



Natural gas is a clean fuel? THINK AGAIN

PITS

Drilling and Production Pits

Liquids and solid wastes are produced during the drilling, stimulation and production stages of both oil and natural gas. These wastes are often stored in earthen pits, which may or may not be lined. Drilling and hydraulic fracturing pits may contain biocides, acids, volatile organic compounds, diesel fuel, metals, salts, radioactive materials, and undisclosed proprietary chemicals. Produced water pits may contain salts, metals, radioactive materials, hydrocarbons, and residual chemicals from drilling, completion and well maintenance. Pits containing separation and dehydration fluids may contain salts, volatile and nonvolatile hydrocarbons, metals, glycols.

Potential Impacts

groundwater contamination • soil contamination • aromatic chemicals released from wastes • threats to wildlife

REGULATIONS FALL SHORT

- Federal regulations do not protect environmental and human health because wastes created during oil and gas exploration and production operations are exempt from hazardous waste rules. These wastes include used drilling muds and hydraulic fracturing fluids, produced water, pit and tank sludges, dehydration wastes, solvents to wash drill rigs, and other chemicals. Because of the exemption, these wastes may be buried at the well site. Unused chemicals are not exempt.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Orientation Manual states that, "although they are relieved from regulation as hazardous wastes, the exemption does not mean these wastes could not present a hazard to human health and the environment if improperly managed."

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/general/orientat/

OIL & GAS
ACCOUNTABILITY
PROJECT
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PRODUCED WATER PIT



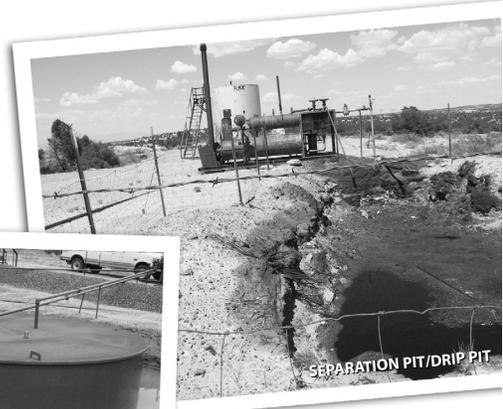
DRILLING PIT



DRILLING PIT



PIT/BERM DEHYDRATOR GLYCOL OVERFLOW



SEPARATION PIT/DRIP PIT