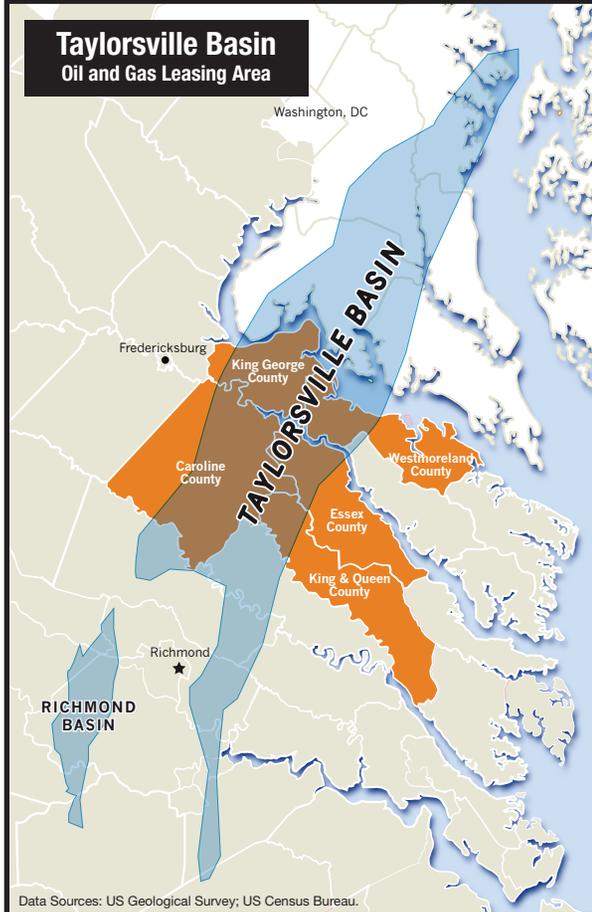


FACT SHEET ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Community IMPACTS

for Localities to Consider

High volume hydraulic fracturing is a drilling technique where large volumes of water, sand and chemicals are forced under high pressures underground to break up rock and release captured oil or gas.



Size and Scale

Modern fracking is an industrial activity. The Wall Street Journal provides this description of a frack well pad:

"...a 10-story rig is assembled to drill a hole up to 10,000 feet deep. After that, the well is fracked, creating thousands of tiny cracks in the rock to free the oil or gas. That entails heavy equipment: truck-sized containers of water and sand, mixers, stadium lighting, pumps, chemical storage and injection vans and recreational-vehicle command centers to orchestrate the operation. The process can last three weeks to three months. Once drilling and fracking ends, the gear moves to the next well..."

The footprint for a single well typically includes 15 acres of land clearing—4 acres for the well pad and the remainder for roads, pipelines and supporting infrastructure.

Additionally, each well pad is connected to gathering gas pipelines that transport the gas to compressor stations and then out of the region.

Community Health Impacts

- "Leaks, poor wastewater management, and air emissions have released harmful chemicals into the air and water around fracking sites nationwide," states a peer-reviewed journal published by the National Institutes for Health.
- A Yale University report in September 2014 found that **people living close to natural gas wells are more likely to experience health impacts including skin conditions and upper respiratory symptoms.**
- A 2016 report by the Clean Air Task Force found elevated cancer risks in 200 counties in 21 states from oil and gas production emission.

Truck Traffic/Impact on Roads

Construction equipment, pipelines and fracking materials (including water, chemicals and sand) all must be delivered to each gas well. It takes approximately 4 million pounds of sand and millions of gallons of water for each frack—meaning thousands of truck trips per well. **A single heavy truck causes the same amount of road damage as 9,000 cars. Localities are responsible for the upkeep of local roads.**

Noise and Light

Modern fracking operations occur 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Noise comes from trucks, generators, pumps and other machinery and has been recorded to reach 102 decibels at a distance of 500 feet. The noise generated by the continuous operation of compressor stations is often equated to jet engines.

Light disturbances come from industrial lighting rigs as well as gas flaring. Nighttime light pollution can disrupt sleep patterns for both humans and animals.

Local Emergency Services

Rural Pennsylvania communities affected by the modern fracking boom have experienced **an increase in traffic accidents, civic disturbances and public health problems.** Similar increases in crime and emergency services have been seen in North Dakota and other fracking states.

These specific service needs can place significant strains on local government staff and resources. Additionally, local emergency service personnel should be prepared to respond to chemical spills or accidents associated with oil and gas production.

Property Values

Duke University researchers found in Washington County, Pennsylvania that **property values dropped on average 22%** for homes with private drinking wells and were within 1 kilometer of a gas site. Real estate studies in Colorado and Texas have found similar results: properties with or near gas and oil drilling sites sell for less than comparable properties further away.

