Fracking 101
Deep fracture

There are several possible risks associated with shale fracking. As with tight-gas fracking, the practice liberates gas from unconventional sources.

1. High pressure fracking fluid first cracks the shale
2. Sand particles keep the fractures open
3. Shale gas flows into the pipe and up the well

US SHALE GAS RESERVES

SOURCE: US EIA

- Already being exploited
- Yet to be exploited
Hydraulic fracturing, commonly called fracking, is a drilling technique used to extract natural gas or oil from deep underground. Fracking is a controversial practice that has been shown to lead to dangerous and damaging results. Communities' water sources can be jeopardized by the leak of chemicals used in fracking; companies are not required to disclose the chemicals used; fracking uses an enormous amount of water, which depletes local water supplies and produces toxic wastewater; and recently, earthquakes have been occurring in areas with fracking wells, raising concerns among environmental advocacy groups, scientists, citizens, and more.

This section of the website introduces you in detail to fracking, spells out the dangers, and provides resources you can use to find out more. Specifically, you'll learn

- What hydraulic fracturing really means
- How water is used in fracking
- How chemicals are used in fracking
- The danger of leaking methane
- The practice of flaring
- How communities are damaged by fracking
- How fracking contributes to greenhouse gases
- The myth of natural gas reserves
- Resources for more information
- A fracking glossary