

CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE AND HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FLUIDS



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The oil and natural gas industry regularly demonstrates its commitment to transparency with communities around the country, all while developing the country's immense energy resources in ways that keep the public and the environment safe. When it comes to chemical disclosure and hydraulic fracturing fluid, the industry works to make information accessible to regulators and the public through a variety of methods.

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 99.5 percent of the contents of most hydraulic fracturing fluid systems are well-known and widely disclosed: water (90 percent) and sand (9.5 percent).

The substances that are most commonly found in the additional 0.5 percent of hydraulic fracturing fluid systems are also commonly found in food, cosmetics, detergents and other household products. The chemicals make it easier to deliver proppant (or sand) to the fractures, reduce friction to reduce the required pumping horsepower, and prevent corrosion and scale buildup. The combination of chemicals or "recipe" used by certain service companies, who typically carry out the actual fracturing operations, can be of a proprietary nature and receive similar protections from disclosure offered to other industries.

The industry generally protects specific ingredients within additives that commonly represent less than a thousandth of a percent (0.001 percent) of the total hydraulic fracturing fluid volume. Even those narrow circumstances where precise chemical identification is not publicly released:

- The industry typically provides chemical category information that allows the public to identify the class and function of the chemical, and
- States require that the precise identity of these ingredients be disclosed to regulators (and, if necessary, to physicians and emergency responders) when the information is needed.

Safety data sheets (SDSs), which contain safety, health, and environmental information for all ingredients (including those denoted as proprietary), are always available onsite for the substances used in the hydraulic fracturing process. These sheets are mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

To maintain a high level of transparency with communities, companies report specific information about fracking fluid used at each individual well via a voluntary, publicly accessible website: FracFocus.org. This chemical disclosure registry was developed in 2011 by the Groundwater Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, two organizations comprised of state regulators that oversee the natural gas and oil industry. FracFocus.org also serves as a reporting method to meet state disclosure requirements for 27 states.



Looking for information about a
well site near you?



Search for nearby well sites that have been hydraulically fractured to see what chemicals were used in the process.

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