Industry, working through organizations like the American Petroleum Institute (API), has a long history of developing consensus based “best practices.” These best practices are developed by industry experts in a variety of areas of technology and operations and go through a rigorous review process before being adopted. They are then evaluated regularly to incorporate evolving technology and operational practices.

Building on existing API standards and practices pertaining to oil and gas extraction, we have developed a set of 5 documents which specifically address the risk management issues accompanying unconventional well construction and management. These robust practices help to protect the public by providing a blueprint for strong, carefully tended wells. They were created to meet or exceed federal requirements while remaining flexible enough to accommodate the variations in state regulatory frameworks that often occur due to fundamental differences in regional geology and other factors.

Copies of the documents are available at www.api.org.

**Overview of Industry Guidance/Best Practices on Hydraulic Fracturing (HF)**

- Highlights industry practices for well construction and integrity for wells that will be hydraulically fractured.
- The guidance identifies actions to protect shallow groundwater aquifers, while also enabling economically viable development of oil and natural gas resources.

- Identifies best practices used to minimize environmental and societal impacts associated with the acquisition, use, management, treatment, and disposal of water and other fluids associated with the process of hydraulic fracturing.
- Focuses primarily on issues associated with hydraulic fracturing pursued in deep shale gas development, but also describes the important distinctions related to hydraulic fracturing in other applications.

- Identifies the best practices for minimizing surface environmental impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing operations.
- Focused on protecting surface water, soils, wildlife, other surface ecosystems, and nearby communities.
- Includes API’s policy on chemical disclosure:
  - API supports transparency regarding the disclosure of the chemical ingredients;
  - States are the proper authority to determine reporting requirements and formatting of reporting and public disclosure;
  - Proprietary information should be protected; and
  - Hydraulic fracturing is effectively regulated by numerous federal, state and local requirements. Hydraulic fracturing should not be placed exclusively under the purview of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) or any other federal statute.

- Helps ensure the well is properly designed and constructed to contain the hydrocarbons through the well bore and isolate them from ground water aquifers. This is accomplished though the use of casing, cement, and mechanical barriers.
- Included is information on industry cementing practices. A well-designed cement job optimizes cement placement through considerations such as laboratory-tested slurry design, honoring pore pressure/fracture gradient window, use of spacers/pre-flushes, proper density and rheological hierarchy, fluid compatibility and adequate centralization.

- Provides environmentally sound practices for domestic onshore oil and gas production operations, including fracturing. Applies to all production facilities, including produced water handling facilities. Operational coverage begins with the design and construction of access roads and well locations, and includes reclamation, abandonment, and restoration operations.
- Annex A provides guidance for a company to consider as a “Good Neighbor.”
API's documents specific to hydraulic fracturing build on years of industry's best practice work by incorporating and citing the following additional standards, recommended practices and technical reports:

- API Spec 4F, Drilling and Well Servicing Structures
- API RP 4G, Recommended Practice for Use and Procedures for Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Drilling Well Service Structures
- API RP 5A3, Recommended Practice on Thread Compounds for Casing, Tubing, and Line Pipe
- API RP 5A5, Field Inspection of New Casing, Tubing, and Plain-end Drill Pipe
- API Spec 5B, Specification for Threading, Gauging, and Thread Inspection of Casing, Tubing, and Line Pipe Threads
- API RP 5B1, Gauging and Inspection of Casing, Tubing, and Line Pipe Threads
- API RP 5C1, Recommended Practice for Case and Use of Casing and Tubing
- API TR 5C3, Technical Report on Equations and Calculations for Casing, Tubing, and Line Pipe Used as Casing or Tubing; and Performance Properties Tables for Casing and Tubing
- API RP 5C5, Recommended Practice on Procedures for Testing Casing and Tubing Connections
- API RP 5C6, Welding Connections to Pipe
- API Spec 5CT, Specification for Casing and Tubing
- API Spec 6A, Specification for Wellhead and Christmas Tree Equipment
- API Spec 7B-11C, Specification for Internal Combustion Reciprocating Engines for Oil-Field Service
- API RP 7C-11F, Recommended Practice for Installation, Maintenance, and Operation of Internal-Combustion Engines
- API Spec 10A, Specification for Cements and Materials for Well Cementing
- API RP 10B-2, Recommended Practice for Testing Well Cements
- API RP 10B-3, Recommended Practice on Testing of Deepwater Well Cement Formulations
- API RP 10B-4, Recommended Practice on Preparation and Testing of Foams and Cement Slurries at Atmospheric Pressure
- API RP 10B-5, Recommended Practice on Determination of Shrinkage and Expansion of Well Cement Formulations at Atmospheric Pressure
- API RP 10B-6, Recommended Practice on Determining the Static Gel Strength of Cement Formulations
- API Spec 10D, Specification for Bow Spring Casing Centralizers
- API RP 10D-2, Recommended Practice for Centralizer Placement and Stop Collar Testing
- API RP 10F, Recommended Practice for Performance Testing of Cementing Float Equipment
- API TR 10TR1, Cement Sheath Evaluation
- API TR 10TR2, Shrinkage and Expansion in Oilwell Cements
- API TR 10TR3, Temperatures for API Cement Operating Thickening Time Tests
- API TR 10TR4, Technical Report on Considerations Regarding Selection of Centralizers for Primary Cementing Operations
- API RP 11ER, Recommended Practice for Guarding of Pumping Units
- API Bulletin 11K, Data Sheet for Design of Air Exchange Coolers
- API Spec 11N, Specification for Lease Automatic Custody Transfer (LACT) Equipment
- API Spec 12B, Specification for Bolted Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids
- API Spec 12D, Specification for Field Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids
- API Spec 12F, Specification for Shop Welded Tanks for Storage of Production Liquids
Selected Industry Guidance/Best Practices on Hydraulic Fracturing (HF)

Copies of the documents are available at www.api.org.