

The Truth About Gasland

We welcome questions about the film Gasland because we feel it gives us an opportunity to talk about natural gas production in a fact-based way.

In the film's signature moment Mike Markham, a landowner, ignites his tap water. The film leaves the viewer with the impression the flaming tap water is a result of natural gas drilling. However, according to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which tested Markham's water in 2008, at his request, methane in his water supply had "no indications of oil & gas related impacts to water well." Instead the [investigation](#) found that the cause was "biogenic" in nature, meaning it was naturally occurring due to the fact that his water well had been drilled into a natural gas pocket.

The film leaves a clear—and false—perception that hydraulic fracturing was to blame. This is simply not true, and there are several examples where the film veers from the facts. A second depiction of a flaming faucet in the home of Renee McClure in Colorado also leaves viewers with a false impression about the connection between gas industry activities and methane in water wells. McClure's well was sampled by the state and it, too, showed [only naturally occurring](#) methane.

Once again, natural gas is falsely linked when the film flashes the words "35 mile fish kill Dunkard Creek Washington County PA." The Environmental Protection Agency investigated and tied the fish kills in Dunkard Creek to coal mine run-off. [Here](#) is the official report.

Contrary to film claims, natural gas production is subject to federal, state and local regulations that cover everything from initial permits to well construction to water disposal. The natural gas community is committed to being good neighbors and responsible stewards of the land, and we are committed to answering the public's questions and concerns in a factual and science-based way.

In rare cases where incidents have occurred, companies have worked with the appropriate regulatory authority to identify and correct the issue, and to implement measures to ensure they don't recur. ANGA member companies understand and respect people's concerns and questions about the safety of their water and air, and we are committed to engaging in dialogue with community members, policymakers and stakeholders to talk about the safety of natural gas production and the opportunities natural gas offers communities across our country.

Natural gas is a clean, abundant and domestic energy source that has created 2.8 million American jobs and is vital to our nation's clean-energy future and economy. Hydraulic fracturing is a proven technology that has been refined over 60 years. It has allowed companies to safely produce natural gas from more than 1 million U.S. wells. The Environmental Protection Agency, Ground Water Protection Council, Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and others have all examined the process and found it to be safe.

