

January 13, 2011

Ms. Elena Miller, Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources
CA Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 20-20
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Dear Supervisor Miller,

I am writing to inquire about the practice of “hydraulic fracturing” and its use in California. It has recently come to my attention that this drilling technique is being used in our state to retrieve natural gas from shale and other underground deposits. As the Supervisor of the Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources I would like to request background information from you on this particular technique and any potential risks associated with it that your Department is aware of.

Specifically, in light of recent reports that hydraulic fracturing may be linked to groundwater contamination in other states, I would like to request the following information:

- ❖ The extent to which hydraulic fracturing is used, including number and location of wells.
- ❖ The amount of energy produced using hydraulic fracturing.
- ❖ The amount of water used in the hydraulic fracturing process.
- ❖ Any information regarding the safety, efficacy, and necessity of hydraulic fracturing as it is currently being employed in California.
- ❖ Any information you are able to provide regarding potential risks to human or environmental health associated with hydraulic fracturing.

Additionally, in regards to siting and permitting of wells, if you are able to provide the following information it would be very helpful to my understanding of the current process in California:

- ❖ What is the current permitting process, including the duration of permits, in California for the recovery of natural gas via hydraulic fracturing?
- ❖ What specific statutory and regulatory authority is in place to regulate this drilling technique, including the chemical components of the fluids that are injected into the strata during the drilling process?
- ❖ Finally, if possible, please provide the results of any risk assessments that the State of California has conducted regarding potential groundwater contamination associated with hydraulic fracturing.

I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter, and for your work in ensuring the safe extraction of energy resources in our state.

Sincerely,

Fran Pavley
State Senator, 23rd District

cc: Marni Weber, Assistant Director, Office of Governmental and Environmental Relations,
Department of Conservation