Hydraulic Fracturing Learning Resources
Collected between July 30 and August 3, 2015 by
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Brief Summary and Comments:
In an effort to follow the League of Women Voters's policy of a balanced approach, I have assembled some on-line resources for learning about Hydraulic Fracturing (hydrofracking). There is not a “boatload”, but a “giant cargo ship load” of information on-line. Interestingly enough, some of the most objective glossaries on-line are provided by Halliburton and Schlumberger, two very large oil and gas drilling corporations.

It is important to keep in mind that although the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VaDMME), charged with regulating and inspecting Virginia’s oil and gas wells, declares that it has experience with over 2100 gas wells—these are coal-bed methane wells in Southwestern Virginia, an entirely different geology and process than other parts of the State. VaDMME has excellent scientists and has applied for funding from the USGS to study the “source rocks”—shale, in the Taylorsville Basin, an area that may possibly be considered for hydrofracking.

The glossaries, however, do not provide a picture of the effects on communities where there is hydrofracking. I think required reading for everyone on the committee should be the novel, Oil! by Upton Sinclair. It gives a portrait of the different reactions of people in communities during the California oil rush, and a very interesting profile of the tactics used by the energy industry to get drilling leases. The movie, “There Will Be Blood” was based on this book. Let’s hope it doesn’t come to that!

State Government Organizations

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

California Department of Conservation
http://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/glossary-frk.aspx

New York Department of Health
Scientific Organizations (not oil and gas industry affiliated)

Union of Concerned Scientists

Geological Society of America
http://www.geosociety.org/criticalissues/hydraulicFracturing/index.asp

Environmental Organizations

The Center for Media and Democracy
http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Virginia_and_fracking

Earthworks
https://www.earthworksaction.org/issues/detail/hydraulic_fracturing_101#.VbuPVHqdu54

Earth Justice
http://earthjustice.org/features/campaigns/fracking-across-the-united-states#

Clean Water Action
http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/fracking-explained

US Government

United States Geological Survey
http://www.usgs.gov/faq/?q=taxonomy/term/10132&page=1

National Energy Technology Laboratory
http://energy.gov/fe/articles/netl-releases-hydraulic-fracturing-study

Environmental Protection Agency
http://www2.epa.gov/hfstudy

Energy Industry Affiliated Organizations
American Petroleum Institute

American Association of Petroleum Geologists

Commercial Oil and Gas Companies

Halliburton

Schlumberger

Regulatory Issues

Congressional Research Service
http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43152.pdf