The Frack Fact List

Water needed to frack a typical well on the Monterey Shale, per frack job: 1 to 3 million gallons

Number of times an average oil well is fracked: 10

Percentage of water that must be transported and treated after fracking operations: About 50%

Average farm water use per acre in California, before considering recapture due to groundwater percolation and runoff to surface water: 1 million gallons

Amount of oil in the Monterey Shale: 15.4 billion barrels

Greenhouse gases emitted from extracting all the Monterey Shale oil: 7.7 billion metric tons

Greenhouse gases emitted from the U.S. as a whole in an average year: 7.7 billion metric tons

Greenhouse gases emitted from California for 17 years at the 2010 level: 7.7 billion metric tons

Greenhouse gases emitted from extracting all the Monterey Shale Oil is equivalent to adding: 1.6 billion cars to the road

Amount of greenhouse gases California must reduce to meet AB 32’s targets: 80 million metric tons

Number of chemicals currently used in existing fracking wells: 750

Fracking the Monterey Shale would include acidization of wells, a process that uses hydrofluoric acid which is a volatile, dangerous, and highly toxic chemical. Average concentration of hydrofluoric acid per frack: 9%

Increased groundwater contamination is occurring near fracking sites. Number of drinking water wells with methane located near fracking sites in Pennsylvania: 115 of 141 wells

Concentration of methane in wells close to fracking sites as opposed to wells farther away: 6 times

Number of times more radium, a radioactive metal, than normal was found in mud near a fracking wastewater treatment plant: 200


3 Ibid.


6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.


10 Collier, supra note 5.

11 Drogos and Warren, supra note 1.


14 Ibid.