



# BEYOND NATURAL GAS

## PROTECTING OUR AIR, WATER AND COMMUNITIES

The Sierra Club's Beyond Natural Gas works to promote strong standards within the natural gas industry. Natural gas companies should be subject to additional scrutiny and strong national and state safeguards in order to protect our air, water, and communities. If we can't protect our health and treasured landscapes from the damages caused by the natural gas industry and fracking, then we should not drill for natural gas.

We must preserve our nation's environmental integrity while developing clean alternative energy sources such as wind and solar.

### WHAT IS FRACKING?

Hydraulic Fracturing or "fracking" is the drilling process the natural gas industry uses to extract natural gas from shale rock. It involves pumping millions of gallons of water, sand and an unknown chemical cocktail into the ground to create cracks in the deep shale formations and release the natural gas trapped inside.

### GOALS

**CLOSING INDUSTRY LOOPHOLES** The natural gas industry exploits numerous legal loopholes that allow it to ignore basic environmental and health protections. This creates thousands of health and pollution violations and forces communities everywhere to suffer the consequences of the dangerous fracking process. We need to work together to call on the Environmental Protection Agency and our elected leaders to close these dangerous loopholes.

Ending natural gas loopholes is vital in the fight to achieve a clean energy future.



**"THE NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY CLAIMS IT IS SAFE, SMART AND RESPONSIBLE, YET WE SEEM TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THEIR MISTAKES, ACCIDENTS AND PROBLEMS."**

Deb Nardone,  
*Director of Sierra Club's Beyond Natural Gas*

**CLEANING UP THE MESS** Fracking for natural gas damages landscapes, pollutes water and air sources, and can have serious health consequences on local communities. Some of the many problems associated with inadequate safeguards in natural gas development include:

- Water contamination from substandard drill casings;
- Water treatment facilities that are unable to process dirty water from drilling operations;
- Harmful air emissions that pollute communities surrounding drilling operations, compressor stations and pipelines;
- Lack of environmental assessments, monitoring and regulatory enforcement to gauge damages to landscapes and wildlife;
- Few safeguards to protect surrounding communities from accidents and leaks.

The Sierra Club is working to correct these problems and clean up the industry.

**PROTECTING SENSITIVE AREAS** As natural gas exploration continues to boom, the industry has its eyes set on fracking in our most precious public lands, such as national and state parks. In many situations, our public lands are already being tapped for their natural gas reserves below the surface.



- Exporting gas means an increased reliance on the dangerous drilling practice of hydraulic fracturing (fracking).

For these reasons, the Sierra Club intends to block all LNG export facilities.

**EARLY SUCCESSES**

Already, Beyond Natural Gas is seeing results from its hard work to protect our water, air and communities.

**CLEAN AIR** In a coalition-wide effort, the Sierra Club led the group to submit over 155,000 public comments in support for the Environmental Protection Agency’s clean air safeguard for natural gas fracking. The comment period closed and EPA will make its decision to adopt the standard by April 3, 2012.

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION** In coordination with Sierra Club’s New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania Chapters, Beyond Natural Gas helped generate thousands of comments to the DRBC and mobilized hundreds to attend a rally, putting pressure on the Delaware River Basin Commission to not frack in

The Sierra Club strongly opposes all natural gas fracking in national and state parks. Our national and state parks are irreplaceable national treasures that protect American lands, water, wildlife and heritage.

An industry currently running amok with little safeguards to protect our air, water and communities has no place in our national and state parks. We need to stop dangerous fracking from happening in parks now to ensure that our unique natural legacy can be enjoyed by future generations.

The Sierra Club will work to defend these lands and ensure the most stringent safeguards are put in place.

**PREVENTING GAS EXPORTS** The exporting of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) is dirty, dangerous and must be stopped. The natural gas industry is now looking for additional ways to profit from shale gas even if it means more fracking, more climate-disrupting pollution, and putting more sensitive areas at risk.

While several import LNG companies already applied for federal export permits to develop terminals around the country, the environmental consequences of this is worrisome for the following reasons:

- The siting of LNG terminals requires dredging of sensitive estuaries to make room for massive LNG tankers;
- These terminals would be connected by hundreds of miles of pipelines, crossing state and national forests, wild and scenic rivers, sensitive wetlands, and family farms;
- The energy needed to supercool and liquefy gas to ship overseas makes LNG’s carbon footprint as dirty as coal;

**“THE SIERRA CLUB IS COMMITTED TO HOLDING THE INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE, CLEANING UP THEIR RECKLESS DRILLING AND KEEPING FRACKING OUT OF SENSITIVE AREAS.”**

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Director of Sierra Club’s Beyond Natural Gas*

the sensitive watershed. Because of this pressure, the Commission recently postponed opening the Delaware to the destructive process of hydrofracking.

**STATE DISCLOSURE LAW ENFORCEMENT** Beyond Natural Gas works with Sierra Club chapters in states heavily impacted by the natural gas industry, including Texas, Colorado and Pennsylvania, to urge officials to enforce gas drilling regulations, such as fracking fluid disclosure laws. Several states have similar laws and we will continue to push for the enforcement of disclosure and other needed safeguards in all natural gas intensive states.