

WHAT THEY'VE SAID ABOUT  
**HYDRAULIC FRACTURING**

Advances in combining hydraulic fracturing with horizontal drilling unleashed the current wave of energy production that has propelled America to the top spot in global natural gas production and, as of next year, oil production. Due to its smaller surface footprint, a Department of Energy report credits the process with “environmental benefits” such as “protection of groundwater resources” and “fewer wells drilled, resulting in less waste requiring disposal.”

(1999 DOE: “[Environmental Benefits of Advanced Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Technology](#).”)



Former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator:

**THERE IS NO “PROVEN CASE WHERE THE FRACKING PROCESS ITSELF HAS AFFECTED WATER.”** — Lisa Jackson

Pain at the Pump: Policies that Suppress Domestic Production of Oil and Gas: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight & Gov't Reform, 112th Cong. (May 24, 2011). Former Administrator Jackson reiterated this belief in an April 30, 2012 interview, stating “In no case have we made a definitive determination that the fracking process has caused chemicals to enter groundwater.” See [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_tBUTHB\\_7Cs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tBUTHB_7Cs) (last visited July 25, 2013).

Former Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director:

**BLM “HAS NEVER SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF IMPACTS TO GROUNDWATER FROM THE USE OF FRACKING TECHNOLOGY ON WELLS THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY [BLM]. . . . WE BELIEVE, BASED UPON THE TRACK RECORD SO FAR, THAT IT IS SAFE.”**

— Former BLM Director Bob Abbey

Challenges Facing Domestic Oil and Gas Development: Review of Bureau of Land Management/U.S. Forest Service Ban on Horizontal Drilling on Federal Lands: Hearing before the Subcomm. on Energy and Mineral Resources of the H. Comm. on Natural Resources and the Subcomm. on Conservation, Energy and Forestry of the H. Comm. on Agriculture, 112th Cong. (July 8, 2011).

Former Secretary of the Interior:

**“[HYDRAULIC FRACTURING] IS CREATING AN ENERGY REVOLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES ALONE... I WOULD SAY TO EVERYBODY THAT HYDRAULIC FRACKING IS SAFE”**

— Ken Salazar

Former Obama Administration U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, 9/18/13, New Mexico State University Domenici Public Policy Conference.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator:

**“I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY DEFINITIVE DETERMINATIONS THAT WOULD CONTRADICT THOSE STATEMENTS [BY LISA JACKSON, REFERENCED ABOVE].”** — Gina McCarthy

Questions for the Record, Gina McCarthy Confirmation Hearing: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Env. and Pub. Works, 113th Cong. (April 29, 2013), available at: [http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=9a1465d3-1490-4788-95d0-7d178b3dc320](http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=9a1465d3-1490-4788-95d0-7d178b3dc320)

Acting Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director:

**“I DON'T THINK WE ARE AWARE OF ANY CLEAR APPROVING CASES.”**

— Neil Kornze

The FY 2014 Budget Request for the Bureau of Land Management: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the H. Comm. on Appropriations, 113th Cong. (May 7, 2013).

Secretary of the Interior:

**“I’M NOT AWARE OF DOCUMENTED CASES.”** — Sally Jewell

The Department of the Interior Operations, Management, and Rulemaking: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Nat. Res., 113th Cong. (July 17, 2013).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Head Advisor for the Office of Water:

**“NO, I AM NOT [AWARE OF DOCUMENTED CASES].”** — Ken Kopocis

Hearing on the Nominations of Kenneth Kopocis to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), James Jones to be Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention of the EPA, and Avi Garbow to be General Counsel for the EPA: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Env. and Pub. Works, 113th Cong. (July 23, 2013).

Secretary of Energy:

**“TO MY KNOWLEDGE, I STILL HAVE NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF FRACKING, PER SE, CONTAMINATING GROUNDWATER.”** — Ernest Moniz

Amy Harder, “Moniz: Natural Gas Will Need Carbon-Capture ‘Eventually,’” NAT’L J. (Aug. 1, 2013), available at: <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/moniz-natural-gas-will-need-carbon-capture-eventually-20130801>.

Former U.S. Secretary of Energy:

**“DRILLING FOR SHALE GAS CAN BE DONE SAFELY, AND AT LEAST ONE PROMINENT STUDY ABOUT THE RISKS IS NOT CREDIBLE... THIS IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO IN A SAFE WAY”**

— Steven Chu

Former Energy Secretary Dr. Steven Chu’s keynote address at the 2013 Think About Energy Summit in Columbus, Ohio. September 17, 2013

Moreover, a significant body of both government and private research, including DOI’s own research finalized since the original May 2012 proposed rule for hydraulic fracturing on public lands, continues to show that there are no documented cases of hydraulic fracturing contaminating groundwater, from the Marcellus Shale to California.

#### Such Major Studies Include:

“Ground Water Protection Council, “State Oil and Gas Agency Groundwater Investigations and their Role in Advancing Regulatory Reforms, a Two-State Review: Ohio and Texas” (August 2011) (for “over 16,000 horizontal shale gas wells, with multi-staged hydraulic fracturing stimulations,” not “a single groundwater contamination incident resulting from site preparation, drilling, well construction, completion, hydraulic fracturing stimulation, or production operations at any . . . horizontal shale gas well” from 1983-2007 in Ohio and from 1993-2008 in Texas)”

Available at: <http://www.gwpc.org/sites/default/files/State%20oil%20%26%20Gas%20Agency%20Groundwater%20Investigations.pdf>.

“CardnoENTRIX, “Hydraulic Fracturing Study PXP Inglewood Oil Field” (Oct. 10, 2012) (“Before-and-after monitoring of groundwater quality in monitor wells did not show impacts from high-volume hydraulic fracturing,” among other findings of no environmental or health impacts, for 1,000 acre oil field in Los Angeles County, the largest urban contiguous oil field in the country)”

Available at: <http://www.ourenergypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Hydraulic-Fracturing-StudyInglewood-Field10102012.pdf>.

“U.S. Geological Survey and Duke University, et al., “Shallow Groundwater Quality and Geochemistry in the Fayetteville Shale Gas-Production Area, North-Central Arkansas, 2011” (Jan. 9, 2013) (for 127 shallow drinking water wells in Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas, “shale gas development, at least in this area, has been done without negatively impacting drinking water resources.”)

Available at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5273/sir2012-5273.pdf>.

“Samuel Flewelling, et al., “Hydraulic Fracture Height Limits and Fault Interactions in Tight Oil and Gas Formations” (July 26, 2013) (for over 12,000 hydraulic fracturing simulations across North America, “[d]irect hydraulic communication between tight formations and shallow groundwater via induced fractures and faults is not a realistic expectation . . . .”)

Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/grl.50707/abstract>.