

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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“Fracking Waste”

1.5 to 2 million gallons of Hazardous Fracking Waste - One fracking well can produce approximate 1.5 to 2 millions gallons of contaminated fracking waste water that needs disposal.

(<http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/70050/pages/urbina-day-1-in-progress-p552-small.gif>)

500 Trucks! - It takes 500 Trucks to take the Hazardous Fracking Waste from ONE well!

280 Billion Gallons Nationally - There are approximately 82,000 wells nationally in 17 States produced 280 billion gallons of Toxic Fracking waste in 2012.

(http://www.environmentamerica.org/sites/environment/files/reports/EA_FrackingNumbers_scrn.pdf)

Radioactive & Hazardous ó The Fracking waste is known to have a combination of 600 of hazardous chemicals. Also it is known to be radioactive.

Hazardous to Health & Environment ó Fracking waste can cause several diseases in human such as cancers, respiratory disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, circulatory disorders, developmental disorders and brain disorders. It can also be devastating to environment: water, soil, and animals.

What do they do with millions of gallons of hazardous fracking waste?

- **Injection Wells** ó Millions of gallons of frack waste is injected thousands of feet underground, contaminating the earth and water sources below. This method has also been known to produce earthquakes. Injection wells are illegal in North Carolina.
- **On-Site Waste Pits** ó Fracking waste is stored in on-site “opened” fracking pits. Dangerous pits are open to animal and bird wildlife. Birds such as storks have been seen drinking this dangerous mix doing untold harm. Toxic chemical fumes are emitted. Heavy rains and flood cause the pits to overflow spilling into our soil, rivers, lakes, streams and ponds. Some pits are opened for life or simply covered with dirt when the fracking operation is complete.
- **Dump In Landfills** ó The hazardous fracking waste can be dumped in municipal solid waste landfills without US government regulations. How? Fracking waste is federally protected under the E&P waste exemption. E&P (Exploration and Production) waste includes all waste (liquid, solid, sludge, metal, etc.) that is produced from exploration, development, and production of oil and gas. Waste from fracking is legally part of the E & P waste stream. Once the fracking waste is mixed with sawdust, coal ash or other substances to make into a solid or sludge, it can be legally dumped in our landfills as E&P waste.



Even though E & P waste is exempt and not considered hazardous, is it still hazardous? In other words, does it still have the same lethal poisonous effects that can harm our health and environment?

What does the EPA say? “The exemption does not mean these wastes (E & P waste) could not present a hazard to human health and the environment.”

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/special/oil/oil-gas.pdf>

Radioactive Brine Water! - When the natural gas is being extracted, brine is water that has been carried, along with natural gas, from deep below earth's surface up through a gas well bore. This liquid is then separated at the well site from natural gas in condensate tanks. The brine has high levels of salt and some naturally occurring radioactive material.

What is commonly done with this radioactive brine water waste?



- Reused to treat roads from snow and ice. This dangerous radioactive brine from fracking is then washed away into the soil and neighboring streams, rivers, and lakes after rains or after the ice and snow melts.
- Sent to municipal water treatment facilities. It is very expensive to treat radioactive water. Special equipment is needed. Many citizens are very uncomfortable with drinking water that came from radioactive fracking brine water.
- Treated and dumped back into our water supplies such as rivers and lakes.

Act and protect your family and community citizens!

1. Do not allow the disposal of Exploration and Production-also known as fracking waste in your local or regional municipal landfills.
2. Do not allow fracking waste to be injected back into the ground nor stored in open waste pits.
3. Fracking brine water should not be treated or discharged by the local waste water treatment plant.
4. Land application of fracking sludges, liquids, or other wastes must not be allowed.
Example: Treating road with the fracking brine in the winter.

**You have a right to clean safe streams, rivers, groundwater, soil and air!
Organize your group with BREDL!
www.BREDL.org**