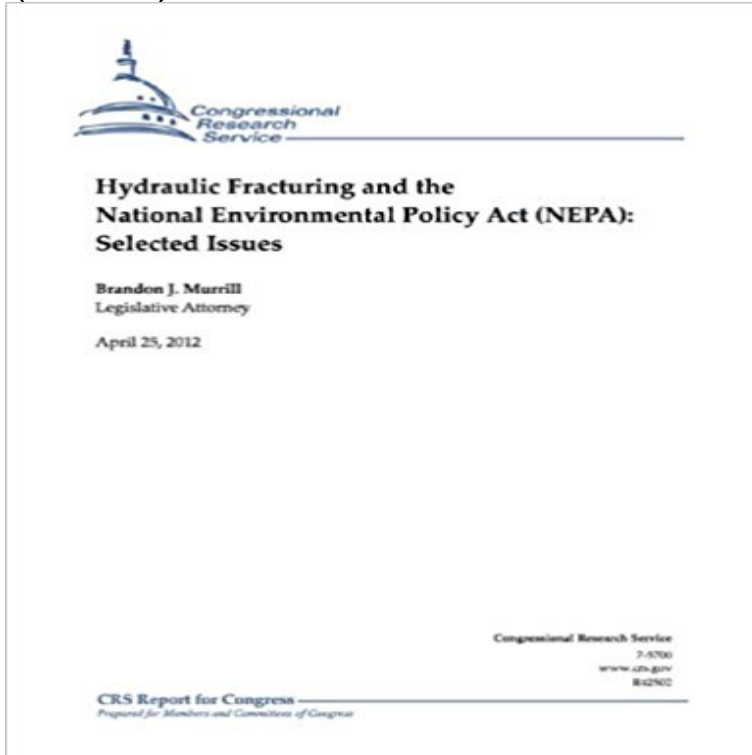


Hydraulic Fracturing and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Selected Issues



Hydraulic fracturing is a technique used to recover oil and natural gas from underground low permeability rock formations. This process involves pumping fluids under high pressure into the formations to crack them, releasing oil and gas into the well. The technique has been the subject of controversy due to some of its potential effects on the environment. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of the actions they propose to take by preparing one of three NEPA documents. Actions that fit within a categorical exclusion (CE) undergo a relatively low level of review because these are actions that an agency has found do not have a significant effect on the environment. A CE may not be used when extraordinary circumstances occur. An environmental assessment (EA) provides a more comprehensive level of review and may be prepared when an agency wishes to determine whether an action requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). An EIS is the most comprehensive NEPA document; it requires, among other things, that the agency explain how the proposed action will affect the environment; what unavoidable adverse effects will result; and what alternatives to the proposed action exist. This report provides an overview of two situations in which agencies are arguing that they do not need to conduct a comprehensive environmental review of hydraulic fracturing under NEPA. On March 21, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency reaffirmed its use of a CE to exempt from further NEPA review the loans it makes for the purchase of single-family homes on properties leased for drilling. The agency stated that, by itself, the existence of a drilling lease on a property is not an extraordinary circumstance that will

prevent the agency from using a CE for a loan. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has argued that it does not have to prepare a NEPA document for its approval of regulations that will allow hydraulic fracturing to occur in the Delaware River Basin. On May 31, 2011, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman filed a complaint on behalf of the state of New York alleging that the five federal agencies that participated in the DRBC's development of the regulations were in violation of NEPA. On November 22, 2011, the complaint was amended to add the DRBC and its executive director as defendants. New York seeks an injunction compelling the defendants to prepare an EIS before adopting regulations that will allow natural gas development. Although an answer has not been filed in the case, the defendants have argued that approval of the regulations is not a federal action requiring the preparation of a NEPA document because the DRBC is not a federal agency. They have also argued that just because a federal officer sits on the five-member commission, that does not make the DRBC's development of the regulations a federal action. For more information on NEPA, see CRS Report RS20621, Overview of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements, by Kristina Alexander.

Hydraulic Fracturing And The National Environmental Policy Act Hydraulic Fracturing and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Selected Issues. Shared by: Zenobia Craighton from AMAZON. Share. **Hydraulic Fracturing: Selected Legal Issues** - The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or sometimes USEPA) is an agency . President Nixon signed NEPA into law on January 1, 1970. .. Two-thirds of the vehicles the EPA tests themselves are randomly selected and the . agencies projects, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). **Hydraulic Fracturing: Selected Legal Issues** questions of how sites are selected and concerns about environmental justice. This case The Root of the Problem: Hydraulic Fracturing .. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires federal agencies to consider. **RL32076 The Bayh-Dole Act Selected Issues in Patent Policy and R42814** (November 6, 2012) Shale Gas and Hydraulic Fracturing: CRS Experts No. and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Selected Issues No. **Examining oil and gas policy in president obamas - Marten Law** RL32076 The Bayh-Dole Act Selected Issues in Patent Policy and the R42502 Hydraulic Fracturing and the National Environmental Policy **Buy Hydraulic Fracturing and the National Environmental Policy Act** Perspectives on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) Torture Report Authorization Of Appropriations: Procedural And Legal Issues .. Hydraulic Fracturing and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Selected Issues **H.R.4304 - 113th Congress (2013-2014): Jumpstarting** Hydraulic fracturing is a technique used to recover oil and natural The

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Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA): . To the extent that hydraulic fracturing is allowed under state and local laws, **Hydraulic Fracturing Impacts-Search Results - Free Urdu Books Online** Animal Agriculture: Selected Issues in the 113th Congress (R42954, Greene) . Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Appropriations for FY2013 in P.L. 113-6 .. Hydraulic Fracturing and Safe Drinking Water Act Regulatory Issues (R41760, National Environmental Policy Act: Streamlining NEPA (RL33267, Luther) **Murrill, Brandon J. - HSDL Search Results** Document about Hydraulic Fracturing And The National Environmental Policy. Act Nepa Selected Issues is available on print and digital edition. This pdf ebook **Environmental Justice and Hydraulic Fracturing: The - ScholarWorks** CQ Researcher(online journal available through Minerva): Domestic Drones, by Daniel McGlynn, . Specialist in Environmental, P. (2013). Hydraulic Fracturing: Selected Legal Issues. Brandon J. 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