



## OKLAHOMA KEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS

# ENERGY POWERING OKLAHOMA

### **Myths: Hydraulic fracturing causes earthquakes and makes water unsafe to use.**

Hydraulic Fracturing, commonly called fracking, involves injecting pressurized water combined with sand and small amounts of chemicals to crack open shale rocks so that they will release trapped natural gas. The shale rocks that companies are trying to reach are generally thousands of feet below the earth's surface.

**Myth One:** Earthquakes!! Many people are trying to blame the recent earthquakes on fracking. However, the U.S. Geological Survey says, "Oklahoma's earthquakes are from wastewater disposal into injection wells, not fracking itself." This means that oil companies have been blamed for something that is completely out of their hands. To put it simply, William Leith, seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey tells us, "Fracking itself does not put enough energy into the ground to trigger an earthquake. They're not a safety hazard."

**Myth Two:** Water!! Because of the movie Gasland, many people are under the impression that fracking poisons the water. This movie doesn't address the science or alternative causes for their methane water. A scientific paper from the Department of Earth Sciences in March 2015 debunked the movie's claims, stating, "There is no statistical significance between dissolved methane concentrations in groundwater from domestic water wells and proximity to pre-existing oil or gas wells." In addition, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources discovered that "there are no indications of any oil and gas related impacts to your water." They concluded that residents that could "light their water on fire" had water supplies derived from natural sources, the water source penetrated several coal beds that had released methane into the well.

Fracking itself is not dangerous. With the correct regulations, oil companies, like the ones in Oklahoma, are able to frack without instance. All of the reported "bad incidents" are due to neglect and cutting corners. Overall, fracking is good for the economy, as it has created over \$140,000 per state that uses fracking. Fracking will also make the U.S. more energy secure. Dependence on foreign oil is something we need to move away from.

### **Reflect on what you learned...**

- What is the official name for fracking?
- Can fracking impact the quality of ground water or surface water?
- How is fracking related to earthquakes?



Oklahoma's future begins in the classroom.



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