



County of Rockbridge

County Administrator

150 South Main Street

Lexington, Virginia 24450

Letter# 270

PLANNING & ZONING
(540) 464 9662

DATA PROCESSING
(540) 464 1241

FISCAL SERVICES
(540) 463 4361

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
(540) 464 9656

PLANNING & ZONING
(540) 464 9662

RECYCLING COORDINATOR
(540) 463 2437

ROBERT CLAYTOR
County Administrator
Office: (540) 463-4361
Fax (540) 463-4346

August 23, 2011

Ken Landgraf
George Washington National Forest
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

RE: Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing

Dear Ken:

Thank you for taking the time to speak to the Board of Supervisors about the draft Forest Management Plan last night. I have enclosed a resolution passed by the Board that addresses the issue of horizontal hydraulic fracturing. Though the Board supports the goal of energy independence for our Country, this current technique used to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation appears questionable and could be very detrimental to our natural resources. All that we ask is for the U. S. Forest Service to use great caution when considering leasing our public lands for such mining operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sam Crickenberger
Director of Community Development

enclosure

cc: Robert Claytor, County Administrator

Resolution Regarding Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing in the
George Washington National Forest

Supervisor Riegel made a motion to adopt the Resolution
with a second provided by Supervisor Comstock and approval by
the following vote:

AYES: Riegel, Comstock, Lewis, Ford
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Smith

R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Requesting the U. S. Forest Service to Protect
Drinking Water and Other National Resources by Prohibiting
Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing Natural Gas Wells in the George
Washington National Forest

WHEREAS, the U. S. Forest Service is preparing a draft
forest plan and environmental impact statement for release in
January 2012 that will govern management of resources within the
George Washington National Forest for the next fifteen years,
and

WHEREAS, the Rockbridge County Comprehensive Plan has
identified the need to manage natural resource sites for
sustainable use, to ensure that large areas of the County are
maintained as open space for agricultural and forestall
production, recreation, water supply and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, horizontal hydraulic fracturing requires from two
to ten million gallons of water per well, combined with sand and
numerous chemicals, to break up shale and access natural gas, a
drilling and mining process that has been linked to ground water
and surface water contamination, air pollution and soil
contamination, and

WHEREAS, horizontal hydraulic fracturing gas mining has
been linked to other significant adverse environmental impacts,
including massive water withdrawals, gas migration from new and
abandoned wells, the inability of public treatment plants to
adequately treat millions of gallons of gas mining waste water,
underground injection of brine waste water, improper erosion and
sediment control, improper cementing and casing of wells, over
pressurized wells, significant increases in industrial truck
traffic with subsequent increase in accidents on rural roads,
and other accidents and spills, and

WHEREAS, Congress' 2005 Energy Policy Act exempts the hydraulic fracturing drilling process from long held environmental regulations such as the Clean Air and Water Acts; the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund law and other environmental regulations, and

WHEREAS, the exact chemicals used in the horizontal hydraulic fracturing process are currently considered "proprietary" and, therefore, are not disclosed to federal, state or local health officials or the public, and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the midst of a two year study of the effects of horizontal hydraulic fracturing gas mining on water quality and other resources, to inform the development of regulations and recommendations to reduce environmental impacts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Rockbridge respectfully requests that the U. S. Forest Service, in the revised management plan for the George Washington National Forest, act aggressively to protect drinking water and other natural resources by prohibiting horizontal hydraulic fracturing natural gas wells in the George Washington National Forest.