

News Release



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Hydraulic Fracturing: Safe, Reliable and Vital to the Rockies *House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources hearing highlights the exemplary job state regulators are doing to protect drinking water*

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) defended the use of hydraulic fracturing today as a safe, reliable and vital industry practice used for over sixty years to stimulate production from natural gas reservoirs. Changes to current federal law concerning hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” would diminish the ability to reach President Obama’s stated energy goals of increasing energy security, increasing renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Hydraulic fracturing is performed tens of thousands of times each year with an exemplary safety record and there are no documented cases of contamination to drinking water. Like all procedures surrounding the development of energy, hydraulic fracturing is already regulated by hundreds of local, state, and federal laws, and the procedure has never been subject to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA).

“Today’s hearing of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources highlighted the debate on hydraulic fracture stimulation,” said Kathleen Sgamma, IPAMS Director of Government Affairs. “On the one hand, there was reasoned discussion of the ways that states are conscientiously regulating fracking, and why another layer of federal oversight is not necessary. On the other hand, there were those who wish to submit the procedure to another layer of unnecessary federal oversight. Why bring in the federal government to over-regulate a procedure that has been safely managed by states for over sixty years?”

“There are impacts that need to be managed with any energy development, including renewables. As state regulators mentioned at today’s hearing, by focusing on a problem that doesn’t exist, resources are diverted away from other activities that are truly high risk.”

“Why is Rep. Diana DeGette so intent on over-regulating hydraulic fracturing, when the EPA under both the Clinton and Bush administrations found it to be a safe and effective process with no documented cases of underground water contamination. She is ignoring the expertise of regulators from 30 states who do not want federal regulation of fracking, and the Ground Water Protection Council, which has scientifically studied the issue for several years. All to put in jeopardy her constituents in the natural gas industry who directly provide \$11.32 billion to the economy of Colorado. She’s ignoring that constituency to satisfy the environmental lobby in its efforts to hamstring the industry.”

(more)

Advances in drilling technologies, such as fracking and horizontal drilling, are enabling energy companies to develop reserves not previously deemed possible. Fracking has enabled the United States to increase its reserves to such an extent that we now have the sixth largest reserves in the world, up from fourteenth a decade ago. Since natural gas emits just over half the CO2 of coal, the United States will need even more natural gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change.

Helpful Links:

[Ground Water Protection Council Study](#)

[2004 EPA Study](#)

[Colorado School of Mines Study](#)

[Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission \(IOGCC\) resolution to retain state primacy on fracking](#)

[Letter on fracking from Carol Browner, EPA Administrator, dated May 5, 1995](#)

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About IPAMS

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions, industry consultants, and their 150,000 employees who are committed to environmentally responsible natural gas and oil development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.