

# FACT SHEET

## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING



**Hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, is the process of creating fissures or fractures by injecting fluid, usually a mixture of water, sand and special purpose additives, in underground formations to allow natural gas and oil to flow.**

*Fracking has been used by the natural gas and oil industry since the 1940s and has become a key element of natural gas and oil development worldwide. Today, through the use of fracking, combined with sophisticated horizontal drilling technology, extraordinary amounts of natural gas and oil from deep shale formations across the United States are safely produced from areas that were historically unconventional and uneconomical formations.*

*It has made possible the development of the Haynesville Shale in north Louisiana and offers potential for further development of the Brown Dense Shale in north Louisiana and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale in central Louisiana.*

**WATER:** Industry is committed to carefully evaluating water needs and making concerted efforts to utilize alternative sources other than groundwater for use in their operations.

The oil and gas industry and state natural gas and oil regulatory programs place great emphasis on protecting groundwater when it is utilized for drilling operations such as hydraulic fracturing. Of particular note is the recent action taken to reduce the use of underground drinking water for fracturing operations by 78 percent.

Hydraulic fracturing has a 60-year track record of safe operations with the technology utilized in more than one million U.S. wells produced. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Groundwater Protection Council (composed of state water pollution control officials) and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission have extensively studied hydraulic fracturing and found existing state and federal regulations addressed and mitigated potential risks.

With recent growth of hydraulic fracturing, the EPA again is examining this technique, with a new study expected in 2012. We are confident it will affirm the safety of hydraulic fracturing once again.

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FRAC FLUIDS:** Louisiana's Department of Natural Resources has proposed a regulation requiring operators to disclose the composition of water used in hydraulic fracturing practices.

LMOGA and other industry groups have consistently supported public disclosure of hydraulic fracturing chemicals and support the proposed state regulation. The rulemaking process will be completed by fall 2011.

In addition to the state of Louisiana's proposed rule, industry developed a proactive approach to publicly disclose this information. A broad range of industry participants, including local industry groups such as LMOGA, has supported FracFocus.org—a public database registry of hydraulic fracturing fluids developed by the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Commission. The state-based registry of hydraulic fracturing fluids includes information on a well-by-well basis for operations on government and private lands.

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**STRONGER INC. REPORT:** STRONGER Inc., a non-profit organization that conducts voluntary state reviews of oil and natural gas environmental regulations, recently completed its review of the Louisiana program regulating hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas wells.

The review team consisted of three STRONGER members and three observers representing environmental groups, state regulators and the oil and gas industry. The group concluded the Louisiana hydraulic fracturing regulatory program is well managed, and professional in meeting its program objectives.

The Louisiana hydraulic fracturing regulatory program was singled out for its operations in the areas of prompt review of policies and adjustment of regulations in response to Haynesville Shale development, water resource use monitoring and reporting, actions to increase recycling opportunities, and public education and outreach.

Download the full report from the STRONGER website at [www.strongerinc.org](http://www.strongerinc.org).

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** The utilization of hydraulic fracturing has resulted in more jobs, less dependence on foreign oil and a cleaner, smarter energy future for our nation. For example, the Haynesville Shale development was made possible because of hydraulic fracturing and recent advances in horizontal drilling.

As a result, Haynesville has become the largest natural gas field in the continental United States, drilling more than 100 wells per month.

U.S. natural gas reserves have increased from 50 to 100 years. In addition, the play has generated more than \$5.7 billion in new household income, \$10.6 billion in new business sales and over 57,000 new jobs in the state.

This increased economic activity in the state has led to countless announcements of new facility construction and existing facility expansions, such as recent announcements made by Williams Company, Sasol, Cheniere's LNG export facility and more.

*Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, founded in 1923, is a trade association exclusively representing all sectors of the oil and gas industry operating in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico. LMOGA serves exploration and production, refining, transportation, marketing and mid stream companies as well as other firms in the fields of law, engineering, environment, financing and government relations.*

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