

DEBUNKING FRACKING MYTHS: NATURAL GAS DRILLING REGULATION

Diana Dascalu-Joffe Senior General Counsel Chesapeake Climate Action Network



The "Halliburton" Loophole



2005 Energy Policy Act passed by the 109th Congress and signed by President George W. Bush exempted Oil and Gas drilling from key provisions of the following environmental laws:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Toxic Release Inventory under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)

Federal Actions to Close Loopholes and Study Impacts



- EPA life-cycle hydraulic fracturing studypeer review. Progress report to come out any day. Final report completed by 2014.
- FRAC Act
- TRI petition



The Natural Gas Industry is heavily regulated in Vlayland

MD Oil and Gas Permitting Regulations



- Haven't been amended since 1993.
- Drilling permits are valid for 5 years and regs give MDE broad agency discretion to allow permitting within 1,000 feet of a water source, stream, school, populated area, etc.
- Trade secret exemptions from MD worker and community right to know laws.



ANSWER: MARYLAND NEEDS A MORATORIUM ON FRACKING UNTIL A FULL ARRAY OF STUDIES ARE COMPLETE LEADING TO A ROBUST REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT INFO:
DIANA DASCALU-JOFFE
240-396-1984
DIANA@CHESAPEAKECLIMATE.ORG