











Agency	Issue	Status
 <p>EPA</p>	<p>2010 Congressionally-directed study on the Relationship Between Hydraulic Fracturing and Drinking Water.</p>	<p>Final Study Plan released on November 7, 2011 after industry sent a letter to Administrator Jackson questioning the transparency and scientific validity of the study approach. First report due to Congress by December 31, 2012.</p>
	<p>Oil and Natural Gas New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants Proposed Rule.</p>	<p>Comment period closed on November 30, 2011. Industry groups argue that EPA's proposed drilling air rules are too broad, suggest they may overstep Clean Air Act authority by targeting low-emitting equipment, and request that EPA postpone implementation (April 2012) due to the technical difficulty in meeting the many requirements.</p>
	<p>2010 Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELG) Program Plan under the CWA Includes development of pretreatment standards for produced water and flowback from shale gas operations.</p>	<p>API Comments were submitted on November 22, 2011 and final regulations are slated for 2014.</p>
	<p>Permitting Guidance for oil and gas hydraulic fracturing activities using diesel fuels.</p>	<p>Draft guidance was released to stakeholders in the summer of 2011. Revised proposal sent to OMB on December 14, 2011.</p>
	<p>NRDC Petition for Review of EPA's 1988 Regulatory Determination for E&P Wastes.</p>	<p>API submitted a response letter to EPA on April 21, 2011 arguing that EPA's original 1988 findings remain valid today. The Agency has taken no formal action.</p>
	<p>Earthjustice Petition on Regulating Hydraulic Chemicals under TSCA Section 21.</p>	<p>EPA denied the petitioners TSCA Section 4 request for issuance of test rules. On November 23, 2011 EPA announced it would grant a portion of the remainder of the petition by launching a stakeholder and public engagement process to seek input on the design and scope of TSCA reporting requirements.</p>
 <p>DOE</p>	<p>In his "Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future" President Obama directed the DOE Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) Natural Gas Subcommittee to make recommendations to improve the safety and environmental performance of natural gas hydraulic fracturing from shale gas formations.</p>	<p>The Subcommittee issued its first 90-day report on August 18, 2011 including recommendations on what federal agencies, state agencies, and industry should be doing to ensure safer operating practices. A second 90-day report was released on November 18, 2011 and included a scorecard on progress made to date.</p>
 <p>DOI</p>	<p>BLM Is developing a rule or guidance on hydraulic fracturing with the focus on disclosure of chemicals used in the fracturing process, wellbore integrity and water use and disposal of flow back water.</p>	<p>BLM draft regulations reported by media sources in January, 2012.</p>
 <p>USDA</p>	<p>George Washington National Forest- included in its draft Forest Plan a ban on horizontal drilling.</p>	<p>The comment period closed on October 17th and a final forest plan is expected in March or April.</p>
	<p>Wayne National Forest - 3,000 acres of public lands in the Wayne National Forest were scheduled to be auctioned at a federal oil and gas lease sale in early December 2011. The sale was cancelled. The USFS is conducting a Review of New Information (RONI) to review the best scientific info available with regard to surface effects of deep horizontal drilling and lateral hydraulic fracturing and determine if the 2006 Forest Plan needs to be amended or revised.</p>	<p>A study has not been completed.</p>

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 <p>DOD</p>	<p>Delaware River Basin Commission (whose federal representative is the US Army Corps of Engineers) - issued revised draft natural gas drilling regulations in November. New York State and several NGOs have filed lawsuits against the Army Corps and the DRBC to prepare an EIS before final regulations are approved and API has filed motions to intervene in those suits.</p> <p>Susquehanna River Basin Commission- issued proposed natural gas drilling regulations in June.</p>	<p>Multiple meetings to vote on final regulation have been postponed and no new meeting date has been set. Oral argument in the consolidated suites has been scheduled for April 25, 2012.</p> <p>The comment period closed November 10 and final regulations are expected Q1 or Q2 2012. The SRBC has also filed an amicus brief in the DRBC lawsuits described above.</p>
 <p>DOT</p>	<p>Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued an ANPR on August 25 regarding new rules for gas pipelines, including whether new safety regulations for rural gas gathering lines would be required, which would impact development of the Marcellus Shale.</p>	<p>The comment period closed on January 20, 2012.</p>
 <p>SEC</p>	<p>In August, the SEC began requesting information from publicly-traded natural gas companies regarding HF chemicals and efforts to minimize water use and other environmental impacts. In a related development in December, Institutional Shareholder Services, an influential proxy advisory firm, finalized a new policy supporting shareholder requests for greater disclosure related to HF.</p>	<p>Unknown, but the SEC may eventually require gas companies to divulge HF related risks in public filings with the Commission.</p>
 <p>HHS</p>	<p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is calling for a wider study of the potential public health effects of natural gas development.</p> <p>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) participated in the analysis of groundwater samples from incidents involving oil and gas operations in Pavillion, Wyoming and Bradford Country, Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>There is no specific timeline.</p> <p>ATSDR has issued health consultations for the sites in question.</p>
 <p>COMMERCE</p>	<p>NOAA continues to measure and report on air quality issues from oil and gas exploration.</p>	<p>NOAA published the report "Hydrocarbon Emissions Characterization in the Colorado Front Range - A Pilot Study" which addresses air quality in the Denver-Julesburg Fossil Fuel Basin in Colorado.</p>
 <p>STATE</p>	<p>The Global Shale Gas Initiative promotes responsible shale energy development to visiting delegations from other countries.</p>	<p>Seminars for visiting foreign delegations continue.</p>