

Dow Jones Reprints: This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers, use the Order Reprints tool at the bottom of any article or visit [www.djreprints.com](http://www.djreprints.com)

[See a sample reprint in PDF format.](#)

[Order a reprint of this article now](#)

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
WSJ.com

BUSINESS | APRIL 28, 2011, 4:57 P.M. ET

## EPA Stance on Natural-Gas Recovery Gets Support

By RYAN TRACY

WASHINGTON—Diesel fuel shouldn't be added to drilling fluids used to recover natural gas, the head of the American Gas Association said Thursday.

The comments from Dave McCurdy, the industry group's president and CEO, came days after the Environmental Protection Agency said it would more closely regulate the use of diesel fuel in hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," a process that involves injecting drilling fluids into wells to free oil and natural gas trapped in shale formations deep underground.

"Diesel should not be used in fracking fluid," Mr. McCurdy told reporters after a speech Thursday.

"It's a question of holding people accountable that they shouldn't be using diesel in the fracking process," Mr. McCurdy said. His association represents 199 energy companies, according to its website.

Some drilling companies say they no longer use diesel as an ingredient in fracturing fluid. Diesel had been a convenient additive because it can help other chemicals disperse in water and companies already maintained it on-site.

But the EPA, which is barred from regulating other aspects of hydraulic fracturing, does have the authority to regulate the underground injection of fracturing fluid if the fluid contains diesel, and recently the agency has started to move forward to do so.

"We are in the process of engaging the public, industry, states and environmental groups as we develop permitting guidance for companies that use diesel fuel," EPA said in a statement Thursday. "Our intention is to issue draft guidance for public comment, following a dialogue with stakeholders."

Copyright 2011 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit [www.djreprints.com](http://www.djreprints.com)