the-puzzle-of-rising-methane/

[495] Wigley, T. M. (2011). Coal to gas: The influence of methane leakage. *Climatic Change, 108*(3), 601-608. doi: 10.1007/s10584-011-0217-3

[496] McKenna, P. (2011, July 6). Thousands of gas leaks under Boston and San Francisco. *New Scientist*. Retrieved from http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21128203.800-thousands-of-gas-leaks-under-boston-and-san-francisco.html#.UpEbbMQ3uSp

[497] Howarth, R. W., Santoro, R., & Ingraffea, A. (2011). Methane and the greenhouse-gas footprint of natural gas from shale formations. *Climatic Change, 106*(4), 679-690. doi: 10.1007/s10584-011-0061-5

[498] Howarth, R. W., Santoro, R., & Ingraffea, A. (2012). Venting and leaking of methane from shale gas development: Response to Cathles et al. *Climatic Change, 113*(2), 537-549. doi: 10.1007/s10584-012-0401-0

including benzene and formaldehyde, that raise potential health risks for those living nearby while offering no offsetting economic benefits—indeed, they are associated with loss of tax revenue and economic development for the communities where they are sited and traverse. The Medical Society of the State of New York and the American Medical Association have each called for comprehensive health impact assessments regarding the health risks associated with natural gas pipelines.

In the Upper Midwest, the boom in silica sand mining threatens both air and water quality, has transformed rural areas into industrial zones, and introduced complex public health risks that are not well understood. Wisconsin alone provides more than half the sand used in fracking operations in the United States. Silica dust is a known cause of both lung cancer and silicosis. Exposures to downwind communities—and attendant public health risks from living near frack sand mining and processing facilities—are unknown.

<u>Sand mining and processing</u>

- June 30, 2015 – Because the amount of sand used per fracking well has increased, demand for silica sand by the oil and gas industry is still growing even though new drilling activity has taken a downturn. A global investment bank reported that fracking operations now require an average of 4.2 million pounds of sand per well. A few years ago, silica sand comprised 9.5 percent of fracking fluid but now is closer to 20 percent. Further "rising intensity" of sand use is expected.[499]

- June 15, 2015 – An investigative report by *EnergyWire* documented self-reported health impacts among residents of southwestern Wisconsin who live near silica sand mining operations that service the fracking industry. Exposure to silica dust is a proven cause of silicosis and lung cancer. [See further entries on silica sand exposure among workers in the section, "Occupational Health and Safety Hazards."] Residents near frack sand mine operations reported exposure to dust pollution and respiratory problems. Air monitoring data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) showed that none of the state's 63 active sand mines were in violation for particulate matter, but, as the author noted, the state measured particles only 10 micrometers in diameter or larger.[500] Below this diameter, crystalline silica particles are small enough to bypass the body's natural clearance mechanisms and are likely to lodge deep in the lungs where they can initiate scarring, autoimmune reactions, and tumor formation.[501] Crispin Pierce, public health researcher at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, set up air monitors around frack sand mine operations and consistently found higher readings than the DNR's values. His results are forthcoming in the November 2015 issue of the *Journal of Environmental Health*.[502]

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[499] Chapa, S. (2015, June 30). Demand for sand: frac sand use per well goes up amid low oil prices. *San Antonio Business Journal*. Retrieved from http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/blog/eagle-ford-shale-insight/2015/06/demand-for-sand-frac-sand-use-per-well-goes-up.html

[500] King, P. (2015, June 15). Frac sand towns question whether rules protect them against silica pollution. *EnergyWire*. Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060020192

[501] U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (n.d.) Dust and its control. Retrieved from https://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/dust/chapter_1.html

[502] Pierce, C., Walters, K., Jacobson, J., & Kroening, Z. (in press). PM2.5 Airborne Particulates near frac sand operations. *Journal of Environmental Health*.

Wastewater treatment facilities

- March 31, 2015 – University of Wyoming researchers identified a wastewater treatment and recycling facility as an important contributor to high winter ozone levels in Wyoming's Green River Basin. The facility released a signature mixture of volatile hydrocarbons, including toluene and xylene, which are ozone precursors.[503] This study documented that recycling activities can transfer volatile pollutants from water into air when fracking wastewater is cleaned up for reuse and that water treatment emissions can serve as an important point source of air pollutants.[504]

Pipelines and compressor stations

- July 15, 2015 – Rensselaer County lawmakers passed a resolution asking the state of New York to freeze the approval process for the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline—which would carry fracked gas from Pennsylvania to Boston—until it conducts a comprehensive health impact assessment for natural gas pipelines.[505]

- July 8, 2015 – Researchers from West Virginia University completed leak and loss audits for methane emissions at three natural gas compressor stations and two natural gas storage facilities, with a "leak" defined as an unintended release of natural gas due to malfunction of a component, and a "loss" defined as an intended release of natural gas. In terms of frequency, most emissions were leaks, but on a mass basis, losses were the dominant source of methane emissions (88 percent). The top loss emitters were engine exhausts (accounting for nearly half), packing vents, and slop tanks. Emissions from compressor blowdowns were not included.[506] A related study by a University of Houston team found that emission rates from compressor stations in Texas' Barnett Shale were far higher than from well pads.[507, 508]

- July 7, 2015 – Seeking a method to bridge the gap between bottom-up and top-down methods of measuring methane emissions, Purdue University, University of Houston, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Defense

[503] Field, R. A., Soltis, J., McCarthy, M. C., Murphy, S., & Montague, D. C. (2015). Influence of oil and gas field operations on spatial and temporal distributions of atmospheric non-methane hydrocarbons and their effect on ozone formation in winter. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, *15*, 3527-42. doi: 10.5194/acp-15-3527-2015
[504] Peterka, A. (2015, April 2). Study links Wyo. winter ozone to drillers' wastewater plant. *Greenwire*. Retrieved from http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060016205
[505] Nearing, B. (2015, July 15). County: put study before any permit. *Albany Times-Union*. Retrieved from http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/County-Put-study-before-any-permit-6387404.php
[506] Johnson, D. R., Covington, A. N., & Clark, N. N. (2015). Methane emissions from leak and loss audits of natural gas compressor stations and storage facilities. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *49*, 8132-38. doi: 10.1021/es506163m
[507] Lan, X., Talbot, R., Laine, P., & Torres, A. (2015). Characterizing fugitive methane emissions in the Barnett Shale area using a mobile laboratory. *Environmental Science & Technology*, *49*, 8139-46. doi: 10.1021/es5063055
[508] Song, L. & Hirji, Z. (2015, July 8). Methane emissions in Texas fracking region 50 percent higher than EPA estimates. *Inside Climate News*. Retrieved from http://insideclimatenews.org/news/08072015/methane-emissions-texas-fracking-region-50-higher-epa-estimates-oil-gas-drilling-barnett-shale-environmental-defense-fund

Fund, and independent researchers surveyed eight high-emitting point sources in the Barnett Shale using an aircraft-based "mass balance" approach. Results from four gas processing plants and one compressor station highlighted the importance of addressing methane "super-emitters" and confirmed that self-reports from the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program underestimated actual emission rates by a factor of 3.8 or higher, due to "underestimated facility emissions, temporal variability of emissions, and the exclusion of nonreporting facility emissions."[509]

- July 7, 2015 – Using relatively easy-to-acquire and inexpensive stable isotopic and alkane ratio tracers, researchers are now able to distinguish methane arising from natural gas production and transport from agricultural and urban methane sources, and, in addition, to distinguish between methane released from shale gas as opposed to conventional wells. Initial research from the University of Cincinnati, University of California at Irvine, and the Environmental Defense Fund found that methane in the Barnett Shale hydraulic fracturing region near Fort Worth, Texas, represents a complex mixture of these sources. This new approach, used for ground-level measurements, can complement and extend top-down approaches, allowing for more accurate inventories of thermogenic and biogenic sources of methane emissions.[510]

- July 1, 2015 – In New York State, Schoharie County supervisors and medical professionals demanded comprehensive health impact assessments as a precondition for permitting natural gas pipelines and compressor stations.[511]

- June 12, 2015 – The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry investigated the health effects of ruptured gas pipelines in an analysis of data in a database on acute petroleum-related releases to which seven states contribute (Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin). From 2010-2012, there were 1,369 such incidents, which resulted in 259 injuries. More than three-quarters of these incidents were related to natural gas distribution. Equipment failure accounted for half of all incidents; human error accounted for 40 percent. The report noted the "continuing occurrence" of petroleum release incidents—including from natural gas pipeline ruptures—which have "the potential to cause mass casualties and environmental contamination."[512]

- June 9, 2015 – The American Medical Association (AMA) adopted a resolution, "Protecting Public Health from Natural Gas Infrastructure," that was based on a

[509] Lavoie, T. N., Shepson, P. B., Cambaliza, M. O. L., Stirm, B. H., Karion, A., Sweeney, C., . . . Lyon, D. (2015). Aircraft-based measurements of point source methane emissions in the Barnett Shale Basin. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 7904−7913. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b00410

[510] Townsend-Small, A., Marrero, J. E., Lyon, D. R., Simpson, I. J., Meinardi, S., & Blake, D.R. (2015). Integrating source apportionment tracers into a bottom-up inventory of methane emissions in the Barnett Shale hydraulic fracturing region. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 8175−8182. doi: 10.1021/acs.est.5b00057

[511] Adams, K. (2015, July 1). Schoharie County officials ask new studies on gas lines: Report say dangers are equivalent to fracking. *Daily Gazette*, Retrieved from http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2015/jul/01/0701_gasline/?print

[512] Anderson, A. R. (2015, June 12). Health effects of cut gas lines and other petroleum product release incidents—seven states. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 64,* 601-605.

resolution adopted by the Medical Society of the State of New York. (See below.) The resolution states, "Our AMA recognizes the potential impact on human health associated with natural gas infrastructure and supports legislation that would require a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment regarding the health risks that may be associated with natural gas pipelines."[513]

- May 2, 2015 – The Medical Society of the State of New York adopted a resolution, "Protecting Public Health from Natural Gas Infrastructure," that recognizes the potential impact to human health and the environment of natural gas pipelines and calls for a governmental assessment of these risks.[514]

- March 3, 2015 – Researchers with the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project measured ambient levels of particulate and volatile air pollutants from fracking-related operations and calculated expected human exposures in Washington County, Pennsylvania. Extremely high exposures peaked at night when air was still. These fluctuating exposure events mimic, in frequency and intensity, the episodic nature of health complaints among residents. Over a one-year period, compressor stations were responsible for more extreme exposure events (118) than well pads or gas processing plants. (See footnote 14.)

- February 24, 2015 – As part of a literature review on the health impacts of compressor stations, the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project reported that peak emissions of fine particles tended to occur during construction time, that day-to-day emissions during operational time can fluctuate greatly, and that a compressor blowdown typically represented the single largest emission event during operations. Hence, documentation of these fluctuations cannot be captured by calculating yearly averages. A blowdown is an intentional or accidental release of gas through the blowdown valve that creates a 30- to 60-meter-high gas plume. Blowdowns, which are used to control pressure, can last as long as three hours. The authors noted that blowdowns result in times of high levels of contaminant release and that anecdotal accounts associate blowdowns with burning eyes and throat, skin irritation, and headache.[515] There is neither

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[513] American Medical Association. (2015). H-135.930 Protecting public health from natural gas infrastructure, Resolution 519, A-15. Retrieved from https://www.ama-assn.org/ssl3/ecomm/PolicyFinderForm.pl?site=www.ama-assn.org&uri=/resources/html/PolicyFinder/policyfiles/HnE/H-135.930.HTM

[514] Medical Society of the State of New York. (2015). 2015 House of Delegates Actions: Public Health and Education. Retrieved from http://www.mssny.org/Documents/HOD/Actions/ActionPHE.pdf

[515] Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (2015, February 24). Summary on compressor stations and health impacts. Retrieved from http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Compressor-station-emissions-and-health-impacts-02.24.2015.pdf. As we go to press, Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project released the first results from a pilot study of air quality near a compressor station in Minisink, New York, which has been in operation since 2013. The research team documented episodic spikes in air pollutants that corresponded with waxing and waning self-reported health symptoms among 35 residents in eight families who lives within a mile of the compressor. Six of 12 children suffered from nosebleeds. Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (2015). Summary of Minisink monitoring results. Retrieved from http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Summary-of-Minisink-Results.Public.pdf. See also J. Cohen. (Fall 2015). Gas compressors and nose bleeds: a new study connects health issues with rural gas compressor pollution. *Utne Reader.* Retrieved from http://www.utne.com/environment/gas-compressors-and-nose-bleeds-zm0z15fzsau.aspx

a national or state inventory of compressor station accidents nor a body of peer-reviewed research on the public health impacts of compressor stations.[516]

- February 17, 2015 – A Boston study found that emissions from residential, end-use natural gas infrastructure was a significant source of atmospheric methane—two to three times larger than previously presumed—and accounted for 60 to 100 percent of methane, depending on the season. Of all the natural gas in the downstream component of the natural gas system, 2.7 percent was lost to the atmosphere.[517]

- February 10, 2015 – A team of engineers from Pennsylvania and Colorado examined methane emissions from natural gas compressor stations and found that vents, valves, engine exhaust, and equipment leaks were also major emissions sources. There was considerable variation in emissions among the 45 compressor stations measured. Surprisingly, substantial emissions were found even when compressors were not operating.[518]

- December 27, 2014 – A *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* investigation found that the vast majority of natural gas "gathering lines"—pipelines that take natural gas from rural well pads to processing plants—were regulated by neither federal nor state pipeline safety laws. The United States has nearly 230,000 miles of natural gas gathering lines that are unregulated, operating without safety standards or inspection. These pipelines are among the largest and highest-pressure pipes in use and carry gas at nearly three times the pressure of transmission lines, which transport the gas from the processing plants to urban distribution networks.[519]

- November 11, 2014 – An analysis by a Carnegie Mellon University research team of 40,000 pipeline accidents from 1968 to 2009 found that comparatively few accidents accounted for a large share of total property damage, whereas a large share of fatalities and injuries were caused by numerous, small-scale accidents. There are 2.4 million miles

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[516] There do exist some unpublished data gathered by citizen groups that measured pre- and post-compressor station methane emissions and have documented striking increases ambient methane after construction, including at the Hancock compressor station in Hancock, New York: Payne, B. F. & Ackley, R. (2014, September). Baseline methane emissions in Town of Hancock, Delaware County, New York. Retrieved from http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Hancock4.pdf See also, Cohen, J. (2015, July 18). Concerns over Milford compressor station. *The River Reporter*. Retrieved from http://www.riverreporter.com/news/4302/2015/07/15/concerns-over-milford-compressor-station

[517] McKain, K., Down, A., Raciti, S. M., Budney, J., Hutyra, L. R., Floerchinger, C., . . . Wofsy, S.C. (2015). Methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure and use in the urban region of Boston, Massachusetts. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 112,* 1941-46. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1416261112

[518] Subramanian, R., Williams, L. L., Vaughn, T. L., Zimmerle, D., Roscioli, J. R., Herndon, S. C., . . . Robinson, A.L. (2015). Methane emissions from natural gas compressor stations in the transmission and storage sector: measurements and comparisons with the EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program protocol. *Environmental Science & Technology, 49,* 3252-61. doi: 10.1021/es5060258

[519] Wereschlagin, M. (2015, December 27). Rural gas gathering pipelines kindle concerns about safety laws. *Pittsburgh Review-Tribune*. Retrieved from http://triblive.com/news/editorspicks/7362085-74/lines-gas-safety#axzz3NAHfzYF8

of natural gas pipeline in the United States and 175,000 miles of hazardous liquid pipeline (which includes crude oil).[520]

- A research team led by David O. Carpenter at University at Albany found high levels of formaldehyde near 14 compressor stations in three states. In Arkansas, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming, formaldehyde levels near compressor stations exceeded health-based risk levels. The authors noted that compressor stations can produce formaldehyde through at least two routes: it is created as an incomplete combustion byproduct from the gas-fired engines used in compressor stations. It is also created when fugitive methane, which escapes from compressor stations, is in the presence of sunlight. Formaldehyde is a known human carcinogen. Other hazardous air pollutants detected near compressor stations in this study were benzene and hexane. One air sample collected near a compressor station in Arkansas contained 17 different volatile compounds. (See footnote 19.)

- October 15, 2014 – In comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, New York's Madison County Health Department reviewed the literature on compressor station emissions and expressed concerns about associated health impacts, including documented correlations between health problems and residential proximity to compressor stations. It also reviewed health outcomes associated with exposures to chemicals known to be released from compressor stations, including volatile organic compounds, carbonyls and aldehydes, aromatics, and particulate matter. In addition, gas from fracking operations transiting through compressor stations may carry gaseous radon. The Health Department noted a troubling lack of information on the intensity, frequency, and duration of emission peaks that occur during the blowdowns and large venting episodes that are a normal part of compressor operations.[521]

- September 16, 2014 – Noting the proximity of a proposed high-pressure pipeline to Indian Point Nuclear Facility, as well as the evidence linking compressor station emissions to negative health impacts, New York's Rockland County legislature adopted a resolution calling for a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment in regards to Spectra Energy's planned Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) natural gas pipeline, compressor, and metering stations expansion project.[522] This resolution follows on the

[520] Siler-Evans, K., Hanson, A., Sunday, C., Leonard, N., & Tumminello, M. (2014). Analysis of pipeline accidents in the United States from 1968 to 2009. *International Journal of Critical Infrastructure Protection, 7*, 257-69. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcip.2014.09.002

[521] New York State Madison County Health Department (2014, October 15). Comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee concerning docket no. CP14-497-000, Dominion Transmission, Inc. Retrieved from https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/sites/default/files/publicinformation/madison_county_doh_comments_-_docket_no._cp14-497-000.pdf

[522] Rockland County Legislature. (2014, September 16). *Resolution No. 404 of 2014 urging that health, safety and planning concerns be addressed and mitigated in the Environmental Review and all other review processes before project permissions be granted for Spectra Energy's Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Natural Gas Pipeline, Compressor and Metering Stations Expansion Project.* Retrieved from https://sape2016.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/rockland-aim-resolution.pdf

heels of similar resolutions expressing health concerns about the AIM project from both Westchester and Putnam County legislatures.[523, 524]

- July 13, 2011 – A Fort Worth air quality study assessed the impact of drilling and fracking operations, and ancillary infrastructure, on concentrations of toxic air pollutants in the city of Fort Worth, Texas. The study found that compressor stations were a significant source of fracking-related air pollution. The compressor engines were responsible for over 99 percent of the hazardous air pollutants emitted from compressor stations, of which 67 percent was formaldehyde.[525]

Inaccurate jobs claims, increased crime rates, threats to property value and mortgages, and local government burden

Experiences in various states and accompanying studies have shown that the oil and gas industry's promises of job creation from drilling for natural gas have been greatly exaggerated. Many of the jobs are short-lived, and many have gone to out-of-area workers. With the arrival of drilling and fracking operations, communities have experienced steep increases in rates of crime, including sex trafficking, sexual assault, drunk driving, drug abuse, and violent victimization, all of which carry public health consequences, especially for women. Social costs include strain on law enforcement, municipal services, and road damage. Economic analyses have found that drilling and fracking threaten property values and can diminish tax revenues for local governments. Additionally, drilling and fracking pose an inherent conflict with mortgages and property insurance due to the hazardous materials used and the associated risks.

- July 1, 2015 – Britain's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs released previously redacted sections of a report on the impacts of drilling and fracking. The report found that housing prices near fracking wells would likely fall up to seven percent for houses within a mile of wells. Furthermore, properties within one to five miles of fracking sites could incur additional insurance costs. The report warned of environmental damages, including from leakage of fracking waste fluids, and found that public health could be affected indirectly through consumption of contaminated wildlife, livestock, or

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[523] Board of Legislators County of Westchester, State of New York. (2014, July 21). *Resolution RES-2014-80 Algonquin Incremental Marketing Project resolution.* Retrieved from https://sape2016.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/080414-wcbol-resolution-no-80-2014-requesting-due-diligence-on-environment-p.pdf

[524] Putnam County Legislature. (2014, May 9). *Resolution #104, Resolution regarding the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Project.* Retrieved from https://sape2016.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/putnam-county-resolutions-104-163-and-182-1.pdf

[525] Eastern Research Group. (2011, July 13). City of Forth Worth natural gas air quality study, final report. Retrieved from http://www.shaledigest.com/documents/2011/Air%20Quality%20Studies/Ft%20Worth%20Natural%20Gas%20Air%20Quality%20Study%20Final%20Report%20ERG%20Research%207-13-2011r.pdf. See also Energy Research Group. (2011, July 19). Forth Worth natural gas air quality study final report, pubic meeting presentation. Retrieved from http://fortworthtexas.gov/uploadedFiles/Gas_Wells/110719_ERG.pdf?v=110725

agricultural products. The report also found potential for some benefits, such as job growth.[526]

- July 2015 – A working paper by researchers with the National Bureau of Economic Research found that fracking resulted in an increase in male teen high school dropout rates. "Our estimates imply that, absent fracking, the male-female gap in high school dropout rates among 17- 18-year olds would have narrowed by about 11 percent between 2000 and 2013 instead of remaining unchanged." The authors explained that by increasing the demand for low-skilled labor, fracking could slow growth in educational attainment. They noted that the relative wage boost from fracking may be only temporary. Indeed, by the end of the sample period, the benefits had started to wane as the labor demand from fracking appeared to no longer favor dropouts. Thus, the fracking boom may be inhibiting educational achievement among young men who "would already be near the bottom of the skill distribution, with possible implications for future productivity and the social safety net."[527, 528]

- March 20, 2015 – The U.S. Attorney for Western New York linked a rise in production of methamphetamine to use among workers in the fracking fields of northern and western Pennsylvania. Surging demand for the drug, which allows users to stay awake for 48 to 72 hours, may be related to the extremely long working hours that employees in the gas industry must endure.[529]

- January 4, 2015 – A documentary by Forum News Service, "Trafficked Report," revealed that sex trafficking, including of children, in the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota was a significant problem.[530] The dynamics of the oil boom, with an influx of out-of-state and primarily male workers far from their families, created an increase in demand for prostitution.[531]

- December 28, 2014 – The *New York Times* profiled the impacts of oil drilling and fracking on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, finding corruption, crime, and negative environmental impacts. Aside from a significant rise in jobs, which often go to transient workers, many residents "see deterioration rather than improvement

[526] Vaughan, A. & Mason, R. (2015, July 1). Fracking could hurt house prices, health and environment, official report says. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/01/fracking-could-hurt-house-prices-health-and-environment-official-report-says

[527] Cascio, F. U., & Narayan, A. (2015, July). Who Needs a Fracking Education? The Educational Response to Low-Skill Biased Technological Change. National Bureau of Economic Research. Retrieved from http://www.nber.org/papers/w21359

[528] Chandra, S. (2015, July 14). Fracking jobs encouraged American teens to become high school dropouts. *Bloomberg Business*. Retrieved from: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-07-14/fracking-jobs-encouraged-american-teens-to-become-high-school-dropouts

[529] Newberg, R. (2015, March 20). Meth use tied to fracking workers in Pennsylvania. *WIVB 4*. Retrieved from http://wivb.com/2015/03/20/meth-use-tied-to-fracking-workers-in-pennsylvania/

[530] Dalrymple, A. & Lymn, K. (2015, January 4). Trafficked Report: Sex for sale in the Bakken. *Forum News Service*. Retrieved from http://www.traffickedreport.com/?p=15

[531] Gaines, J. (2015, March 9). The oil boom in North Dakota now has a serious sex-trafficking problem. *Business Insider*. Retrieved from http://www.businessinsider.com/north-dakota-sex-trafficking-prostitution-oil-boom-police-raid-2015-3

in their standard of living. They endure intense truck traffic, degraded roads, increased crime, strained services and the pollution from spills, flares and illegal dumping." According to the *Times*' calculation, the reservation had seen 850 oil-related environmental incidents from 2007 through mid-October 2014, which generally went unpunished.[532]

- December 26, 2014 – Examining Pennsylvania Department of Transportation data, Ohio's *Star Beacon* newspaper found that fracking poses a safety threat on rural roads. The paper found that Pennsylvania's five busiest drilling counties recorded 123 more heavy truck crashes in 2011 than before the gas boom began—a 107 percent increase. The paper noted the burden drilling and fracking placed on local communities and governments, including the strain on local emergency responders.[533]

- December 17, 2014 – Heavy drilling and fracking (defined as 400 or more wells drilled within a county over 5-8 years) was positively correlated with increased crime, sexually transmitted diseases, and traffic fatalities, according to a report by the Multi-State Shale Research Collaborative.[534] The report looked at the impacts in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, primarily finding statistically significant impacts in six heavily drilled counties in Pennsylvania. In those six counties, violent crime increased 17.7 percent—corresponding to about 130 more violent crimes in those counties in 2012—compared to a decrease in violent crime rates in both urban and rural non-drilling communities. Property crime increased 10.8 percent in those six counties, drug abuse rates rose 48 percent, and drunk-driving offenses rose 65 percent compared to 42 percent in rural areas with no drilling. The report found a statistically significant increase of 24 percent to 27 percent in rates of sexually transmitted diseases across drilling counties in all three states. Motor vehicle fatalities increased 27.8 percent in Pennsylvania's six high-drilling counties. The report found a modest increase in jobs, but noted that an influx of out-of-state workers at least partially explained the increases in traffic and crime.[535]

- December 15, 2014 – A report written in French by Quebec's Advisory Office of Environmental Hearings concluded that the environmental costs of fracking in the St. Lawrence Lowlands would outweigh the potential economic benefits. In a press release, the Advisory Office of Environmental Hearings concluded that fracking "would not be advantageous for Quebec because of the magnitude of the potential costs and externalities, compared to royalties that would be collected by Quebec. Other concerns

[532] Sontag, D. & McDonald B. (2014, December 28). In North Dakota, a tale of oil, corruption and death. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/29/us/in-north-dakota-where-oil-corruption-and-bodies-surface.html

[533] Finnerty, J. (2014, December 26). Fracking's biggest safety threat is on rural roads. *Star Beacon*. Retrieved from http://www.starbeacon.com/news/fracking-s-biggest-safety-threat-is-on-rural-roads/article_bc48687a-8caf-11e4-b4d9-6382c924a6f9.html

[534] Price, M., Herzenberg, S., Ward, S., Wazeter, E., & Basurto, L. E. (2014, December). *The Shale Tipping Point: The Relationship of Drilling to Crime, Traffic Fatalities, STDs, and Rents in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio.* Retrieved from: http://www.multistateshale.org/shale-tipping-point

[535] McKelvey, W. (2014, December 17). Fracking brought spikes in crime, road deaths and STDs to Pa.: report. *The Patriot News*. Retrieved from http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/12/fracking_brought_spikes_in_vio.html

also remain, including plans of social acceptability, legislation, and a lack of knowledge, particularly with respect to water resources."[536]

- September 28, 2014 – A *Washington Post* investigation reported on heroin and methamphetamine addiction—and associated violent crime—among Native American communities located within the Bakken Shale oil fields. According to a chief judge for the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, "The drug problem that the oil boom has brought is destroying our reservation."[537]

- September 9, 2014 – A study by researchers at Colorado State University examined the political economy of harm and crime associated with the oil and gas industry in rural Colorado, particularly around the rise of fracking. The researchers looked at complaints that citizens filed with the state, and also conducted interviews and examined other data. They found 2,444 complaints between November 2001 and June 2013 covering a range of issues including water, environment, noise, air quality, land use, and more. They characterized citizen complaints as "extensive and complex" and concluded that, regardless of the nature of the harm, most were "persistent and omnipresent" rather than short-lived, isolated problems.[538]

- October 30, 2014 – The *New York Times* profiled the profound impact heavy drilling has had on Glasscock County, Texas, including its farming community. Farmers described increases in trash, traffic accidents, clashes around farmers selling groundwater to drillers, and economic detriment. In many cases, acres of farmland around a drill site "will probably never be suitable for fertile farming again," and farmers are "at the mercy" of what drillers want to pay for damages. The county itself receives revenue, but most of that additional money "is being used to repair roads damaged by oil field truck activity. Overall, the gains from drilling are not viewed as worth the drawbacks in a county long dominated by cotton farming."[539]

- September 11, 2014 – An editor for the *Washington Post* examined jobs and manufacturing data in Youngstown, Ohio, to demonstrate that drilling and fracking are not resulting in a revitalization of the Rust Belt as some proponents and a prominent *New York Times* story asserted. The *Post* determined that in Youngstown, Ohio, the manufacturing sector has lost jobs by the tens of thousands in the last twenty years and the oil and gas industry has created approximately two thousand jobs since the recession

[536] McCarthy, S. (2014, December 15). Fracking dealt another setback by Quebec report. *The Globe and Mail.* Retrieved from http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/bape-says-shale-gas-production-not-advantageous-for-quebec/article22096203/

[537] Horwitz, S. (2014, September 28). Dark side of the boom: North Dakota's oil rush brings cash and promise to reservation along with drug-fueled crime. *The Washington Post.* Retrieved from http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/national/2014/09/28/dark-side-of-the-boom/

[538] Opsal, T. & Shelley T. O. (2014). Energy crime, harm, and problematic state response in Colorado: A case of the fox guarding the hen house? *Critical Criminology, 22* (4), 561-577.

[539] Batheja, A. (2014, October 30). A county resents oil drilling, despite the money it brings in. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/31/us/a-county-resents-oil-drilling-despite-the-money-it-brings-in.html?ref=earth&_r=1

ended. Six years prior, there were 13,000 more jobs in the Youngstown metro area than there were in summer 2014.[540]

- September 6, 2014 – In Williams County, North Dakota, in the Bakken Shale, increases in crime have corresponded with the flow of oil. The infusion of cash has attracted career criminals who deal in drugs, violence, and human sex trafficking. The *Williston Herald* portrayed, in a "reader's discretion advised" article, the rapid rise of "index crimes"—"violent crimes that result in the immediate loss of an individual's property, health or safety, such as murder, larceny and rape." With fewer than 100 law enforcement personnel, crime in Williams County "has risen in kind with the county's population, but funding, staffing and support training for law enforcement has not."[541]

- September 2014 – Reporting on the social, environmental, health and safety, and economic burdens endured by localities from fracking, the magazine *Governing: The States and Localities* found that "fracking, in many cases, negatively impacts property values, which in turn depresses property tax revenue. For property owners who own the rights to the oil and gas on their land, the effects of drilling can be offset by royalty payments. But localities have no revenue offset if properties lose value."[542]

- August 26, 2014 – The U.S. Justice Department Office on Violence Against Women awarded three million dollars to five rural and tribal communities to prosecute crimes of violence against women and provide services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking in the Bakken Region of North Dakota and Montana.[543] Rationale documented by tribal leaders, law enforcement, and the FBI included, "rapid development of trailer parks and modular housing developments often referred to as 'man camps;' abrupt increase in cost of living, especially housing; rapid influx of people, including transients, in a previously rural and stable community; constant fear and perception of danger; and a lost way of life. Local and tribal officials and service providers reported that these changes have been accompanied by a rise in crime, including domestic and sexual violence."[544]

- May 27, 2014 – A *Bloomberg News* analysis of 61 shale-drilling companies found that the economic picture of shale oil and gas is unstable. Shale debt has almost doubled over

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[540] Tankersley, J. (2014, September 11). Fracking hasn't restored the Rust Belt's lost jobs. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/storyline/wp/2014/09/11/fracking-hasnt-restored-the-rust-belts-lost-jobs/

[541] Bell, T. (2014, September 6). Modernized slavery. *Williston Herald.* Retrieved from http://www.willistonherald.com/news/modernized-slavery/article_84e257d8-3615-11e4-a4f8-001a4bcf887a.html

[542] Shafroth, F. (2014, September). Fracking's financial losers: local governments. *Governing: The States and Localities.* Retrieved from http://www.governing.com/columns/public-money/gov-frackings-financial-losers.html

[543] U.S. Department of Justice. (2014, August 26). Associate Attorney General West announces $3 million in grants to address violence against women in rural and tribal communities in the Bakken Region. *Justice News*. Retrieved from http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/associate-attorney-general-west-announces-3-million-grants-address-violence-against-women

[544] U.S. Department of Justice. (2014). OVW Fiscal Year 2014 Violence Against Women Bakken Region Initiative: Enhanced response to victims application guidelines. Retrieved from http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ovw/legacy/2014/04/25/fy2014-initative-for-the-bakken-region-enhanced-services-for-victims.pdf

the last four years while revenue has gained just 5.6 percent. For the 61 companies in their analysis, *Bloomberg News* reported: "In a measure of the shale industry's financial burden, debt hit $163.6 billion in the first quarter." Further, *Bloomberg* noted that drillers are caught in a bind because they must keep borrowing to pay for exploration needed to "offset steep production declines typical of shale wells…. For companies that can't afford to keep drilling, less oil coming out means less money coming in, accelerating the financial tailspin."[545]

- May 5, 2014 – An Associated Press analysis found that traffic fatalities have spiked in heavily drilled areas of six states, whereas most other roads in the nation have become safer even as population has grown. In North Dakota drilling counties, for instance, traffic fatalities have increased 350 percent.[546]

- April 16, 2014 – A comprehensive article in the *Albany Law Review* concluded that the risks inherent with fracking are not covered by homeowner's insurance, not fully insured by the oil and gas industry, and threaten mortgages and property value.[547]

- April 2014 – A report by the Multi-State Shale Research Collaborative, "Assessing the Impacts of Shale Drilling: Four Community Case Studies," documented economic, community, government, and human services impact of fracking on four rural communities. The study found that fracking led to a rapid influx of out-of-state workers and, although some new jobs were created, these were accompanied by additional costs for police, emergency services, road damage, and social services. In addition, increased rents, and a shortage of affordable housing accompanied the fracking boom. Unemployment rose after one county's boom ended; in another county, unemployment stayed above the state average throughout.[548]

- March 27, 2014 – A report by researchers at Rand Corporation determined that each shale gas well in Pennsylvania causes between $5,400 and $10,000 in damage to state roads. The report did not calculate damage to local roads, which is also significant. Researchers used estimates of truck trips that are significantly below the number

[545] Loder, A. (2014, May 27). Shakeout threatens shale patch as frackers go for broke. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-26/shakeout-threatens-shale-patch-as-frackers-go-for-broke.html
[546] Begos, K., & Fahey, J. (2014, May 5). AP impact: Deadly side effect to fracking boom. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-impact-deadly-side-effect-fracking-boom-0
[547] Radow, E. L. (2014). At the intersection of Wall Street and Main: Impacts of hydraulic fracturing on residential property interests, risk allocation, and implications for the secondary mortgage market. *Albany Law Review, 77*(2), 673-704.
[548] Multi-State Shale Research Collaborative. (2014, April 10). *Assessing the impacts of shale drilling county case studies* (Rep.). Retrieved from https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxtdWx0aXN0YXRlc2hhbGV8Z3g6NGU4MjIyNWU5ZjFhZjM4Yg

estimated for New York by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.[549, 550]

- February 15, 2014 – The *Los Angeles Times* detailed steep increases in crime that have accompanied fracking in parts of the Eagle Ford Shale in Texas, including sexual assaults and thefts.[551]

- February 14, 2014 – Pennsylvania landowners with fracking leases rallied in Bradford County against gas companies for precipitous drops in royalty payments.[552]

- December 20, 2013 – The National Association of Realtors' *RealtorMag* summarized a growing body of research, including a University of Denver survey and a *Reuters* analysis, that shows threats property values from fracking and gas drilling.[553]

- December 12, 2013 – A *Reuters* analysis discussed how oil and gas drilling has made making some properties "unsellable" and researched the link between drilling and property value declines. The analysis highlighted a Duke University working paper that finds shale gas drilling near homes can decrease property values by an average of 16.7 percent if the house depends on well water.[554]

- December 10, 2013 – Pennsylvania's *The Daily Review* reported that more gas companies are shifting costs to leaseholders and that royalty payments are drastically shrinking. The story quoted Bradford County Commissioner Doug McLinko saying that some gas companies "are robbing our landowners" and that the problem of royalty payments being significantly reduced by deductions for post-production costs "is widespread throughout our county."[555]

- November 30, 2013 – The *New York Times* reported striking increases in crime in Montana and North Dakota where the oil and gas boom is prevalent, as well as challenges faced by local residents from the influx of out-of-area workers and the accompanying costs. The *New York Times* reported, "'It just feels like the modern-day Wild West,' said

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[549] Cusick, M. (2014, March 27). Report finds each Marcellus gas well costs thousands in road damage. *StateImpact*. Retrieved from http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2014/03/27/report-finds-each-marcellus-gas-well-costs-thousands-in-road-damage/

[550] Abramzon, S., Samaras, C., Curtright, A., Litovitz, A., & Burger, N. (2014). Estimating the consumptive use costs of shale natural gas extraction on Pennsylvania roadways. *Journal of Infrastructure Systems*. Retrieved from http://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/%28ASCE%29IS.1943-555X.0000203

[551] Hennessy-Fiske, M. (2014, February 15). Fracking brings oil boom to south Texas town, for a price. Retrieved from http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-texas-oil-boom-20140216%2C0%2C7621618.story#ixzz30Iw9FXoz.

[552] Marshall, J. (2014, February 14). Landowners rally for royalties from gas companies. Retrieved from http://www.wbng.com/news/local/Landowners-rally-for-245596511.html

[553] Daily Real Estate News. (2013, December 20). 'Fracking' sparks concern over nearby home values. *National Association of Realtors*. Retrieved, from http://realtormag.realtor.org/daily-news/2013/12/20/fracking-sparks-concern-over-nearby-home-values#.UrmdIlPmVu8.twitter

[554] Conlin, M. (2013, December 12). Gas drilling is killing property values for some Americans. *Reuters*. Retrieved from http://www.businessinsider.com/drilling-can-make-some-properties-unsellable-2013-12#ixzz2nMgFv8FU

[555] Loewenstein, J. (2013, December 10). Shrinking royalty checks. *Thedailyreview.com*. Retrieved from http://thedailyreview.com/news/shrinking-royalty-checks-1.1598195

Sgt. Kylan Klauzer, an investigator in Dickinson, in western North Dakota. The Dickinson police handled 41 violent crimes last year, up from seven only five years ago."[556]

- November 21, 2013 – The Multi-State Shale Research Collaborative released a six-state collaborative report demonstrating that the oil and gas industry has greatly exaggerated the number of jobs created by drilling and fracking in shale formations. The report found that far from the industry's claims of 31 direct jobs created per well, only four jobs are created for each well. It also demonstrated that almost all of the hundreds of thousands of 'ancillary' jobs that the drilling industry claims are related to shale drilling existed before such drilling occurred. As Frank Mauro, Executive Director Emeritus of the Fiscal Policy Institute put it, "Industry supporters have exaggerated the jobs impact in order to minimize or avoid altogether taxation, regulation, and even careful examination of shale drilling."[557]

- November 12, 2013 – *The American Banker* reported that the "Fracking Boom Gives Banks Mortgage Headaches," with a number of financial institutions refusing to make mortgages on land where oil and gas rights have been sold to an energy company. The article stated that the uniform New York state mortgage agreement used by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac requires that homeowners not permit any hazardous materials to be used or located on their property. Fracking is therefore a problem because it is just such a hazardous activity with use of hazardous materials.[558]

- September 25, 2013 – A report found that fracking is linked to significant road damage, increased truck traffic, crime, and strain on municipal and social services. Data from the past ten years on the social costs of fracking including truck accidents, arrests, and higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases are all causes for alarm.[559]

- September 12, 2013 – In a feature titled "Pa. fracking boom goes bust," *The Philadelphia Inquirer* presented data from the independent Keystone Research Center detailing "flat at best" job growth and declines in production and royalty payments.[560]

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[556] Healy, J. (2013, November 30). As oil floods plains towns, crime pours in. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/01/us/as-oil-floods-plains-towns-crime-pours-in.html?smid=tw-share&_r=0

[557] Campbell, J. (2013, November 21). Report: Industry-backed studies exaggerate fracking job estimates. *Politics on the Hudson*. Retrieved from http://polhudson.lohudblogs.com/2013/11/21/report-industry-backed-studies-exaggerate-fracking-job-estimates/

[558] Peters, A. (2013, November 12). Fracking boom gives banks mortgage headaches. *American Banker*. Retrieved from http://www.americanbanker.com/issues/178_218/fracking-boom-gives-banks-mortgage-headaches-1063561-1.html

[559] Gibbons, B. S. (2013, September 25). Environmental groups calculate social cost of natural gas boom. *The Times-Tribune*. Retrieved from http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/environmental-groups-calculate-social-cost-of-natural-gas-boom-1.1558186

[560] Bunch, W. (2013, September 12). Pa. fracking boom goes bust. *Philly.com*. Retrieved from http://articles.philly.com/2013-09-12/news/41974274_1_fracking-boom-penn-state-marcellus-center-marcellus-shale

- August 22, 2013 – A University of Denver study in the *Journal of Real Estate Literature* found a 5 to 15 percent reduction in bid value for homes near gas drilling sites.[561]

- August 21, 2013 – *The Atlantic Cities* and *MSN Money* reported that fracking operations may be damaging property values and may impair mortgages or the ability to obtain property insurance.[562, 563]

- August 13, 2013 – A *ProPublica* investigative analysis found that Chesapeake Energy is coping with its financial difficulties in Pennsylvania by shifting costs to landowners who are now receiving drastically reduced royalty payments.[564]

- August 4, 2013 – In a survey of West Virginia landowners with shale wells on their property, more than half reported problems including damage to the land, decline in property values, truck traffic, and lack of compensation by the oil and gas company.[565]

- May 24, 2013 – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Allen D. Biuhler and Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Frank Pawlowski said that gas drilling has led to increases in truck traffic, traffic violations, crime, demand for social services, and the number of miles of roads that are in need of repairs. They noted that drilling companies that committed to repairing roads have not kept pace with the roads they damage. Commissioner Pawlowski reported that 56 percent of 194 trucks checked were over the legal weight limit and 50 percent were also cited for safety violations.[566]

- May 4, 2013 – Pennsylvania's *Beaver County Times* asked, "What boom?" in pointing to Keystone Research Center data showing that the number of jobs numbers created by shale gas extraction do not add up to what the gas industry claims, noting that unemployment has increased and the state actually fell to 49th in the nation for job creation.[567]

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[561] Downing, B. (2013, April 22). Survey says home values hurt by fracking at drill sites. *Ohio.com*. Retrieved from http://www.ohio.com/blogs/drilling/ohio-utica-shale-1.291290/survey-says-home-values-hurt-by-fracking-at-drill-sites-1.422838

[562] Drouin, R. (2013, August 19). How the fracking boom could lead to a housing bust. *Citylab*. Retrieved from http://www.theatlanticcities.com/politics/2013/08/how-fracking-boom-could-lead-housing-bust/6588/

[563] Notte, J. (2013, August 21). Fracking leaves property values tapped out. *MSN Money*. Retrieved from http://money.msn.com/now/post--fracking-leaves-property-values-tapped-out

[564] Lustgarten, A. (2013, August 13). Unfair share: How oil and gas drillers avoid paying royalties. *ProPublica*. Retrieved from http://www.propublica.org/article/unfair-share-how-oil-and-gas-drillers-avoid-paying-royalties

[565] Collins, A. R. & Nkansah, K. (2013, August 4). *Divided rights, expanded conflict: The impact of split estates in natural gas production* [Scholarly project]. Retrieved from http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/150128/2/Collins_Nkahsah_Split%20estate.pdf

[566] PR Newswire. (2014, May 24). Increased gas drilling activities bringing new challenges to local governments in Pennsylvania. *PR Newswire*. Retrieved from http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/increased-gas-drilling-activities-bringing-new-challenges-to-local-governments-in-pennsylvania-94774764.html

[567] Morgan, R. (2013, May 4). Beaver County Times: What boom? Industry pundits claim thousands of jobs will be created, but numbers don't quite add up. *Keystone Research Center*. Retrieved from http://keystoneresearch.org/media-center/media-coverage/beaver-county-times-what-boom-industry-pundits-claim-thousands-jobs-will

- April 2, 2013 – The *New York Times* reported that manufacturing jobs resulting from an abundance of shale gas have not appeared. "The promised job gains, other than in the petrochemical industry, have been slow to materialize," The *New York Times* reported. The article suggested that increased automation has made it unlikely that manufacturers will add many jobs.[568]

- March 19, 2013 – The *Wall Street Journal* reported that the shale gas boom has not had a big impact on U.S. manufacturing because lower energy prices are only one factor in a company's decision on where to locate factories, and not always the most important factor. "Cheap energy flowing from the U.S. shale-gas boom is often touted as a 'game changer' for manufacturing," the *Journal* reported. "Despite the benefits of lower energy costs, however, the game hasn't changed for most American manufacturers."[569]

- February 2013 – A peer-reviewed analysis of industry-funded and independent studies on the economics of fracking found that it is unlikely that fracking will lead to long-term economic prosperity for communities. The analysis noted that shale gas development brings a number of negative externalities including the potential for water, air, and land contamination; negative impacts on public health; wear and tear on roads and other infrastructure; and costs to communities due to increased demand for services such as police, fire departments, emergency responders, and hospitals.[570]

- November 16, 2012 – A Duke University study showed a drop in home values near fracking for properties that rely on groundwater. [571]

- September 27, 2012 – The *New York Times* reported that the prospect of fracking has hindered home sales in the Catskills and raised concerns about drops in property values, according to real estate agents and would-be buyers.[572]

- August 17, 2012 – A study by the state agencies, the Montana All Threat Intelligence Center and the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center, found that crime rose by 32 percent since 2005 in communities at the center of the oil and gas boom.[573]

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[568] Schwartz, N. D. (2013, April 01). Rumors of a cheap-energy jobs boom remain just that. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/business/economy/rumors-of-a-cheap-energy-jobs-boom-remain-just-that.html?_r=0

[569] Hagerty, J. R. (2013, March 19). Shale-gas boom alone won't propel U.S. industry. *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887324392804578362781776519720

[570] Barth, J. M. (2013). The Economic Impact of Shale Gas Development on State and Local Economies: Benefits, Costs, and Uncertainties. *NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy, 23*(1), 85-101. doi: 10.2190/NS.23.1.f

[571] Muoio, D. (2012, November 16). Duke researchers show dip in home value caused by nearby fracking. *The Chronicle*. Retrieved from http://www.dukechronicle.com/articles/2012/11/16/duke-researchers-show-dip-home-value-caused-nearby-fracking

[572] Navarro, M. (2012, September 27). Gas drilling jitters unsettle Catskills sales. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/30/realestate/fracking-fears-hurt-second-home-sales-in-catskills.html?pagewanted=1

[573] Montana All Threat Intelligence Center, & North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center. (2012, August 17). *Impact of population growth on law enforcement in the Williston Basin region* (Rep.). Retrieved from http://www.ag.nd.gov/reports/JOINTPRODUCTFINAL.pdf

- October 30, 2011 – A comprehensive article in the *New York State Bar Association Journal* concluded that the risks inherent with fracking threaten mortgages.[574]

- October 26, 2011 – The Associated Press reported that areas with significant fracking activity, including Pennsylvania, Wyoming North Dakota and Texas, are "seeing a sharp increase in drunken driving, bar fights and other hell-raising."[575]

- October 19, 2011 – A *New York Times* investigation found that fracking can create conflicts with mortgages, and that "bankers are concerned because many leases allow drillers to operate in ways that violate rules in landowners' mortgages," and further that "[f]earful of just such a possibility, some banks have become reluctant to grant mortgages on properties leased for gas drilling. At least eight local or national banks do not typically issue mortgages on such properties, lenders say."[576]

- September 7, 2011 – The NYS DEC estimated that 77 percent of the workforce on initial shale gas drilling projects would consist of transient workers from out of state. Not until the thirtieth year of shale gas development would 90 percent of the workforce be comprised of New York residents.[577]

- August 15, 2011 – The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that increases in crime followed the Pennsylvania gas drilling boom, noting, for instance, that drunken driving arrests in Bradford County were up 60 percent, DUI arrests were up 50 percent in Towanda, and criminal sentencing was up 35 percent in 2010.[578]

- July 26, 2011 – A New York State Department of Transportation document estimated that fracking in New York could result in the need for road repairs and reconstruction costing $211 million to $378 million each year.[579]

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[574] Radow, E. N. (2011). Homeowners and gas drilling leases: Boon or bust? *New York State Bar Association Journal, 83*(9). Retrieved from http://www.s-oacc.org/resources/NYSBA_Journal_nov-dec2011_lead_article_with_reprint_info.pdf

[575] Levy, M. (2011, October 26). Towns see crime, carousing surge amid gas boom. *Associated Press*. Retrieved from http://news.yahoo.com/towns-see-crime-carousing-surge-amid-gas-boom-135643480.html

[576] Urbina, I. (2011, October 19). A rush to sign leases for gas runs into mortgage restriction. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/20/us/rush-to-drill-for-gas-creates-mortgage-conflicts.html?_r=2&hp&

[577] New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (2011). *Supplemental generic environmental impact statement on the oil, gas and solution mining regulatory program, well permit issuance for horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing to develop the Marcellus shale and other low-permeability gas reservoirs* (6-233, 234, Rep.).

[578] Needles, Z. (2011, August 15). Must crime follow Pennsylvania's gas drilling boom? *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/business/legal/must-crime-follow-pennsylvanias-gas-drilling-boom-310373/

[579] Reilly, S. (2011, July 26). Document estimates fracking's toll on N.Y. roads. *Pressconnects.com*. Retrieved from http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20110726/NEWS01/107260384/Document-estimates-fracking-s-toll-N-Y-roads

- June 20, 2011 – A Keystone Research Center study found that the gas industry's claim of 48,000 jobs created between 2007 and 2010 as a result of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania is a far cry from the actual number of only 5,669 jobs—many of which were out-of-state hires.[580]

- May 9, 2011 – A study in the *Journal of Town & City Management* found that shale gas development can impose "significant short- and long-term costs" to local communities. The study noted that shale gas development creates a wide range of potential environmental hazards and stressors, all of which can adversely impact regional economies, including tourism and agriculture sectors.[581]

- November 30, 2010 – The *Dallas Morning News* featured a story, "Drilling Can Dig into Land Value," reporting that the Wise County Central Appraisal District Appraisal Review Board found that a drilling company had caused an "extraordinary reduction" in property value, by 75 percent.[582]

- November 28, 2010 – The Texas *Wise County Messenger* reported that some landowners near fracking operations experience excessive noise, exposure to diesel fumes, and problems with trespassing by workers.[583]

Inflated estimates of oil and gas reserves and profitability

Industry estimates of oil and gas reserves and profitability of drilling have proven unreliable, casting serious doubts on the bright economic prospects the industry has painted for the public, media, and investors. Increasingly, well production has been short-lived, which has led companies drilling shale to reduce the value of their assets by billions of dollars, creating shortfalls that are largely filled through asset sales and increasing debt load. The recent fall in oil and gas prices means that interest payments are consuming revenue of many smaller companies, raising questions about who becomes the custodian of wells and infrastructure when companies abandon operations. In Alberta, Canada, newly abandoned wells dot the landscape, leaving the provincial government to close down and dismantle them—a task estimated to require decades.

- June 19, 2015 – A *Bloomberg Business* analysis of the 62 drilling companies in the Bloomberg Intelligence North America Independent Exploration and Production Index

[580] Herzenberg, S. (2011). Drilling deeper into job claims. Keystone Research Center. Retrieved from http://keystoneresearch.org/sites/keystoneresearch.org/files/Drilling-Deeper-into-Jobs-Claims-6-20-2011_0.pdf
[581] Christopherson, S. & Rightor, N. (2011). How shale gas extraction affects drilling localities: Lessons for regional and city policy makers. *Journal of Town & City Management, 2*(4), 1-20. Retrieved from http://www.greenchoices.cornell.edu/downloads/development/shale/Economic_Effects_on_Drilling_Localities.pdf
[582] Heinkel-Wolfe, P. (2010, September 18). Drilling can dig into land value. *Dallas News*. Retrieved from http://www.dallasnews.com/incoming/20100918-Drilling-can-dig-into-land-value-9345.ece
[583] Evans, B. (2010, November 28). Rising volume: 'Fracking' has bolstered economies, but noise still echoes around drilling. *WCMessenger.com*. Retrieved from http://www.wcmessenger.com/2010/news/rising-volume-fracking-has-bolstered-economies-but-noise-still-echoes-around-drilling/

found that the companies' debt continued to be a major problem. For 27 of the 62 companies, interest payments were consuming more than 10 percent of revenue. Drillers' debt rose to $235 billion at the end of the first quarter, a 16 percent increase over the year prior. *Bloomberg Business* expressed concern that shale drillers have "consistently spent money faster than they've made it, even when oil was $100 a barrel." S&P assigned speculative, or junk, ratings to 45 of the 62 companies in Bloomberg's index.[584]

- April 7, 2015 – A Moody's Investors Service analysis of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) prospects found that lower oil prices were causing suppliers to defer or cancel most proposed LNG projects. Moody's found that this was due in part to the drop in international oil prices relative to U.S. natural gas prices, thus removing the economic advantage of U.S. LNG projects. Moody's stated, "LNG is a capital-intensive infrastructure business prone to periodic construction cycles that lead to overcapacity, which we expect will continue for the rest of the decade."[585]

- March 20, 2015 – A study by the Energy Watch Group in Germany found that the costs of allowing fracking in Germany would outweigh the benefits, noting in part that natural gas trading in the United States has been declining since 2009. The study also noted the costs of infrastructure, environmental and health risks and pointed to the need to expand renewable energy.[586]

- December, 2014 – An International Energy Agency (IEA) report projected that U.S. domestic oil supplies, dominated by fracking, face challenges, and oil output from shale formations output, will level off and decline in the early 2020s.[587] IEA Chief Economist Fatih Birol said, "A well-supplied oil market in the short-term should not disguise the challenges that lie ahead."[588]

- August 29, 2014 – Andrew Nikiforuk, a Canadian energy analyst, reported on diminishing returns and the higher-cost, higher-risk nature of fossil fuel extraction by fracking. Nikiforuk wrote, "Most of the world's oil and gas firms are now pursuing extreme hydrocarbons because the cheap and easy stuff is gone…. That means industry will spend more good money chasing poor quality resources. They will inefficiently mine

[584] Loder, A. (2015, June 18). The shale industry could be swallowed by its own debt. *Bloomberg Business*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-18/next-threat-to-u-s-shale-rising-interest-payments

[585] Moody's Investors Service. (2015, April 7). Lower oil prices cause suppliers of liquefied natural gas to nix projects. Retrieved from https://www.moodys.com/research/Moodys-Liquefied-natural-gas-projects-nixed-amid-lower-oil-prices--PR_322439

[586] Sagener, N. (2015, March 26). Fracking costs outweigh benefits for Germany and Europe, study says. *EurActiv*. Retrieved from http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/fracking-costs-outweigh-benefits-germany-and-europe-study-says-313087

[587] International Energy Agency. (2014, December). World Energy Outlook 2014 Executive Summary. Retrieved from http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO_2014_ES_English_WEB.pdf

[588] Dimick, D. (2014, December 19). How long can the U.S. oil boom last? *National Geographic*. Retrieved from http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/12/141219-fracking-oil-supply-price-reserves-profits-environment/

and frack ever larger land bases at higher environmental costs for lower energy returns."[589]

- July 29, 2014 – According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, energy companies are incurring increasing debt and selling assets to continue drilling in shale. "Based on data compiled from quarterly reports, for the year ending March 31, 2014, cash from operations for 127 major oil and natural gas companies totaled $568 billion, and major uses of cash totaled $677 billion, a difference of almost $110 billion. This shortfall was filled through a $106 billion net increase in debt and $73 billion from sales of assets...."[590]

- July 2014 – Researchers at the Washington, DC-based Environmental Law Institute and Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania collaborated to produce a report designed in part to help communities avoid the "boom and bust" cycles of extractive industries. Authors warned, "While resource extraction has long been regarded as an economic benefit, a body of academic literature suggests that long term growth based chiefly on resource extraction is rare." Confounding factors include transience of the workforce, localized inflation, widening disparities in royalties and impact fee disbursement, commodity price volatility, and communities overspending on infrastructure.[591]

- June 19, 2014 – Energy analyst Deborah Lawrence Rogers outlined the spiraling debt and severe deterioration of the assets of five major shale gas drillers over the last five years. She concluded, "This is not sustainable. It could be argued that it is not even moral. It is a failed business model of epic proportion. While companies could make the argument at one time that this was a short term downtrend, that no longer holds water because this pattern is long term."[592]

- April 10, 2014 – A report by a petroleum geologist and petroleum engineer concluded the 100-year supply of shale gas is a myth, distinguished between what is technically recoverable and economically recoverable shale gas, and asserted that at current prices, New York State has no economically recoverable shale gas.[593]

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[589] Nikiforuk, A. (2014, August 29). A big summer story you missed: soaring oil debt returns diminish as energy companies resort to higher-cost, higher-risk hydrocarbons. *The Tyee.* Retrieved from http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2014/08/29/Soaring-Oil-Debt-Summer/

[590] US Energy Information Administration. (2014, July 29). As cash flows flatten, major energy companies increase debt, sell assets. *Today in Energy.* Retrieved from http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=17311

[591] Environmental Law Institute and Washington & Jefferson College. (2014, July). Getting the boom without the bust: Guiding Southwestern Pennsylvania through shale gas development. Retrieved from http://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/eli-pubs/getting-boom-final-paper-exec-summary-2014-07-28.pdf

[592] Rogers, D. L. (2014, June 19). Huge CAPEX = free cash flow? Not in shales. *Energy Policy Forum.* Retrieved from http://energypolicyforum.org/2013/06/19/huge-capex-free-cash-flow-not-in-shales/

[593] Labyrinth Consulting Services, Inc., Berman, A., and Pittinger, L. (2014). Resource Assessment of Potentially Producible Natural Gas Volumes From the Marcellus Shale, State of New York. Retrieved from: http://www.lwvny.org/

- February 28, 2014 – Maria van der Hoeven, Executive Director of the IEA, said in an interview with *The Christian Science Monitor* that there is only a decade left in the U.S. shale oil and gas boom, noting that her agency's analysis predicts that production will soon flatten out and, by 2025, begin to decline.[594]

- December 18, 2013 – A University of Texas study in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found that fracking well production drops sharply with time, which undercuts the oil and gas industry's economic projections.[595] In an interview about the study with *StateImpact NPR* in Texas, Tad Patzek, Chair of the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering at University of Texas at Austin, noted that fracking "also interferes now more and more with daily lives of people. Drilling is coming to your neighborhood, and most people abhor the thought of having somebody drilling a well in their neighborhood."[596]

- August 18, 2013 – *Bloomberg News* reported that low gas prices and disappointing wells have led major companies to devalue oil and gas shale assets by billions of dollars.[597]

- October 21, 2012 – The *New York Times* reported that many gas drilling companies overproduced natural gas backed by creative financing and now "are committed to spending far more to produce gas than they can earn selling it." "We are all losing our shirts today," said Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson in the summer of 2012.[598]

- July 13, 2012 – *The Wall Street Journal* reported that ITG Investment Research, at the request of institutional investors, evaluated the reserves of Chesapeake Energy Corporation's shale gas reserves in the Barnett and Haynesville formations and found them to be only 70 percent of estimates by Chesapeake's engineering consultant for the company's 2011 annual report. Chesapeake and its consultant defended their figures.[599]

- August 23, 2011 – The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) cut the government's estimates of natural gas in the Marcellus Shale from 410 trillion cubic feet to 84 trillion cubic feet, equivalent to a reduction from approximately 16 years of U.S. consumption at current levels of natural gas use, to approximately 3.3 years of consumption. The USGS's

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[594] Unger, D. J. (2014, February 28). IEA chief: Only a decade left in US shale oil boom. *The Christian Science Monitor*. Retrieved from http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0228/IEA-chief-Only-a-decade-left-in-US-shale-oil-boom

[595] Patzek, T. W., Male, F., & Marder, M. (2013). Gas production in the Barnett Shale obeys a simple scaling theory. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 110*(49), 19731-19736. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1313380110

[596] Buchele, M. (2013, December 18). New study shows how gas production from "fracked" wells slows over time. *StateImpact*. Retrieved from http://stateimpact.npr.org/texas/2013/12/18/new-study-shows-how-gas-production-from-fracked-wells-slows-over-time/

[597] Monks, M., Penty, R., & De Vynck, G. (2013, August 18). Shale grab in U.S. stalls as falling values repel buyers. *Bloomberg*. Retrieved from http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-18/shale-grab-in-u-s-stalls-as-falling-values-repel-buyers.html

[598] Krauss, C., & Lipton, E. (2012, October 20). After the boom in natural gas. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/21/business/energy-environment/in-a-natural-gas-glut-big-winners-and-losers.html?pagewanted=all

[599] Wirz, M. (2013, July 13). Chesapeake reserve doubted. *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303644004577523411723501548

updated estimate was for natural gas that is technically recoverable, irrespective of economic considerations such as the price of natural gas or the cost of extracting it.[600]

- June 26-27, 2011 – As reported in two *New York Times* stories, hundreds of emails, internal documents, and analyses of data from thousands of wells from drilling industry employees, combined with documents from federal energy officials, raised concerns that shale gas companies were overstating the amount of gas in their reserves and the profitability of their operations.[601, 602, 603] The *New York Times*' public editor criticized the stories, but offered no evidence that the major findings were wrong.[604] The *New York Times*' news editors publicly defended both stories against the public editor's criticism.[605, 606]

Disclosure of serious risks to investors

A snapshot of the dangers posed by natural gas drilling and fracking can be found in the annual Forms 10-K that oil and natural gas companies are required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The information so contained in these reports, which provide a comprehensive summary of a company's financial performance, provides a window into the harms and risks of fracking that are otherwise shielded from view by "gag order" clauses in court settlements, non-disclosure agreements between industry and landowners, and trade secret claims in regards to the chemical ingredients of fracking fluid. In this, the Form 10-K can serve as an imperfect surrogate for right-to-know data.

Federal law requires that companies offering stock to the public disclose in their Form 10-K, among other things, the "most significant factors that make the offering speculative or risky."[607] In a review of Forms 10-K spanning the past decade available on the SEC's

[600] United States Geological Survey. (2011, August 23). USGS releases new assessment of gas resources in the Marcellus shale, Appalachian Basin. *USGS Newsroom*. Retrieved from http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2893&from=rss_home#.Uok0mGRO_GA.
[601] Urbina, I. (2011, June 25). Insiders sound an alarm amid a natural gas rush. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/26/us/26gas.html?pagewanted=all
[602] U.S. Energy Information Administration. (2014, May 30). U.S. Natural Gas Summary. Retrieved from http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_sum_lsum_dcu_nus_a.htm
[603] Urbina, I. (2011, August 24). Geologists sharply cut estimate of shale gas. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/25/us/25gas.html
[604] Brisbane, A. S. (2011, July 16). Clashing views on the future of natural gas. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/17/opinion/sunday/17pubed.html?gwh=7D408242717755A0E06B0D265498E177&gwt=pay&assetType=opinion&_r=0
[605] Brisbane, A. S. (2011, July 17). Times editors respond to my shale gas column. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://publiceditor.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/17/times-editors-respond-to-my-shale-gas-column/
[606] Brisbane, A. S. (2011, July 30). Times editors respond to column on redactions. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://publiceditor.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/30/times-editors-respond-to-column-on-redactions/
[607] See 17 C.F.R. § 229.503(c) (companies must disclose the "most significant" risks); 17 C.F.R. § 230.405 ("the term material, when used to qualify a requirement for the furnishing of information as to any subject, limits the information required to those matters to which there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would attach importance in determining whether to purchase the security registered"); 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 (it is illegal

website, oil and natural gas companies have routinely warned of drilling's serious risks. In the words of Exxon Mobil Corporation's subsidiary XTO Energy, "our operations are subject to hazards and risks inherent in drilling"[608]; or in the language of Range Resources Corporation, "development and exploratory drilling and production activities are subject to many risks."[609]

Such hazards and risks include leaks, spills, explosions, blowouts, environmental damage, property damage, injury, and death. Chesapeake Energy Corporation has stated that "horizontal and deep drilling activities involve greater risk of mechanical problems than vertical and shallow drilling operations."[610] Over the past 15 years, companies have combined horizontal drilling with hydraulic fracturing to tap natural gas and oil in shale formations.

The companies also routinely warn of inadequate insurance to cover drilling harms. According to XTO Energy, "we are not fully insured against all environmental risks, and no coverage is maintained with respect to any penalty or fine required to be paid by us."[611] Range Resources states that "we can provide no assurance that our coverage will adequately protect us against liability from all potential consequences, damages and losses."[612]

Houston-based Noble Energy provides a representative example of the risks that at least several drilling companies include in their annual reports. Noble states:

> Our operations are subject to hazards and risks inherent in the drilling, production and transportation of crude oil, natural gas and NGLs [natural gas liquids], including:
> - injuries and/or deaths of employees, supplier personnel, or other individuals;
> - pipeline ruptures and spills;
> - fires, explosions, blowouts and well cratering;
> - equipment malfunctions and/or mechanical failure on high-volume, high-impact wells;
> - leaks or spills occurring during the transfer of hydrocarbons from an FPSO [floating production storage and offloading vessels] to an oil tanker;
> - loss of product occurring as a result of transfer to a rail car or train derailments;
> - formations with abnormal pressures and basin subsidence which could result in leakage or loss of access to hydrocarbons;
> - release of pollutants;
> - surface spillage of, or contamination of groundwater by, fluids used in operations;
> - security breaches, cyber attacks, piracy, or terroristic acts;

"to make any untrue statement of a material fact or to omit to state a material fact . . . in connection with the purchase or sale of any security); 17 C.F.R. 249.310 (requiring Form 10-K, "for annual and transition reports pursuant to sections 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.")

[608] XTO Energy Corp., Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 25, 2010) at 25.

[609] Range Resources Corp., Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 24, 2015) at 22.

[610] Chesapeake Energy Corp., Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 27, 2015) at 18.

[611] XTO Energy Corp., Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 25, 2010) at 17.

[612] Range Resources Corp., Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 24, 2015) at 26.

- theft or vandalism of oilfield equipment and supplies, especially in areas of active onshore operations;
- hurricanes, cyclones, windstorms, or "superstorms," which could affect our operations in areas such as the Gulf Coast, deepwater Gulf of Mexico, Marcellus Shale or Eastern Mediterranean;
- winter storms and snow which could affect our operations in the DJ Basin [Denver-Julesburg Basin in Colorado] or Marcellus Shale;
- extremely high temperatures, which could affect third party gathering and processing facilities in the DJ Basin;
- volcanoes which could affect our operations offshore Equatorial Guinea;
- flooding which could affect our operations in low-lying areas;
- harsh weather and rough seas offshore the Falkland Islands, which could limit certain exploration activities; and
- pandemics and epidemics, such as the Ebola virus, which is ongoing in certain regions of West Africa and may adversely affect our business operations through travel or other restrictions.

Any of these can result in loss of hydrocarbons, environmental pollution and other damage to our properties or the properties of others.[613]

Noble has language similar to that found in other companies' annual reports about inadequate insurance and adds, "we do not have insurance for gradual pollution nor do we have coverage for penalties or fines that may be assessed by a governmental authority."[614]

The risks identified by these oil and gas companies are not just hypothetical. Many, if not all of these risks are reflected in the evidence compiled in other sections of this Compendium.

Medical and scientific calls for more study and more transparency

With increasing urgency, groups of medical professionals and scientists are issuing calls for comprehensive, long-term study of the full range of the potential health and ecosystem effects of drilling and fracking. These appeals underscore the accumulating evidence of harm, point to the major knowledge gaps that remain, and denounce the atmosphere of secrecy and intimidation that continues to impede the progress of scientific inquiry. Health professionals and scientists in the United States and around the world have urged tighter regulation of and, in some cases, suspension of unconventional gas and oil extraction activities in order to limit, mitigate, or eliminate its serious, adverse public health hazards.

- June 9, 2015 – Information on individual exposures and local environmental conditions prior to the commencement of fracking in a given area is often "unavailable or hard to

[613] Noble Energy, Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb. 19, 2015) at 38.
[614] Noble Energy. Annual Report (Form 10-K) (Feb 19, 2015) at 79.

obtain. These and other data gaps have hindered the kind of large-scale epidemiological studies that can link exposures to actual health outcomes, with valid comparison groups," wrote public health journalist David Tuller in the journal *Health Affairs*.[615] In an interview with *Michigan Radio*, Tuller noted that, because well development happens quickly, there was generally a lack of pre-drilling baseline studies.[616]

- April 17, 2015 – Using sophisticated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools to examine distribution of fracking wells compared to distribution of vulnerable populations, Clark University researchers found consistent evidence that, in the Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale region, census tracts with potential exposure to pollution from fracking wells contained "significantly higher" percentages of poor people. They also found clusters of vulnerable populations concentrated near drilling and fracking in all three states they studied: Pennsylvania (for poverty and elderly population), West Virginia (for poverty, elderly population, and education level) and Ohio (for children). Researchers also reported difficulty in accessing high quality and consistent unconventional well data in all three states, demonstrating an "urgent need" for common data collection and reporting.[617] Another GIS-based study sought to begin to fill this gap in data on spatially distributed risks of fracking, identifying Pennsylvania populations at "very high" and "high" risk in over a dozen counties. The author called for more focus on those areas to understand the impacts of fracking.[618]

- March 30, 2015 – The UK medical organization Medact published a report, *Health & Fracking: The Impacts and Opportunity Costs*, which concluded that fracking poses significant risks to public health and called for an immediate moratorium to allow time for a full and comprehensive health and environmental impact assessment to be completed.[619] The report was supported by a letter published in the *British Medical Journal* calling for shale gas development to be put on hold, signed by the Climate and Health Council and over a dozen senior health professionals. The letter stated, "The arguments against fracking on public health and ecological grounds are overwhelming. There are clear grounds for adopting the precautionary principle and prohibiting fracking."[620]

- February 17, 2015 – Writing in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, a public health scientist and medical doctor briefly reviewed the human health risks of fracking documented to date and made the case for a health care worker role in insisting on improved understanding. They cited worker and community safety issues as the biggest

[615] Tuller, D. (2015). As fracking booms, dearth of health risk data remains. *Health Affairs, 34* (6), 903-906.
[616] Williams, R. (June 9, 2015). Why there are gaps in public health studies on fracking. *Michigan Radio.* Retrieved from http://michiganradio.org/post/why-there-are-gaps-public-health-studies-fracking#stream/0
[617] Ogneva-Himmelberger, Y. & Huang, L. (2015). Spatial distribution of unconventional gas wells and human populations in the Marcellus Shale in the United States: Vulnerability analysis. *Applied Geography, 60*. 165-174.
[618] Meng, Q. (2015). Spatial analysis of environment and population at risk of natural gas fracking in the state of Pennsylvania, USA. *Science of the Total Environment, 515-516.* 198-206.
[619] Medact. (2015). *Health & fracking: The impacts and opportunity costs.* London: McCoy, D. & Saunders, P.
[620] Stott, R., Atkinson, S., Montgomery, H., Rao, M., McKee, M., Gerada, C., . . . Popay, J. (2014). Public Health England's draft report on shale gas extraction. *BMJ, 348.* Retrieved from http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g2728/rr

short-term risks, but emphasized that more needs to be known "before health care providers can definitively respond to their patients' and communities' concerns.… Physicians may wish to advocate delaying new development activities until the potential health effects are better understood."[621]

- January 22, 2015 –The acting head of research at the Cancer Association of South Africa, Carl Albrecht, said that known carcinogenic chemicals used in fracking could lead to an epidemic of cancer in South Africa's Karoo desert. As South Africa was poised to publish draft regulations, Albrecht said that the effect of fracking on human health was ignored.[622]

- January 19, 2015 – In an article that reviewed research and research gaps, a team of British and U.S. medical and scientific professionals urged the United Kingdom and other nations to engage in science before engaging in fracking. They warned that even strong regulations may not effectively address air pollution from fracking, and that "permanent, adverse environmental, climatic, and population health impacts" may exist in some cases.[623]

- December 17, 2014 – In an editorial, Rutgers University environmental exposure expert Paul J. Lioy (now deceased) highlighted fracking as an area in which accurate exposure monitoring and risk assessment did not yet exist. Lioy emphasized that the relevant research was compartmentalized and fragmented and that exposures and health outcomes around unconventional natural gas development need to be systematically addressed through "well-defined exposure studies in communities and workplaces."[624]

- December 5, 2014 – A team of medical and scientific researchers, including from the Institute for Health and Environment at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, reviewed the scientific evidence that both adult and early life—including prenatal—exposure to chemicals from fracking operations can result in adverse reproductive health and developmental effects. These include: endocrine-disrupting chemicals potentially increasing risk for reproductive problems, breast cancer, abnormal growth and developmental delays, and changes in immune function; benzene, toluene and xylene (BTX chemicals) increasing risk for impaired sperm quantity and quality in men and menstrual and fertility problems in women; and heavy metals increasing the risk of miscarriage and/or stillbirths. Potential exposures occur through both air and water. Based on their review, the authors concluded, "Taken together, there is an urgent need for the following: 1) biomonitoring of human, domestic and wild animals for these chemicals; and 2) systematic and comprehensive epidemiological studies to examine the

[621] Bharadwaj, L. & Goldstein, B. D. (2015). Shale gas development in Canada: What are the potential health effects? *CMAJ, 187* (3), E99-E100.
[622] Vecchiatto, P. (January 22, 2015). Chemicals used in fracking 'could cause cancer.' *Business Day BDlive.* Retrieved from http://www.bdlive.co.za/business/energy/2015/01/22/chemicals-used-in-fracking-could-cause-cancer
[623] Hays, J., Finkel, M. L., Depledge, M., Law, A., & Shonkoff, S. B. C. (2015). Considerations for the development of shale gas in the United Kingdom. *Science of the Total Environment, 512–513,* 36–42.avi
[624] Lioy, P.J. (2015). Exposure science and its places in environmental health sciences and risk assessment: why is its application still an ongoing struggle in 2014? *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology, 25,* 1-3.

potential for human harm."[625] Lead author Susan Nagel said in an accompanying interview, "We desperately need biomonitoring data from these people. What are people actually exposed to? What are the blood levels of people living in these areas? What are the levels in the workers?"[626]

- November 12, 2014 – A team of Australian researchers reviewed the strength of evidence for environmental health impacts of fracking based on publications from 1995 to 2014. They noted that the rapid expansion of fracking had outstripped the pace of science and that most studies focused on short-term, rather than long-term, health. Hence, "very few studies examined health outcomes with longer latencies such as cancer or developmental outcomes." Noting that no evidence exists to rule out health impacts, the team called for direct and clear public health assessments before projects are approved, longitudinal studies that include baseline data, and government and industry transparency.[627]

- September 15, 2014 – Researchers led by University of Rochester's Environmental Health Sciences Center conducted interviews in New York, North Carolina, and Ohio to evaluate community health concerns about unconventional natural gas development. They identified many areas where more study is needed, including baseline measures of air quality, ongoing environmental monitoring, and health impact assessments. They noted that other areas where data are lacking involve the assessment of drilling and fracking impacts on vulnerable populations such as very young children, and the potential consequences of interactions between exposures resulting from shale gas extraction operations. Researchers suggested incorporating the input of potentially affected community members into the development of the research agenda.[628]

- July 21, 2014 – An independent assessment report by Scientists for Global Responsibility and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health reviewed current evidence across a number of issues associated with shale gas extraction by hydraulic fracturing, including environmental and public health risks, drawing on academic research. Among the report's conclusions: there are major shortcomings in regulatory oversight regarding local environmental and public health risks; there is a large potential for UK shale gas exploitation to undermine national and international efforts to tackle climate change; the water-intensive nature of the fracking process which could cause water shortages in many areas; the complete lack of evidence behind claims that shale gas exploitation will bring

[625] Webb, E., Bushkin-Bedient, S., Cheng, A., Kassotis, C.D., Balise, V., & Nagel, S.C. (2014). Developmental and reproductive effects of chemicals associated with unconventional oil and natural gas operations. *Reviews on Environmental Health 29*(4), 307-318.
[626] Sample, I. (2014, December 5). Fracking chemicals could pose risks to reproductive health, say researchers. *The Guardian.* Retrieved from http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/dec/05/fracking-chemicals-could-pose-risks-to-reproductive-health-say-researchers
[627] Werner, A.K., Vink, S., Watt, K. & Jagals, P. (2015). Environmental health impacts of unconventional natural gas development: A review of the current strength of evidence. *Science of the Total Environment, 505*, 1127–1141.
[628] Korfmacher, K.S., Gray, K.M., & Haynes, E. (2014, September 15). Health impacts of unconventional natural gas development: A comparative assessment of community information needs in New York, North Carolina, and Ohio. *Project Report, UR-UNC-UC Supplement 2012-13.* Retrieved from http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/MediaLibraries/URMCMedia/environmental-health-sciences-center/COEC/documents/UNGD-information-needs-asssessment-Final-project-report-091514.pdf

down UK energy bills; and concerns that it will impact negatively on UK energy security. Despite claims to the contrary, the report noted that evidence of local environmental contamination from shale gas exploitation is well reported in the scientific literature. It emphasizes that, "[t]here are widespread concerns over the lack of evidence on fracking-related health impacts," and that there is a lack of "substantive epidemiological study for populations exposed to shale gas extraction."[629]

- July 18, 2014 – A working group of the Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers, supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, reviewed the available literature on the potential health impacts of fracking for natural gas. They concluded that further research is urgently needed. Needs identified included: monitoring of air and water quality over the entire lifetime of wells; further epidemiologic research addressing health outcomes and water quality; and research addressing whether air pollution associated with fracking increases the risk of pulmonary and cardiovascular disease. The working group advocated for the participation of potentially affected communities in all areas of research.[630]

- July 12, 2014 – Eli Avila, Pennsylvania's former Secretary of Health, said that health officials need to be proactive in protecting the public from the health effects of unconventional shale gas extraction. In 2011, funding was approved for a Pennsylvania public health registry to track drilling related complaints and address concerns, but was cut at the last minute. Speaking to the problem posed by the dearth of information, Avila asked, "How can you keep the public safe if you're not collecting data?"[631]

- June 30, 2014 –, The immediate past chair of the Executive Committee of the Council on Environmental Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics, Jerome A. Paulson, MD, called for industry disclosure of all ingredients of fracking fluid; thorough study of all air contaminants released from drilling and fracking operations and their protected dispersal patterns; and study and disclosure of fracking-related water contamination and its mechanisms. In a letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Paulson said:

> In summary, neither the industry, nor government agencies, nor other researchers have ever documented that [unconventional gas extraction] can be performed in a manner that minimizes risks to human health. There is now some evidence that these risks that many have been concerned about for a number of years are real risks. There is also much data to indicate that there are a number of toxic chemicals used or derived from the process, known or plausible routes of

[629] Harrison, G., Parkinson, S., & McFarlane, G. (2014). Shale gas and fracking: examining the evidence. Published by Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). Retrieved from http://www.cieh.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=53520

[630] Penning, T. M., Breysse, P.N., Gray, K., Howarth, M., & Yan, B. (2014). Environmental health research recommendations from the Inter-Environmental Health Sciences Core Center Working Group on Unconventional Natural Gas Drilling Operations. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 122*(11), 1155-1159. doi: 10.1289/ehp.1408207

[631] *The Associated Press*. (2014, July 12). Expert: Pa. didn't address fracking health impacts. *York Dispatch.* Retrieved from http://www.yorkdispatch.com/ci_26135724/expert-pa-didnt-address-fracking-health-impacts

> exposure of those chemicals to humans; and therefore, reason to place extreme limits on [unconventional gas extraction].[632]

- June 20, 2014 – Highlighting preliminary studies in the United States that suggest an increased risk of adverse health problems among individuals living within ten miles of shale gas operations, a commentary in the British medical journal *The Lancet* called for a precautionary approach to gas drilling in the United Kingdom. According the commentary, "It may be irresponsible to consider any further fracking in the UK (exploratory or otherwise) until these prospective studies have been completed and the health impacts of fracking have been determined."[633]

- June 20, 2014 – Led by an occupational and environmental medicine physician, a Pennsylvania-based medical and environmental science research team documented "… the substantial concern about adverse health effects of [unconventional natural gas development] among Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale residents, and that these concerns may not be adequately represented in medical records." The teams identified the continued need to pursue environmental, clinical, and epidemiological studies to better understand associations between fracking, medical outcomes, and residents' ongoing concerns.[634]

- June 17, 2014 – A discussion paper by the Nova Scotia Deputy Chief Medical Officer and a panel of experts identified potential economic benefits as well as public health concerns from unconventional oil and gas development. On the health impacts, they wrote, "uncertainties around long term environmental effects, particularly those related to climate change and its impact on the health of both current and future generations, are considerable and should inform government decision making." The report noted potential dangers including contamination of groundwater, air pollution, surface spills, increased truck traffic, noise pollution, occupational health hazards, and the generation of greenhouse gases. It also noted that proximity of potential fracking sites to human habitation should give regulators pause and called for a health impact assessment and study of long-term impacts.[635] Responding to the report, the Environmental Health Association of Nova Scotia applauded the go-slow approach and called for a 10-year moratorium on fracking.[636]

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[632] Paulson, J.A. (2014, June 30). Retrieved from http://concernedhealthny.org/letter-from-dr-jerome-a-paulson-to-the-pennsylvania-department-of-environmental-protection/

[633] Hill, M. (2014, June 20). Shale gas regulation in the UK and health implications of fracking. *The Lancet*. Early Online Publication, doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60888-6

[634] Saberi, P., Propert, K.J., Powers, M. Emmett, E. & Green-McKenzie, J. (2014). Field survey of health perception and complaints of Pennsylvania residents in the Marcellus Shale region. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 11*(6), 6517-6527.

[635] Atherton, F. (2014, June 17). Discussion paper: Hydraulic fracturing and public health in Nova Scotia . Nova Scotia Hydraulic Fracturing Independent Review and Public Engagement Process.

[636] Macdonald, M. (2014, June 17). Nova Scotia expert calls for go-slow approach for hydraulic fracturing. *The Canadian Press*. Retrieved from http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/Health+studies+needed+hydraulic+fracturing+approved+Nova+Scotia/9946368/story.html

- May 29, 2014 – In New York State, more than 250 medical organizations and health professionals released a letter detailing emerging trends in the data on fracking that show significant risk to public health, air quality, and water, as well as other impacts. With signatories including the American Academy of Pediatrics, District II, the American Lung Association in New York, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and many leading researchers examining the impacts of fracking, they wrote, "The totality of the science — which now encompasses hundreds of peer-reviewed studies and hundreds of additional reports and case examples—shows that permitting fracking in New York would pose significant threats to the air, water, health and safety of New Yorkers."[637, 638]

- May 9, 2014 – In a peer-reviewed analysis, leading toxicologists outlined some of the potential harm and uncertainty relating to the toxicity of the chemical and physical agents associated with fracking, individually and in combination. While acknowledging the need for more research and greater involvement of toxicologists, they noted the potential for surface and groundwater contamination from fracking, growing concerns about air pollution particularly in the aggregate, and occupational exposures that pose a series of potential hazards to worker health.[639, 640]

- May 1, 2014 – A 292-page report from a panel of top Canadian scientists urged caution on fracking, noting that it poses "the possibility of major adverse impacts on people and ecosystems" and that significantly more study is necessary to understand the full extent of the risks and impacts.[641] The *Financial Post* reported that the panel of experts "found significant uncertainty on the risks to the environment and human health, which include possible contamination of ground water as well as exposure to poorly understood combinations of chemicals."[642]

- April 30, 2014 – Medical professionals spoke out on the dearth of public health information collected and lack of long-term study five years into Pennsylvania's fracking boom. Walter Tsou, MD, MPH, past president of the American Public Health Association

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[637] Concerned Health Professionals of NY. (2014, May 29). Letter to Governor Cuomo and acting Health Commissioner Zucker [Letter to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo & Acting Health Commissioner Howard A. Zucker]. New York City, New York.

[638] Hughes, K. (2014, May 29). NY fracking opponents call for moratorium of 3 to 5 years. *Daily Freeman*. Retrieved from http://www.dailyfreeman.com/general-news/20140529/ny-fracking-opponents-call-for-moratorium-of-3-to-5-years

[639] Society of Toxicology. (2014). Toxicologists outline key health and environmental concerns associated with hydraulic fracturing. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved from http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/05/140509172545.htm

[640] Goldstein, B. D., Brooks, B. W., Cohen, S. D., Gates, A. E., Honeycutt, M. E., Morris, J. B., . . . Snawder, J. (2014). The role of toxicological science in meeting the challenges and opportunities of hydraulic fracturing [Abstract]. *Toxicological Sciences, 139*(2). doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfu061

[641] The Expert Panel on Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction. (2014). Environmental impacts of Hurricane Mitch. *Council of Canadian Academies*. Retrieved from http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments%20and%20publications%20and%20news%20releases/shale%20gas/shalegas_fullreporten.pdf

[642] Canadian Press. (2014, May 1). Top Canadian scientists urge cautious approach to fracking until more known of impact. *Financial Post*. Retrieved from http://business.financialpost.com/2014/05/01/top-canadian-scientists-urge-cautious-approach-to-fracking-until-more-known-of-impact/?__lsa=3b44-76a1

and former Health Commissioner of Philadelphia commented, "That kind of study from a rigorous scientific perspective has never been done." Other experts added, "There has been more health research involving fracking in recent years, but every study seems to consider a different aspect, and … there is no coordination."[643]

- April 17, 2014 – In the preeminent *British Medical Journal*, authors of a commentary, including an endocrinologist and a professor of clinical public health, wrote, "Rigorous, quantitative epidemiological research is needed to assess the risks to public health, and data are just starting to emerge. As investigations of shale gas extraction in the US have continually suggested, assurances of safety are no proxy for adequate protection."[644]

- April 15, 2014 – The *Canadian Medical Association Journal* reported on the increasing legitimacy of concerns about fracking on health: "While scientists and area residents have been sounding the alarm about the health impacts of shale gas drilling for years, recent studies, a legal decision and public health advocates are bringing greater legitimacy to concerns."[645]

- March 3, 2014 – In the *Medical Journal of Australia*, researchers and a physician published a strongly worded statement, "Harms unknown: health uncertainties cast doubt on the role of unconventional gas in Australia's energy future." They cited knowledge to date on air, water, and soil pollution, and expressed concern about "environmental, social and psychological factors that have more indirect effects on health, and important social justice implications" yet to be understood. They wrote in summary:

  > The uncertainties surrounding the health implications of unconventional gas, when considered together with doubts surrounding its greenhouse gas profile and cost, weigh heavily against proceeding with proposed future developments. While the health effects associated with fracturing chemicals have attracted considerable public attention, risks posed by wastewater, community disruption and the interaction between exposures are of also of concern.[646]

- March 1, 2014 – In the prestigious British medical journal *The Lancet*, researchers summarized workshops and research about the health impacts of fracking, noting that the scientific study on the health impacts of fracking is "in its infancy." Nevertheless, the existing evidence suggests, said these researchers, that health risks posed by fracking exceed those posed by conventional oil and gas wells due to the sheer number and

[643] Khan, N. (2014, April 30). Health impact of gas fracking left in the dark. *Pocono Record*. Retrieved from http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140430/NEWS90/404300301/-1/NEWS01
[644] Law, A., Hays, J., Shonkoff, S. B., & Finkel, M. L. (2014). Public Health England's draft report on shale gas extraction [Abstract]. *BMJ, 1840*. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.g2728
[645] Glauser, W. (2014). New legitimacy to concerns about fracking and health. *Canadian Medical Association Journal, 186*(8), E245-E246. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.109-4725
[646] Coram, A., Moss, J., & Blashki, G. (2014). Harms unknown: Health uncertainties cast doubt on the role of unconventional gas in Australia's energy future. *The Medical Journal of Australia, 200*(4), 210-213. doi: 10.5694/mja13.11023

density of well pads being developed, their proximity to densely populated areas, and the need to transport and store large volumes of materials.[647]

- February 24, 2014 – In a review of the health effects of unconventional natural gas extraction published in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, leading researchers identified a range of impacts and exposure pathways that can be detrimental to human health. Noting how fracking disrupts communities, the review states, "For communities near development and production sites the major stressors are air pollutants, ground and surface water contamination, truck traffic and noise pollution, accidents and malfunctions, and psychosocial stress associated with community change." They concluded, "Overall, the current scientific literature suggests that there are both substantial public concerns and major uncertainties to address."[648]

- August 30, 2013 – A summary of a 2012 workshop by the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine featured various experts who discussed health and environmental concerns about fracking and the need for more research. The report in summary of the workshop stated, "The governmental public health system, which retains primary responsibility for health, was not an early participant in discussions about shale gas extraction; thus public health is lacking critical information about environmental health impacts of these technologies and is limited in its ability to address concerns raised by regulators at the federal and state levels, communities, and workers employed in the shale gas extraction industry."[649]

- June 2013 – A group of three nursing professors published a cautionary review questioning the rollout of new shale-based energy practices at a time when, "anecdotal reports make clear that the removal of fossil fuels from the earth directly affects human health." Although the results of longterm studies are not yet available, the authors point to emerging evidence for negative human and ecologic health effects of fracking. Furthermore, they continue, "sufficient evidence has been presented to the [American Nurses Association], the American Public Health Association, and the American Medical Association's Resident and Fellow Section to result in a call for a moratorium on the issuance of new fracking permits nationally." They urge nurses to contribute to keeping health issues "front and center as we address national energy needs and policies."[650]

- April 22, 2013 – In one of the first peer-reviewed nursing articles summarizing the known health and community risks of fracking, Professor Margaret Rafferty, Chair of the Department of Nursing at New York City College of Technology wrote, "Any initiation

[647] Kovats, S., Depledge, M., Haines, A., Fleming, L. E., Wilkinson, P., Shonkoff, S. B., & Scovronick, N. (2014). The health implications of fracking. *The Lancet, 383*(9919), 757-758. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(13)62700-2
[648] Adgate, J. L., Goldstein, B. D., & McKenzie, L. M. (2014). Potential public health hazards, exposures and health effects from unconventional natural gas development [Abstract]. *Environmental Science & Technology*. doi: 10.1021/es404621d
[649] Coussens, C., & Martinez, R. (2013). *Health impact assessment of shale gas extraction: workshop summary*. Washington: THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES PRESS. Retrieved from http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Health-Impact-Assessment-of-Shale-Gas-Extraction.aspx
[650] McDermott-Levy, R., Kaktins, N., & Sattler, B. (2013). Fracking, the environment, and health: New energy practices may threaten public health. *American Journal of Nursing, 113*(6), 45-51.

or further expansion of unconventional gas drilling must be preceded by a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment (HIA)."[651]

- May 10, 2011 – In the *American Journal of Public Health*, two medical experts cautioned that fracking "poses a threat to the environment and to the public's health. There is evidence that many of the chemicals used in fracking can damage the lungs, liver, kidneys, blood, and brain." The authors urged that it would be prudent to invoke the precautionary principle in order to protect public health and the environment.[652]

Conclusion

All together, findings to date from scientific, medical, and journalistic investigations combine to demonstrate that fracking poses significant threats to air, water, health, public safety, climate stability, seismic stability, community cohesion, and long-term economic vitality. Emerging data from a rapidly expanding body of evidence continue to reveal a plethora of recurring problems and harms that cannot be averted or cannot be sufficiently averted through regulatory frameworks. In the words of esteemed pediatrician Jerome Paulson, MD, there is "no evidence that…fracking can operate without risks to human health…. Any claims of safety are based on wishful thinking."[653]

[651] Rafferty, M. A., & Limonik, E. (2013). Is shale gas drilling an energy solution or public health crisis? *Public Health Nursing, 30*(5), 454-462. doi: 10.1111/phn.12036
[652] Finkel, M. L. & Law, A. (2011). The rush to drill for natural gas: A public health cautionary tale. *American Journal of Public Health*, *101*(5), 784-785. Retrieved from http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3076392/
[653] Paulson, J. (2015, August 23). Fracking near schools: DEP fails to keep drillers a healthy distance away from children. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Retrieved from http://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2015/08/24/Fracking-near-schools-DEP-fails-to-keep-drillers-a-healthy-distance-from-children/stories/201508240030