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JUN 06 2013

RESOLUTION NO. 12, 2013

CITY CLERK

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING "FRACKING" TO ACCESS SUBSURFACE OIL AND GAS RESERVES WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA.

WHEREAS, Hydraulic fracturing "fracking" is a process that uses high-pressure mixtures of water, sand or gravel and chemicals to crack below surface rock formations; and

WHEREAS, the goal of "fracking" is to create pathways or conduits through the below surface rock formations to enhance the flow of oil or gas into a wellbore; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Oil and Gas permits and regulates oil and gas activities in the State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the IDNR requires detailed reporting of hydraulic fracturing operations to include volumes and types of fluids used and the nature and amounts of proppants; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council for the City of Terre Haute has concerns regarding the chemicals to be used in the process, risk of accidental releases, and impacts on groundwater; and


WHEREAS, until such time as the Common Council for the City of Terre Haute is made fully aware of the risks associated with the "fracking" process, it is the Council's desire to implement a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing "fracking" within the corporate boundaries of the City of Terre Haute.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council for the City of Terre Haute that until such time that this moratorium is rescinded by an action of the Common Council, the process of hydraulic fracturing "fracking" to access subsurface oil and gas reserves shall not be utilized within the corporate boundaries of the City of Terre Haute.

Introduced by:  Norman Loudermilk, Councilman

Introduced by:  John Mullican, Councilman

Passed in open Council this 13th day of June, 2013.

 Norman Loudermilk, President

ATTEST: Charles P. Hanley Charles P. Hanley, City Clerk

Presented by me to the Mayor this 14th day of JUNE, 2013.

Charles P. Hanley Charles P. Hanley, City Clerk

Approved by me, the Mayor, this 14th day of JUNE, 2013.

Duke A. Bennett Duke A. Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST: Charles P. Hanley Charles P. Hanley, City Clerk

What you don't know CAN harm you: Five Frightening Facts About Fracking

<p>"Fracking" a single well can require more than one million gallons of water. This depletes local groundwater and can dry up nearby creeks. The wastewater produced by fracking contains high levels of radioactivity that wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to treat.</p>	<p>Dangerous fracking chemicals are kept secret. In many states, big drilling companies don't have to disclose what chemicals they use in their fracking fluid—the mixture is a "trade secret." Its effects on your health won't be "secret" though, as independent analysts have identified 41 known chemicals in fracking fluid that are extremely toxic.</p>	<p>The "Halliburton Loophole." Thanks to intensive lobbying from then-Vice President Dick Cheney, Big Oil & Gas are exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act.</p>	<p>You can light your tap water on fire. When the high explosions used in fracking shatter the rock in which the gas is contained, it can leak into nearby household wells and drinking water. This gas can not only make you sick and even kill you, but it's also highly explosive.</p>	<p>The number of fracking wells is growing at an exponential rate. Fracking is already underway in 28 states. Big Oil & Gas companies are racing to drill more wells before people realize how dangerous this is to their health and safety. No one is safe from the spread of this dangerous drilling practice.</p>
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Learn more at www.foodandwaterwatch.org

Here's a bit about how shale fracking works and why it is so extremely dangerous ...

Fracking injects a mixture of water, toxic chemicals and sand under high-pressure up to miles underground into dense rock formations to crack the rock open and release natural gas.

And the fracking fluid that is injected into the ground is full of poisonous chemicals that have wide-ranging health and environmental effects.

Some of the fluid remains underground and could seep into groundwater and poison drinking water. And once that happens—and the aquifer fills with toxins—there's really no way to turn back the clock on fracking and undo the destruction of our water supply.

Fracking fluids also act as lubricants between rock faces and can cause earthquakes like the ones that occurred near drill sites in Ohio last December.

Indeed, the pressure fracking creates has been compared to exploding a massive pipe bomb underground. And to create rock fissures, vast quantities of water are required. A single frack can require more than a million gallons of water, depleting local water supplies and drying up nearby creeks as it has at several sites—not to mention the incredible level of trucking activity needed to port water to and from the fracking site.

Wastewater produced by fracking contains high levels of radioactivity that wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove. It's already been found in the Monongahela River and threatened the drinking water of hundreds of thousands of people in West Virginia and western Pennsylvania.

But the more immediate threat to your family, should drillers start fracking near your home, is that it can kill you.

When fracking loosens gas, it can cause methane to migrate into nearby household wells and drinking water. Methane is a severe safety hazard because it's explosive. It can build up in the air and inhaling the fumes can cause nausea, vomiting, dizziness and suffocation.

You can light your tap water on fire. Your home could explode, like the house that blew up in Pennsylvania and killed three people. You and your animals could get sick—and even die.

It's all happening, and current laws and regulations don't protect the public.

The chemicals used in fracking are kept secret from the public and local officials. But independent analysts identified 41 known chemicals with extreme toxicity in fracking fluid.

More than 75% of the fracking chemicals could affect skin, eyes, sensory organs, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems. Almost half of the fracking chemicals could affect the brain, nervous system and immune system. Do you want these chemicals to wind up in your water?

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Add to that what fracking pumps into our air. Airborne pollution from fracking contains high levels of neurotoxins and carcinogens and contains compounds that can create smog.

One hospital in Texas, serving six counties near drilling sites, reported asthma rates three times higher than the state average—one quarter of young children in the community had asthma. The air pollution fracking causes is so bad that one rural Wyoming community with a high concentration of wells recorded higher ozone levels than those in Houston and Los Angeles.

How is it possible for them to get away with poisoning our air and water?

We have something called the “Halliburton Loophole” to thank for the fact that the oil and gas industry can’t frack fast enough, regardless of the severe threats the dangerous drilling method poses to public health and the environment.

That’s because in 2005 Congress exempted fracking from key federal water and air protections following intensive lobbying from then-Vice President Dick Cheney and the energy industry. Consequently, fracking is largely overseen by overwhelmed state regulators who are underfunded and understaffed. Just like Big Oil and Gas wants.

The oil and natural gas industry is expanding fracking rapidly nationwide in a Manifest Destiny-style fervor with their eye on megabillions in profits.

The industry is already fracking in 28 states, with an explosive growth rate. Fracked gas wells have increased 41% across the country and shale gas fracking has gone up from 1% to 20%. The number of wells in Pennsylvania grew 600% from 2008 to 2010 and in Texas the increase was a whopping 3,000% from 1998 to 2007. And they’ve got hugely ambitious plans for more.

That is why I urge you in the strongest possible terms to immediately return your signed Registered Petitions to your governor and the President along with the most generous contribution you can send to advance Food & Water Watch’s grassroots campaign to ban fracking.

Please, do not underestimate the threat fracking poses for millions of families—including yours. Join us in mobilizing to stop it.

No one is more fierce and determined to get results than Food & Water Watch.

And we do. We fought to keep irradiated food out of the national school lunch program—and won. We waged a nationwide grassroots campaign that convinced Starbucks Coffee to stop using milk produced with artificial growth hormones—and WalMart and Kroger as well. We raised awareness nationwide about the environmental, health and equity problems with the bottled water industry—and for the first time ever reduced sales.

The oil and gas industry has nearly unlimited money that it is spending in a relentless effort to get their way so that fracking can happen everywhere ... including in your state or

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