

RESOLUTION NO. 033 - 13

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE OPPOSING THE
SUBSURFACE INJECTION OF FRACKING WASTE IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the protection of the source of future drinking water supplies for eastern North Carolina is vital to the current and future residents of eastern North Carolina. Senate Bill 76 (SB76) will authorize the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to issue permits on or after March 1, 2015, for oil and gas exploration and development activities in the State. Part IV of the proposed legislation is an amendment to the existing statute governing subsurface fluid injection. Currently, the discharge of any wastes to the subsurface or ground waters of the State by means of wells is prohibited;

WHEREAS, the intent of Part IV of SB76 is to lift the ban on subsurface injection through adoption of the following specific language: "The discharge of any wastes to the subsurface or groundwaters of the State by means of wells is prohibited. This section shall not be construed to prohibit (i) the operation of closed-loop groundwater remediation systems in accordance with G.S. 143-215.1A or (ii) 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;"

WHEREAS, SB76 therefore provides for the termination of the current ban on injection of liquid wastes by means of wells into the groundwater system in North Carolina, and SB76 specifically addresses the disposal of fluids produced during the process of hydraulic fracturing associated with the development of natural gas resources. Although SB76 does not include language which specifically identifies where waste disposal (via well injection) will be permitted, the potential for the introduction of contaminants via injection wells creates a threat to the utilization of aquifers as potable water sources; and

WHEREAS, the groundwater resources of eastern North Carolina include prolific aquifers which serve as a source of water for municipal, agricultural, industrial, and residential use within the region and are vital to the future of the region and the State of North Carolina as a whole. The protection of these vital resources cannot be compromised. Because of this, it is important that the North Carolina General Assembly not pass SB76, or any other legislation which effectively lifts the ban on injecting liquid wastes into the fresh or saline parts of the groundwater systems of North Carolina without first completing a thorough study of the potential effects of these actions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Greenville that it does hereby express its opposition to the subsurface injection of fracking waste in eastern North Carolina and request the North Carolina General Assembly, through the delegation representing the House and Senate districts of which Greenville is a part, to maintain the current laws in North Carolina that prevent disposal of hydraulic fracturing waste through underground injection or above ground storage in eastern 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.

This the 10th day of June, 2013.



Allen M. Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST:


Carol L. Barwick, City Clerk