

POCONO RECORD

HOME NEWS SPORTS LIFESTYLE ENTERTAINMENT OPINION BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS JOBS AUTOS REAL ESTATE

FEATURED » ERIC FREIN CASE OBITUARIES PHOTOS VIDEOS SAGE PIKE AND MONROE LIFE WEEKEND BLOGS BUSINESS SERVICES GAMES TV GUIDE | EXPLORE »

NEWS NOW Creek trail closed for repairs in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area ... Transportation Chief: 5 Airlines probed for price-gouging

Landmark study finds no evidence that fracking polluted water



COMMENT { 3 } Recommend { 0 }

By Associated Press

Posted Sep. 16, 2014 at 7:45 PM

The final report from a landmark federal study on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, found no evidence that chemicals or brine water from the gas drilling process moved upward to contaminate drinking water at a site in western Pennsylvania.

The Department of Energy report, released Monday, was the first time an energy company allowed independent monitoring of a drilling site during the fracking process and for 18 months afterward. After those months of monitoring, researchers found that the chemical-laced fluids used to free gas stayed about 5,000 feet below drinking water supplies.

Scientists used tracer fluids, seismic monitoring, and other tests to look for problems, and created the most detailed public report to date about how fracking affects adjacent rock structures.

The fracking process uses millions of gallons of high-pressure water mixed with sand and chemicals to break apart rocks rich in oil and gas. That has led to a national boom in production, but also concerns about possible groundwater contamination.

But the DOE report is far from the last word on the subject. The Energy Department monitored six wells at one site, but oil or gas drilling at other locations around the nation could show different results because of variations in geology or drilling practices. Environmentalists and regulators have also documented numerous cases where surface spills of chemicals or wastewater damaged drinking water supplies.

"There are a whole wealth of harms associated with shale gas development" separate from fracking, said Maya K. van Rossum of the Delaware Riverkeeper group. She mentioned methane gas leaks, wasteful use of fresh water, and air pollution, and said the DOE study confirms a point that the Riverkeeper has been making: that faulty well construction is the root cause of most problems, not natural geologic migration of chemicals.

A separate study published this week by different researchers examined drilling sites in

0 of 3 Premium Clicks used this month

Avner Vengosh, a Duke University scientist involved with that study, just published in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said in an email that it appears the Energy Department report on the Pennsylvania site is consistent with their findings.

The leading industry group in Pennsylvania said the DOE study reaffirms that hydraulic fracturing "is a safe and well-regulated technology." Marcellus Shale Coalition president Dave Spigelmyer in an email that the study reflects "the industry's long and clear record of continuously working to enhance regulations and best practices aimed at protecting our environment."

The Energy Department report did yield some surprises. It found that the fractures created to oil or gas can extend up to 1,900 feet from the base of the well. That's much farther than the

COUPON OF THE WEEK

Save 50% off a Hand Car Wash for Your Vehicle
Offer is for a basic hand car wash which includes: hand washing of the...
Infinity Auto Spa

SEE ALL ONLINE TODAY MORE >>

Under New Management - PA State Inspection \$5.55
Meineke Car Care Center Stroudsburg

Hit the road in confidence!! Get your FREE 29 Point Check today!!
Martocci Automotive

PA State Inspection - Only \$9.95!!!
Martocci Automotive

Buy One Get One
Holy Guacamole

TOP JOBS

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE STAFF
STROUDSBURG, PA, USA Pocono Record Classified Ad

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
BRODHEADSVILLE, PA, USA Pocono Record Classified Ad

action caused
PRINT + ONLINE SUBSCRIBER ACTIVATION | REGISTER SUBSCRIBE

rd

Top Jobs

estimates of a few hundred feet. The Energy Department researchers believe that the long fractures may have followed existing fault lines in the Marcellus Shale or other formations abo

The DOE study also ran into problems with the man-made markers meant to track possible long-term pollution. DOE said it was able to track the markers for two months after fracking, but then that method had to be abandoned when it stopped working properly.

» Comment or view comments

- Iannersville, PA - \$2,310 -
- Bushkill, PA - \$169,900 - Pride of Ownership - 4 Bedroom 2.5 bath 2007 Built Colonial - In amenity filled community. House features - Flat lot - 2 Car garage - Deck -...

[More Top Homes](#)

Top Video Headlines

of 3



TV GUIDE

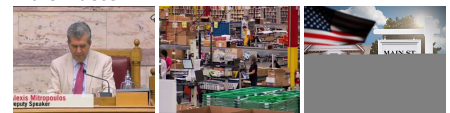


Uncle Jesse Still Looks Cool As Heck in These Fuller House Set Pics



Little People, Big World Star Zach Roloff Is Married!

More videos:



READER REACTION

Login with:

3 Comments



Write your comment here

Submit

Follow

REALTIME

Newest

» STAY INFORMED

Email

Sign Up Today

NewsLetter

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.

Newsmax

- **Polls: Trump Continuing to Surge Across Nation**
- **New Probiotic Fat Burner Takes GNC by Storm**
- **Easy Way to Fix Eye Bags - Do This Daily**
- **Americans Urged to Search Their Names Before Site Gets Taken Down**
- **68 Year Old Looks 31: You Will Not Believe Her Simple Trick**
- **Two Simple Steps to Remove Bags and Wrinkles From Your Eyes**
- **The One Crazy Reason Trump Is Running For President**
- **How Older Men Are Increasing Testosterone**

[What's This?](#)

TOP CLICKS

POPULAR EMAILED