

# THE HYDROLOGY OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

## QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Regulatory/Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **FUMBLE:** \$29.1 million to duplicate existing research on hydraulic fracturing
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Examine existing research prior to undertaking new research to prevent duplication

How much is too much to spend to find out something states already figured out? Apparently the federal government thinks \$29.1 million is a bargain. Congress directed EPA to study the effect of the oil and gas extraction technique called hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources and gave it millions of dollars to do so.<sup>287</sup> The project advanced despite research from states, which did not find a connection between hydraulic fracturing (a 70-year-old technology) and ground-water contamination.<sup>288</sup>

After six years of study, EPA concurred with the findings made by state studies. In fact its report reflected common sense. The report concluded that when done correctly and in line with

existing state regulations, hydraulic fracturing is a safe technology that does not endanger water resources by itself.<sup>289</sup>

## **RECOVERY**

Everyone wants access to clean water—especially rig workers and local oil and gas companies since they and their families drink from the same local water supplies as everyone else. But the federal government should not abuse taxpayer resources in an attempt to target industries it does not like. In the future Congress and agencies should look to existing research and only invest new money in areas where legitimate gaps in knowledge exist.

[To find more information, please visit:](#)

[EPA: Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources](#)

[CRS Report: Hydraulic Fracturing and Safe Drinking Water Act Regulatory Issues](#)