

SAFEGUARDING OUR WATER: 7 FAST FACTS

It's not easy being green – but it's good for Pennsylvania. That's why water safety is Priority One from Day One. Safe shale development is not only protecting the Keystone State's water supply, it's in some cases improving, maybe even preserving it. Here's how.

1 WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS MUST BE SUBMITTED before state regulators permit a well.

2 STEEL AND CONCRETE CASINGS protect groundwater from fracture fluids, produced brine water and natural gas; one geoscientist recently called groundwater contamination under such tightly regulated conditions “not physically plausible.”

3 HYDRAULIC FRACTURING POSES NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS, according to studies by the United States Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

4 HYDRAULIC FRACTURING DOESN'T REQUIRE DRINKING-QUALITY WATER. In fact, recycling wastewater helps conserve water use while saving money. Some producers are recycling 100% of their water.

5 GAS PRODUCERS MUST OBTAIN PERMITS from state regulatory agencies before withdrawing water from any rivers, lakes or streams.

6 A RECENT STUDY OF 98 WATER WELLS near natural gas drilling sites showed no significant changes in conductivity, pH, calcium, strontium, barium or magnesium in water samples.

7 MAJOR PENNSYLVANIA RIVERS ARE BECOMING STRONGER alongside natural gas development. The Monongahela River was named Pennsylvania's 2013 “River of the Year” and a report by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) noted “good progress” regarding drinking water, stormwater, aquatic habitat and other factors.