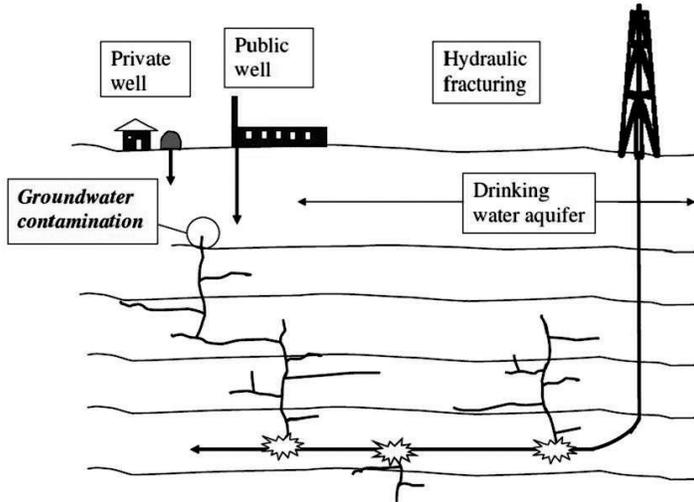


# Fracking Threatens North Carolina!



## What is hydraulic fracturing?

Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” is a method of extracting natural gas that involves injecting high pressure fluids thousands of feet deep with a mixture of water, sand and chemicals to break up shale formations and release natural gas. Fracking uses 2-8 million gallons of water; wells may be hydraulically fractured several times. Federal exemptions for the oil and gas industry have allowed weak regulations in all states with fracking.

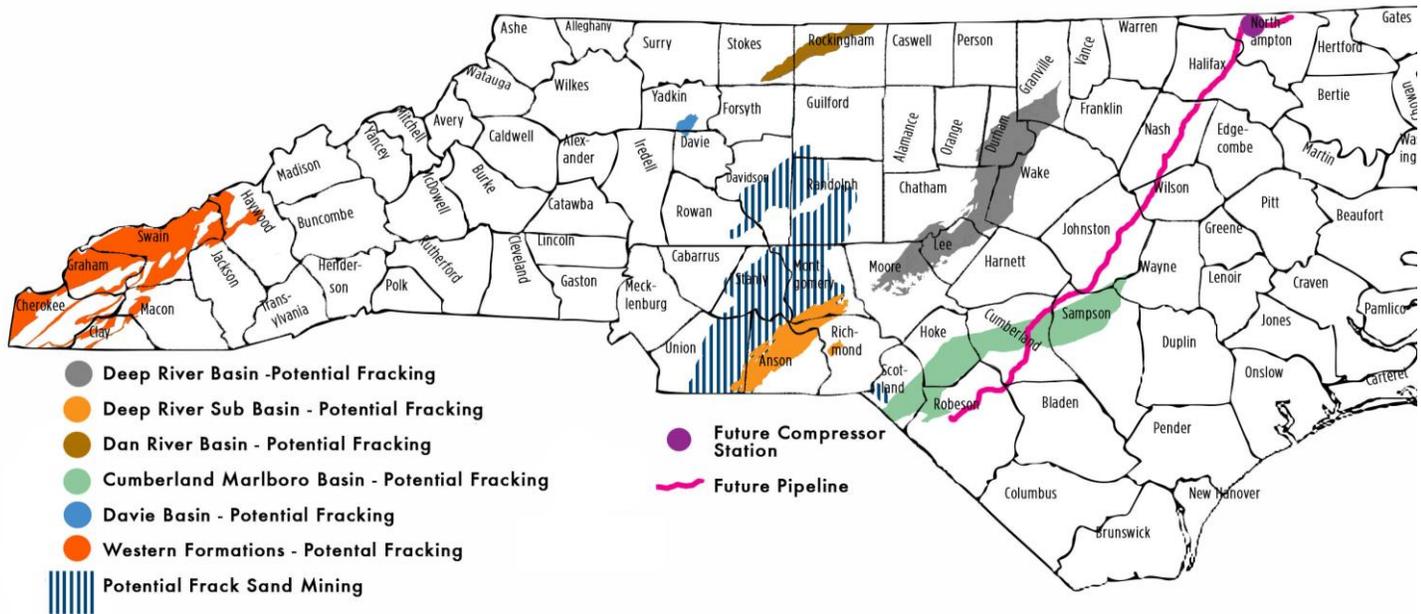
## Where is fracking now that rules have passed?

In 2014, **Senate Bill 786** passed with little chance for public input, and automatically pre-approved the Oil and Gas Rules, with no final vote by the General Assembly. It

also set up a mechanism for a driller to challenge a local government’s rights to pass zoning or ordinances to protect residents , water, air and land from fracking.

Fracking has been legal since March 17, 2015; but no drilling permits have been applied for yet. According to state officials, application for “pooling” of mineral properties would have to happen before a drilling permit could be considered, and the applications for pooling or “unitization” would come before the Mining and Energy Commission only if applied for 60 days in advance of a meeting. The large number of legislative appointees on the MEC has already been challenged in two suits. A temporary injunction in May, 2015 resulted in **reinstating the ban on fracking permits** until later this summer when a court rules on the matter!

## Potential Fracking Impacts Across the State:



## What can YOU do to protect your community?

- Contact your legislator to let them know you do not want fracking in NC! Visit [frackfreenc.org/?p=1192](http://frackfreenc.org/?p=1192)
- Sign up for weekly “FrackUpdates” using the red button at [www.cwfnc.org](http://www.cwfnc.org) – news, events!
- Visit [www.frackfreenc.org](http://www.frackfreenc.org) to join a partner group, get a speaker, film or community presentation.

## Gas development impacts include:

- Millions of gallons of freshwater required for fracking; stress on local water supplies
- Possible well contamination from fracking or other gas development activities
- Heavy truck traffic and road damage; the NC DOT averages 1300-1600 trucks per fracked well.

Current fees do not adequately cover costs to impacted locales.

- Emissions from gas processing and compressor stations have led to known health impacts.
- Local budgets will be stressed by increased need for emergency services, roadways, county services.
- Industrialization of the landscape could impact tourism and rural quality of life across the state
- Gas exploration is a boom/ bust industry, with variable gas prices and labor needs, creating an unreliable economic environment, ultimately leaving a weaker, less diverse economy
- “Predatory” leases may charge landowners for construction costs and damages. Landowners who have leases may be unable to get mortgage financing.
- Large landowners and drilling contractors could profit; most vulnerable residents will bear the burden of pollution, noise and traffic. Only about 30% of relatively unskilled jobs to local residents.

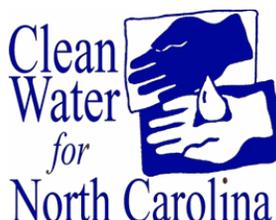
## Why would NC be especially vulnerable to fracking impacts?

- The Triassic Basins of NC are shallow, discontinuous, fractured compared to major shale formations in other states. These formations are close to groundwater supplies used for drinking water wells. NC basins have dikes (rock formations that cut across pre-existing rocks) that are oriented perpendicular to faults in the region, which can also cause easier migration of contaminants to drinking water



- The Triassic basin areas believed to contain natural gas in NC have the highest population density of any region in North America that has been proposed for fracking, and includes the residences of tens of thousands of private well users. The many small land owners and renters surrounded by drilling leases could be caught up – against their will – in “forced pooling” to form drilling units. Higher population risk of drinking water contamination, toxic air emissions, industrializing landscape and heavy truck traffic.
- NC has very few gas transmission lines. Widespread land and stream disturbances and eminent domain takings would be required to build pipelines to get natural gas to treatment facilities and to market.
- NC has sensitive facilities (nuclear power, high hazard coal ash dams) which could be vulnerable to seismic effects in an already faulted region.

## For more information:



visit [www.cwfnc.org](http://www.cwfnc.org), [www.frackfreeNC.org](http://www.frackfreeNC.org)

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