

Hydraulic Fracturing in Central North Carolina

Potential Impacts on Triangle Air Quality



Blue Ridge
Environmental Defense League

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Air Pollution From Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking)

The practice known as fracking can seriously impact the communities far beyond where it is occurring.

Almost every day, new reports come out pointing out the dangerous affect fracking has on air quality.

Recent air quality research has discovered alarming results...

- “In addition to the land and water contamination issues, at each stage of production and delivery, tons of toxic volatile compounds, escape and mix with nitrogen oxides from the exhaust of diesel-driven, mobile and stationary equipment to produce ground-level ozone. Ozone combined with particulate matter less than 2.5 microns produces smog (haze).”

Escaping Materials include:

- benzene
- toluene
- ethyl benzene
- xylene
- fugitive natural gas (methane)

- [Chemicals in Natural Gas Operations](#)



Recent air quality research
has discovered alarming results...

“Gas field produced ozone has created a serious air pollution problem similar to that found in large urban areas and can spread up to 200 miles beyond the immediate region where gas is being produced.”



[Chemicals in Natural Gas Operations](#)



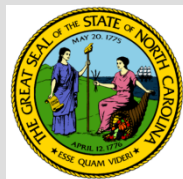
← 250 miles →

Typical Hurricane

Air Pollution From Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking)

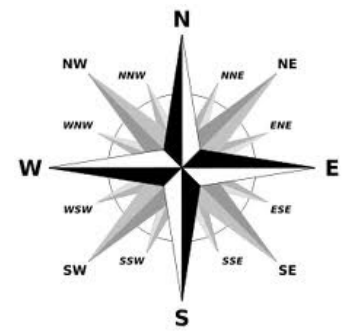
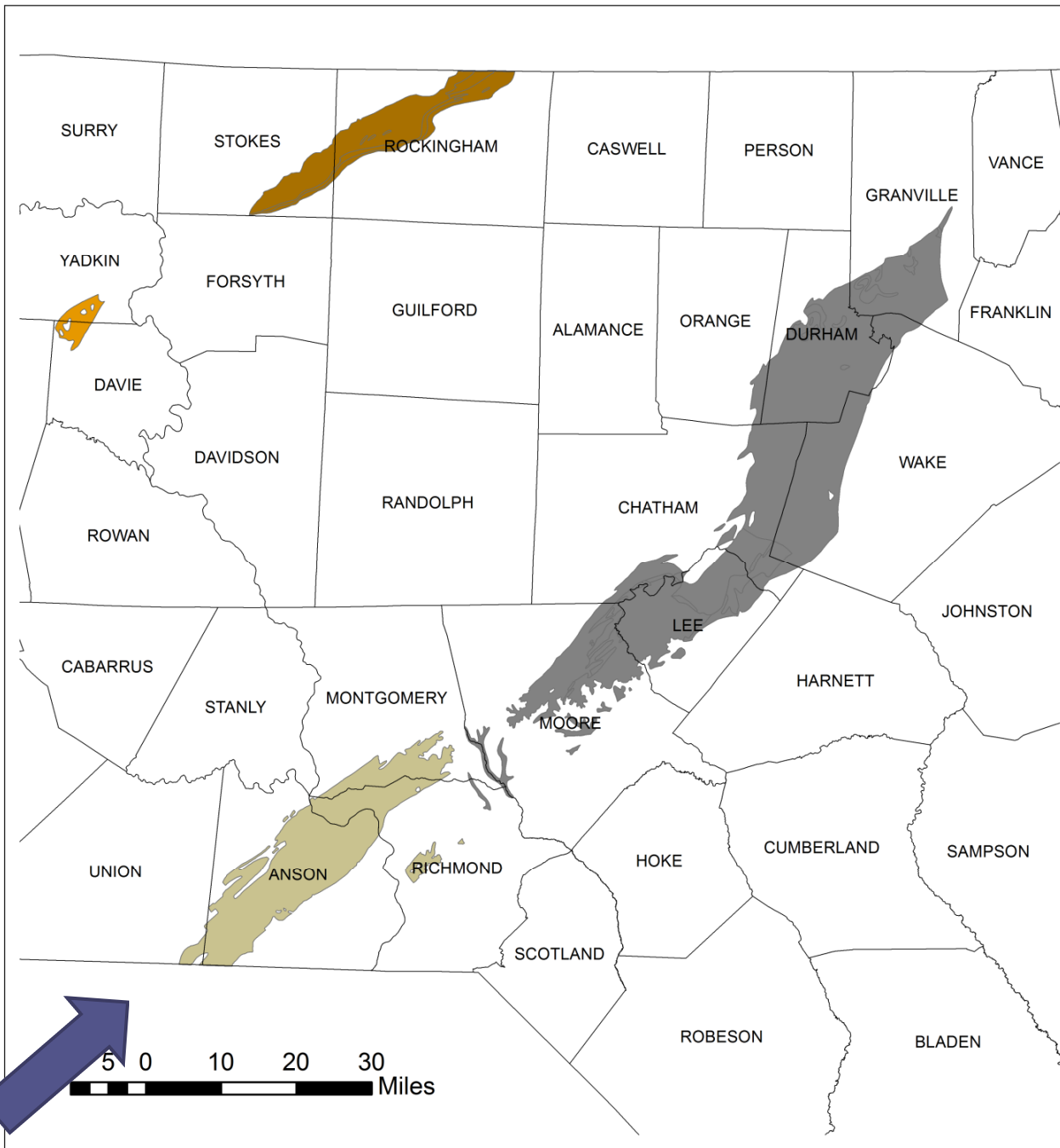
- The area of interest for fracking operations is the Triassic Basin.
- The Triassic Basin is located south and west of the Triangle area.
- Prevailing winds in North Carolina are from the Southwest 10 months of the year.
- Our region would be impacted !

[State Climate Office of North Carolina](#)



Potential Areas of Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking)

The potential for gas bearing shale exists in twelve Central North Carolina Counties, in the path of the prevailing winds.



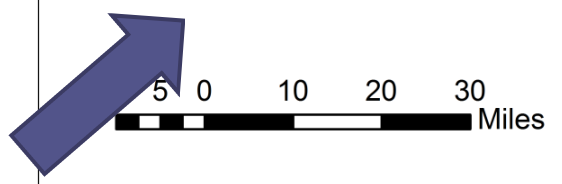
North Carolina Triassic Basins

Major Geologic Belt

- Dan River Basin
- Davie Basin
- Durham-Sanford Subbasins
- Wadesboro Subbasin

For more information contact:
 Clean Water for NC
 Ph: 919-401-9600
www.cwfnc.org

Source: North Carolina Geology, 2007
 North Carolina Geological Survey



Air Pollution From Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking) continued...

- In Utah and Wyoming, ozone levels have surpassed Los Angeles' smoggiest days.
- In Colorado, ozone forming air pollution was recently measured at levels twice what regulators expected.
- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality estimates that air pollution fracking is equal to the pollution caused by all the traffic in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.
- Additionally, an unreleased NOAA report has determined that Erie Colorado has severely elevated levels of ozone causing pollutants.

[Colo. oil, gas pollution top calculations](#)
[NOAA study played role in Erie moratorium](#)

Air Pollution From Shale Gas Extraction (Fracking) continued...

- EPA administrator Lisa Jackson stated, ***“You are going to have huge smog problems where you never had them before.”***



[EPA Chief Promises New Clean Air Rules Related to Fracking](#)



North Carolina Regulations:

“With the exception of internal combustion engine standards, North Carolina’s State air toxics standards will be the only air quality rules that apply to many natural gas production activities, at least until EPA finalizes the proposed new source performance standards and hazardous air pollution rules for natural gas production.”

[Draft North Carolina Shale Gas Study under Session Law 2011-276](#)

The North Carolina Health-Based Air Toxics Standards are in Danger!

[Perdue Backs Air Toxics Changes](#)

[BREDL Report: First They Came For](#)

Position:

Air Quality in the Triangle area stands to be negatively impacted if hydraulic fracturing is allowed in North Carolina.



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Thank you for your interest and attention today.



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