



2011 Ultimate Toolkit on Shale Gas, Hydraulic Fracturing, Fracking, Hydrofrac, the Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Controversy, Environmental and Safety Risks, Water Pollution (Ringbound and CD-ROM)

U.S. Government, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Energy, U.S. Geological Survey

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This ringbound book and electronic book on CD-ROM provides a comprehensive guide to every aspect of shale gas, including the process of hydraulic fracturing, also known as hydrofrac or fracking, to extract natural gas, along with gas exploration and production in the Marcellus shale field of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. There is comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the issue, including the ongoing controversy about the environmental and safety risks arising from possible water pollution and drinking water contamination. Contents include material from the EPA, USGS, Department of Energy, U.S. Congress, and others. There is a complete reproduction of EPA public meeting comments from events in Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and New York, offering valuable insight into the controversy.. The CD-ROM reproduces over 10,000 pages of technical documents and regulations provide unique details and understanding. While limited production has occurred in the Marcellus Shale to date, drillers in the Barnett Shale of Texas have demonstrated that new technology in the form of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing of the shale (fracturing through the use of high pressure liquids) has helped overcome the flow capacity problem of gas shales. Horizontal drilling is a technique used to expose long sections of the reservoir rock to the wellbore. While a conventional vertical well penetrates and exposes only the thickness of a pay zone (e.g., 50 to 300 feet in the Marcellus shale), horizontal drilling can expose over a mile of reservoir rock for production by steering a drill bit to follow the pay zone. Hydraulic fracture stimulation creates additional flow paths to the well. In this process, fluid is pumped into the formation at high enough pressures and rates to split the rock. Sized particles such as sand are also mixed with the fracturing fluid to hold the crack open once pumping stops. In addition, wells can be oriented to intersect natural fractures that occur in many formations. As the oil and gas industry applies this technology to more wells in more parts of the country, it is important to ensure that the process is safe and environmentally sound. Environmental organizations, public health groups, and local communities have expressed concerns about the potential impact of the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids in wells located in or near underground sources of drinking water. Others have raised concerns about the quantity of water needed to hydraulically fracture oil and gas wells and the disposal of contaminated wastewater from fracturing operations. The CD-ROM is packed with over 10,000 pages reproduced using Adobe Acrobat PDF software - allowing direct viewing on Windows and Macintosh systems. The Acrobat cataloging technology adds enormous value and uncommon functionality to this impressive collection of government documents and material.

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