

Hydrofracking a safe practice

Published: 03:01 a.m., Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Fred LeBrun's implication that hydraulic fracturing causes water contamination is misleading ("Let us beware of shortcuts," Aug. 15). He is simply repeating false accusations made by opponents of extracting the vast amounts of natural gas available in the Marcellus Shale.

Instead of providing specific studies backing his claims, LeBrun makes false accusations against a practice that has the potential to generate nearly \$6 billion in government revenue and 280,000 new jobs within the next 10 years across this region.

For 60 years, hydraulic fracturing has been used to extract the natural gas that our country needs to heat and power our homes and has been regulated by federal, state and local governments. More than one million U.S. wells have used hydraulic fracturing without any groundwater contamination. Not only does hydraulic fracturing occur away from drinking wells, most fracturing occurs below depths where suitable drinking water can be found.

LeBrun also states hydraulic fracturing can result in "methane you can light coming out of water taps." What he doesn't say is that the [EPA](#) has found no cases of groundwater contamination from fracturing and that methane comes from a range of natural, non-drilling related sources including wetlands, gas hydrates, permafrost, termites, oceans, freshwater bodies, non-wetland soils and wildfires.

The facts that LeBrun calls for point toward moving ahead with responsible development.

Stephanie R. Meadows

Upstream senior policy adviser, American Petroleum Institute

Washington, D.C.

Instant Auto Insurance Quotes

3 Mins. Multiple Quotes. Top Companies. Instant Rates. Save Cash.
www.choiceautoinsurance.com

Trade Like Jim Cramer

Get Jim's stock picks and trades every day. Investing advice and tips.
www.thestreet.com

Learn the Basics of Forex

Free Guide. Free Practice Account. Trade 24 hrs-a-day 5.5 days a week.
www.GFTforex.com

Ads by Yahoo!