

K. Resolution 2013-03-03; Opposing the Disposal of Fracking Waste in Eastern North Carolina

RESOLUTION 2013-03-03
RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DISPOSAL OF FRACKING WASTE
IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” is a method of extracting natural gas that involves injecting, at an extremely high pressure, a mixture of water, sand, and toxic chemicals to break up shale or other rock formations otherwise impermeable to the flow of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina does not currently allow either horizontal drilling or hydraulic fracturing, and the current North Carolina study of in-state shale gas resources and of the potential impacts of reversing this ban and allowing drilling and fracking to extract these resources was undertaken with insufficient time and without adequate funding; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 76, which would lift the state’s ban on fracking, was passed by the Senate, and will be considered by the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, fracking operations in North Carolina would be concentrated in Western North Carolina, however it has been reported that there are no viable options for disposal of fracking waste in the western part of the state and that Eastern North Carolina might be an option for deep-well disposal of fracking waste; and

WHEREAS, the wastewater produced from hydraulic fracturing includes carcinogenic, corrosive, and/or toxic salts, metals, chemicals and radioactive materials; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of fracking byproducts into the aquifer could have a detrimental impact on the environment, including contamination of drinking water wells and surface waters; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the North Carolina Constitution states that “It shall be the policy of the State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivisions... to control and limit the pollution of our air and water... and in every other appropriate way to preserve as part of our common heritage of this State its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands, and places of beauty”; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Camden County Board of Commissioners is greatly opposed to the disposal in Eastern North Carolina of fracking waste and byproducts from other areas of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Camden County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to maintain current laws in North Carolina that prevent subsurface fluid injection of hydraulic fracturing fluid for the exploration or development of natural gas resources and water produced from subsurface geologic formations during the extraction of natural gas, condensate, or oil in North Carolina and to take no action that would weaken these laws before a viable option for disposal of fracking waste is found that does not include Eastern North Carolina.

ADOPTED this 18th day of March, 2013.



Garry Meiggs, Chairman
Camden County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

