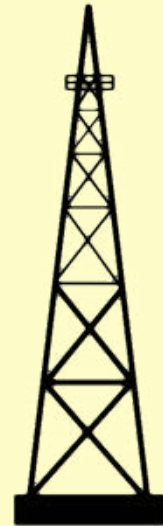




# Radioactive Fracking Waste Fact Sheet



- 1. Fracking in the Marcellus Shale region will bring significant amounts of radioactive wastewater and sludge to the surface.** *Many areas of the Marcellus shale contain high levels of naturally occurring radioactive material, more than in other regions. Once it is brought to the surface along with the gas, there is no way to dispose of it safely.*
- 2. Introducing radioactive, chemical-laden wastewater into water treatment plants will interfere with the plant's ability to process waste; even processed water can contaminate downstream receiving waters.** *Water processing plants have very limited ability to reduce radiation in wastewater; the EPA has found that in some cases dilution did not bring levels down sufficiently. Discharge of radioactive waste into rivers may result in contamination of drinking water for downstream communities.*
- 3. Radioactive sludge from drilling sites or water treatment plants will contaminate landfills and "nearby" ground and surface water for thousands of years.** *The half-life of radium-226, the radioisotope commonly found in wastewater and sludge from fracking in the Marcellus shale is 1600 years. So in the year 3612, only half of its toxicity will have dissipated.*
- 4. Vehicles transporting radioactive, chemical-laden waste increase the risk of human exposure in the event of accidents.** *Trucks with radioactive or toxic chemical payloads from fracking carry no notice or warnings: police and EMT's will be unaware of danger. In addition, landowners and workers on-site may be exposed to harmful levels of radiation. The EPA has identified this exposure as a significant risk and recommends a program to protect workers.*
- 5. Spreading radioactive wastewater on roads exposes drivers, passengers and pedestrians to radiation in air, and may contaminate nearby surface water, land and agricultural fields.** *Radioactive materials do not go away, they continue to spread further.*
- 6. Storage of radioactive wastewater in closed containment tanks can result in groundwater and surface water contamination from leaks, spills, corrosion, ruptures or accidental punctures.** *No container will outlast its radioactive contents.*
- 7. Natural gas from Marcellus shale contains high levels of radon.** *Radon mixes with the natural gas and stays with the gas as it is transported from wellheads to homes. Exposure to radon is the leading cause of non-smoker's lung cancer.*

---

For additional information and scientific references, please read the Summary Report *Human Health Risks and Exposure Pathways of Proposed Horizontal Hydrofracking in New York State*. Available online at:  
([www.grassrootsinfo.org/summaryreport.pdf](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org/summaryreport.pdf))



**www.grassrootsinfo.org**

A science-based non-profit organization