



## American Association of Petroleum Geologists Statements

# Hydraulic Fracturing

**Issue:** Scientifically designed, state-based environmental oversight of hydraulic fracturing treatments for those coalbed methane and other hydrocarbon wells that may occur near zones of potable water is a reasonable approach.

**Background:** Oversight must be based on the recognition that: 1) modern fracturing treatments work to safeguard the environment and present minimal potential damage to fresh-water zones; 2) most hydraulic fracturing takes place in zones removed from drinking-water supplies; and 3) although fracturing fluids vary widely, the commonly used ingredients are limited in toxicity and/or mobility in water.

**Statement:**

- AAPG opposes blanket application of federally mandated controls. Federal legislation should be encouraged to provide for streamlined permitting of fracturing treatments.
- Treatments carried out in isolation from fresh-water aquifers should be exempt from Clean Water Act controls.
- Permit procedures for fracturing within aquifer zones (mostly undertaken in support of methane production from coal beds) should be designed on a basin-by-basin and state-by-state basis.
- Permitting should bear in mind the wide variety of possible designs of fracture treatments, and the geologic relationships of reservoir beds and aquifers unique to each area.

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As a professional, scientific association, AAPG is a credible source of information of interest to a wide spectrum of individuals. AAPG has a proud history of providing information to decision-makers and the public on matters concerning the science and profession of petroleum exploration.

In this role, AAPG has given testimony before the U.S. Congress, provided information to lawmakers on a national, state and local level, and has adopted statements that the association believes are of importance.

The following are the statements that are currently in effect. These were revised or added in June 2007 and will be reviewed periodically. They can also be accessed at: <http://dpa.aapg.org/gac/index.cfm>