

EPA Report:

Hydraulic fracturing, when done properly, does not negatively impact drinking-water sources

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study that was released on June 4 and ordered by Congress in 2010 examined the potential impacts that hydraulic fracturing and related activities have on current drinking-water sources and other potential sources, such as groundwater.

"It is the most complete compilation of scientific data to date, including over 950 sources of information, published papers, numerous technical reports, information from stakeholders and peer-reviewed EPA scientific reports," said Dr. Thomas A. Burke, EPA's Science Advisor and Deputy Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Research and Development, in an EPA press release.

The report stated that U.S. hydraulic fracturing activities have not had "widespread, systemic impacts on drinking-water sources."

EPA's study did cite a limited number of examples where improper hydraulic-fracturing-related wastewater management resulted in deficient drinking-water resources.

Bob Perciasepe, a former deputy administrator of the EPA and now president of the Washington-based Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, an environmental group that sees gas as critical to the transition to a lower-carbon environment, told *USA TODAY* in an interview:

"I think EPA's identified that the risks are local and can be managed. It's up to states and industry to keep their eye on the ball. The EPA leaves it to states and the industry to manage the impacts of fracking."

The EPA study is in draft form and will go through a public comment and peer-review process with EPA's Science Advisory Board before it is finalized.

For more information, please visit:

- <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/21b8983ffa5d0e4685257dd4006b85e2/b542d827055a839585257e5a005a796b!OpenDocument>
- <http://energyindepth.org/national/ten-important-things-to-know-from-epas-1000-page-groundwater-study/>