

POLICY POSITION OF API ON CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OPERATIONS

Hydraulic fracturing is and has been a routine industry practice since 1947. Hydraulic fracturing operations have safely enabled increased production of domestic oil and natural gas in more than 1 million wells over the last 60-plus years.¹ While America has abundant natural gas resources, most cannot be produced without this technology. Experts estimate that 90 percent of gas wells drilled in the United States utilize hydraulic fracturing in operations² and studies have shown this to be an environmentally safe practice.³

States have played, and continue to play, the critical role in the oversight and management of hydraulic fracturing operations and are best positioned to tailor requirements to local conditions and to closely monitor environmental performance. API supports transparency regarding the disclosure of the chemical ingredients used in hydraulic fracturing operations to ensure that state regulators have the ability to assess potential incident response needs and plan accordingly, with appropriate confidentiality protections.

Additionally, we endorse state programs that balance the need to protect oil field service company confidential business information with the public's need to know. Subject to an agreement of confidentiality, we support disclosure of proprietary formulations upon request by designated state agency representatives and health professionals in the event of an emergency, when the designated state agency representatives and health professionals have demonstrated a need to know such information in order to treat or diagnose patients. States must require the designated individuals to keep the supplied information confidential.

Hydraulic fracturing should not be regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) or any other federal statute. Since hydraulic fracturing has been successfully managed at the state level, it would be problematic, unnecessary and duplicative to have any additional requirements at the federal level.

¹ "States Experience with Hydraulic Fracturing, A Survey of the Interstate Oil and Gas Commission", July 2002.

² Testimony Submitted To The House Committee On Energy And Commerce By Victor Carrillo, Chairman, Texas Railroad Commission, Representing The Interstate Oil And Gas Compact Commission. February 10, 2005.
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/commissioners/carrillo/press/energytestimony.html>

³ Environmental Protection Agency, "[Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing of Coalbed Methane Wells on Underground Sources of Drinking Water](#)," Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water report, June 2004, accessed December 6, 2006; Ground Water Protection Council, "State Oil and Gas Regulations Designed to Protect Water Resources", May 2009; Ground Water Protection Council, "Inventory and Extent of Hydraulic Fracturing in Coalbed Methane Wells in the Producing States", 1998.