

Hydraulic Fracturing Study Consensus Questions

LWV-VA 2015 Convention Workbook: *Study of Impacts of Fracking in Virginia*

Reason for Study of Fracking: The current LWVVA natural resource positions do not address recent developments in Virginia of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) and energy pipelines. Fracking affects health as well as natural resources. Fracking and pipeline effects go beyond the current LWVVA positions. The effects should be included in Virginia positions and in the background/history.

The scope of the study may include: Impacts of water withdrawal on ground water and surface water supplies; impacts of inadequate treatment of wastewater from fracking on drinking water; health, safety and ecological effects of natural gas pipeline and/or rail transport of shale oil through Virginia.

The study is guided by the applicable LWVUS principles:

“...that democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens; that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government, and that the government should promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, and promote a sound economy.”

*Please respond to the following questions concerning Hydraulic Fracturing. Use additional pieces of paper as needed for your responses. **Please note that examples are included with the questions. They are just examples and not intended to limit your answers, you may add any other responses that you wish.***

1. The minimum requirements for permitting of the fracking process should include the following:

- environmental impact statements
- geologic impact statements
- baseline monitoring of water and air quality
- periodic monitoring of water and air quality
- emergency response plan

Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____

Comments:

2. Minimum requirements for financial assurance should include the following:

- blanket bonding amounts
- per well bonds
- regulations as they stand

Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____

Comments:

3. Taking into consideration the effects of the Dillon Rule, localities should have the following regulatory powers:

- prohibition of fracking
- regulation of fracking through zoning
- imposition of taxes and impact fees

Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____

Comments:

4. The state may utilize the following funding mechanisms to cover expenses incurred by the state or localities:

- impact fees
- performance bonds
- permitting fees
- land disturbance permit fees
- general fund resources

Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____

Comments:

5. Virginia should monitor and enforce regulation of the effects of the hydraulic fracturing processes, from permitting through reclamation, using the following sources of information:

- water sampling
- seismic monitoring
- well integrity monitoring while operating
- well integrity monitoring after well closure

Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____

Comments:

6. Potential social and economic damage to the community can be minimized by implementing the following:

- state-allowed local taxes and fees go into a dedicated account to prepare for growth
- state provision of information on life expectancy of the wells to local jurisdictions
- state assistance to localities' economic development programs to prepare for a future when the wells are shut down

Agree _____ Disagree _____ No Consensus _____

Comments: