Shielding ensures safety

In the hydraulic fracturing process, there are about 10 inches of steel and concrete shielding underground aquifers. That’s comparable to an armored door on a bank vault.

Hydraulic fracturing wells go far below underground aquifers. They reach approximately 6,000 feet or more under the earth’s surface — almost the distance of 4 Empire State buildings stacked on top of each other.

Ten inches of steel and concrete; that’s the shield protecting Mother Nature as rigs extract much-needed clean-burning natural gas from deep beneath shale formations from Pennsylvania to Texas.

This vault-thick armor isn’t just on a few of the natural gas wells, it’s the industry standard. Hydraulically fractured wells have multiple layers of steel and concrete to protect underground aquifers and isolate the wellbore. On top of this protection, state regulators and the industry are also making sure that well construction meets an additional host of rigorous safety standards.