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Halliburton to Give EPA Hydraulic-Fracturing Data

By [TENNILLE TRACY](#)

WASHINGTON—[Halliburton](#) Co. agreed to provide the Obama administration with thousands of pages of data on hydraulic fracturing, ending a showdown between the company and the administration that led the Environmental Protection Agency to subpoena the documents in November.

The company will hand over relevant documents to the agency by Jan. 31. The EPA initially had asked the Houston-based company to submit the documents by Tuesday.

"Over the past few weeks, we have provided more documents and will continue to work diligently with the EPA to provide the documents," a Halliburton spokeswoman said.

The EPA is seeking the documents as part of a study it is doing on hydraulic fracturing, a process in which natural-gas drillers create fractures in underground rock formations to extract natural gas.

The EPA is examining whether the process contaminates drinking water, a claim environmental groups already have made. The agency expects to release its study in 2012.

As part of its research, the EPA asked nine companies that perform hydraulic fracturing to turn over data related to their procedures. The EPA sought information on the chemical composition of fluids used to break open the rocks and the effects on human health and the environment.

Companies generally have been hesitant to disclose the chemicals they use in so-called fracking fluids, saying the formulations constitute intellectual property.

In November, two months after the EPA had asked for the information, the agency said Halliburton was the only company that had failed to turn over the necessary information. The EPA then issued a subpoena to obtain the documents. An EPA spokesman wasn't available to comment.

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