

Fracking the Wayne Quick Facts

Why are we concerned about the Wayne National Forest?

Over public protest, Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson has approved leasing over **40,000 acres** of the Wayne for oil and gas development. The first parcels were leased in an online auction on Dec. 13. Additional parcels are scheduled to be auctioned for lease on **Thursday, March 23, 2017**.

Why is fracking inappropriate in the Wayne?

- The Wayne is home to a population of the endangered Indiana bat, already threatened by white nose syndrome. Fracking brings noise and light pollution, in addition to its other problems, both significant dangers for bats.
- The Little Muskingum River, which flows through the Wayne, hosts mussels, including some rare species.
- In purely human, economic terms, the Wayne brings millions of tourism dollars to our area, income that will be threatened by fracking.
- Fracking releases huge amounts of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases implicated in climate change.

What is being done?

Four environmental organizations have filed a lawsuit against the government over its approval of leasing the forest. Read more here. https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2017/wayne-national-forest-01-26-2017.php

What can I do?

- Call Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson (414-297-3765 and request that she WITHDRAW the parcels from the March 23rd auction. In 2011, the previous forest manager canceled an auction because of public opposition. Remind Ms. Atkinson that she is within her rights to do the same thing.
- Request a full Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service complete an environmental assessment, but this is a less complete study. Follow up with an e-mail or letter giving specific information. katkinson@fs.fed.us
- Call Senator Sherrod Brown's office (202-224-2315) and ask him to request cancellation of the auction. Sen. Brown has an excellent rating from the League of Conservation Voters, but he has not spoken out against fracking.
- Assuming that the lease auction goes ahead, work to prevent the issuing of drilling permits.
- Write letters to the editor.
- Contact the Washington County Commissioners. Their contact information and meeting schedules can be found here: <http://www.washingtongov.org/index.aspx?nid=238>

General Fracking FAQs

What is horizontal hydraulic fracturing?

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a means of extracting natural gas from deep shale formations. Once a well is drilled, millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals are injected, under high pressure, into a well. The pressure fractures the shale and props open fissures that enable natural gas to flow more freely out of the well.

How deep do the wells go?

The average well is up to 8,000 feet deep vertically and another 1,000 to 6,000 feet horizontally.

How much water is used?

Between 1 and 8 million gallons of water is used per frack job, and each well can be fracked up to 18 times.

What chemicals are used?

Roughly 1% of frack fluid is comprised of chemicals, or an average of 7,500 gallons of chemicals per well. Because of provisions in the 2005 Energy Bill, the natural gas industry does not have to disclose chemicals used in the process; however, scientists have identified a number of hazardous chemical, among them benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene, in fracking fluid.

What are the health risks of fracking chemicals?

93% of chemicals used in the fracking process have known adverse health effects. 60% are known carcinogens and 40% are endocrine disruptors. BTEX, or, are a few known chemicals used in fracking. Short term exposure effects of benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene, commonly used in fracking, include confusion, rapid pulse, anemia, damage to the nervous system and death. Studies done in the US and the UK have confirmed negative health outcomes in people living near frack sites.

What is done with the liquid frack waste?

Shortly after a well is fracked, about 20% of the wastewater returns to the surface and is stored in steel tanks or lined pits. The wastewater is then transported to a new location and injected in a Class II injection well. These wells are not rated to receive hazardous wastes, are only inspected in Ohio every 5 years, and are not monitored in Ohio for leakage or water contamination. A study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* confirmed that wells in Pennsylvania have leached into residential water supplies. (<http://www.pnas.org/content/112/20/6325>)

Can wastewater injection wells cause earthquakes?

Several independent studies and the US Geological Survey have concluded that the 2014 earthquakes in Warren County were caused by two injection wells, later closed. Injection wells have now been linked to hundreds of earthquakes in Ohio and Oklahoma.

Isn't natural gas a relatively clean-burning alternative to coal?

While the burning of natural gas results in fewer emissions than the burning of coal, the fracking process results in the release of large amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas 84 times more potent than CO₂.

Where can I learn more?

Good resources include the following:

[Fracking 101](#)

[The Health Impacts of Fracking and Natural Gas Production](#)

[The Economics of Fracking](#)