

Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas Extraction

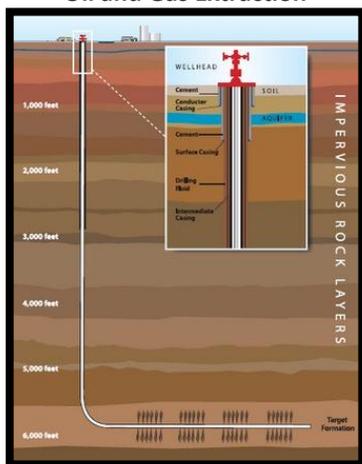


Diagram from energytomorrow.org



Oil & Gas Production Well Testing Services

Hydraulic Fracturing, or fracking, of oil and gas wells is a process for extracting the resource from geological formations that would otherwise be cost prohibitive, such as shale. The process uses a fracking fluid, which is a slurry of water, chemicals and sand that are forced into the well at high enough pressure to cause fractures, or cracks, in the formation that allow the previously trapped oil and gas to be released. The sand, or proppant material, is forced into the fractures to hold them open to keep the oil or gas flowing.

In the past, wells were typically found in low-populated, rural areas, but as populations and the number of wells increase, residents find themselves closer and closer to these drilling operations. Since many of the chemicals used in the fracking fluids are known to be toxic, this has raised concerns for the health and safety of the residents from the environmental impacts of the fracking process. One of the main concerns is aquifer contamination that would affect residents using wells as their source of drinking water.

The US Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a national study on the potential impacts of fracking on groundwater. Initial findings should be released later this year with another report to be released in 2014. Anyone in the vicinity of oil and gas wells should be diligent in monitoring their water quality to ensure their and their family's health and safety from possible groundwater contamination. It is recommended that wells within 2-5 miles of fracking operations have baseline tests performed on their well water before production begins, and tested again during the production process to ensure that the process is not contaminating the aquifer supplying water to the well. As some water quality issues take time to develop, it is also recommended to have your water tested again 30 days after production has stopped.

Accurate Environmental Labs has established a 3 tier panel of tests for anyone concerned about possible groundwater contamination resulting from oil and gas drilling operations. In fact, Accurate Labs is one of only a few labs that can test for Methane and Ethane, which are common gasses released by the hydraulic fracturing process. If you have any questions or concerns about the quality of your water and what tests are best suited to your situation, contact Accurate Environmental Labs so they can assist you in making that determination. Accurate Labs is a nationally certified environmental laboratory using cutting edge technology to produce the highest quality data. Strict quality control procedures ensure that results are accurate and precise, and that they will hold up even under the most severe scrutiny.

Contact Accurate Environmental Labs for more information about water quality testing and how they can help protect you and your family's health by aiding in the detection of groundwater contamination. Accurate Environmental can also provide sampling services for anyone who does not want, or is unable, to do the sampling themselves. **Call (800) 516-LABS for more information or visit us online at www.accuratelabs.com.**