

## The Environment America Research & Policy Centre Findings

The Environment America Research & Policy Centre report considers the environmental harm caused by more 137,000 fracking wells permitted since 2005.

In a single year, fracking wells across the country released at least 5.3 billion pounds of the potent greenhouse gas methane, as much global warming pollution as 22 coal-fired power plants.

Elizabeth Ridlington is quoted as saying “In just the last two and a half years, the number of fracked oil and gas wells has increased by 55,000.”

- During well completion alone in 2014, fracking released **5.3 billion pounds of methane**, a pollutant 86 times more powerful than CO<sub>2</sub> over the course of 20 years.
- Fracking wells produced **at least 14 billion gallons (approximately 52.92 billion litres) of wastewater in 2014**. Wastewater has leaked from retention ponds, been dumped into streams and escaped from faulty disposal wells, placing drinking water at risk. Fracked wells produce toxic wastewater, chemicals and water injected into wells also risks drawing natural occurring radioactive materials to the surface.
- Between 2005 and 2015, fracking used **at least 23 billion pounds of toxic chemicals**. People living or working nearby can be exposed to these chemicals through drinking water as a result of spills or if they become airborne.
- At least **239 billion gallons (approximately 664.40 billion litres) of water have been used in fracking** since 2005, an average of 3 million gallons (approximately 11.34 million litres) per well.
- Infrastructure to support fracking has directly **damaged at least 675,000 acres of land since 2005**. Well pads, new access roads, pipelines and other infrastructure built for fracking turn **forests and rural landscapes into industrial zones**.

Given the scale and severity of fracking impacts, the report recommends fracking should be **prohibited** wherever possible.

**“From contaminated water, to marred landscapes, to increased global warming pollution, fracking has been an environmental disaster,”** said Richardson.

REF: <http://ecowatch.com/2016/04/14/fracking-impact-water-land-climate/>

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