

REPORT ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING AND UNDERGROUND INJECTION  
CONTROL AND COALBED METHANE  
BY THE NATIONAL DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COUNCIL  
RESULTING FROM A CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD  
DECEMBER 12, 2002  
WASHINGTON, DC

**National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) Recommendations**

**Whereas**, the protection of the Nation's ground water resources is of critical importance to the protection of public health and the continued economic vitality of the United States of America;

**Whereas**, there are many potential as well as documented threats to the quality of America's ground water, including impacts from Class V underground injection wells that have caused or contributed to ground water contamination including that associated with over 100 superfund (CERCLA) sites;

**Whereas**, the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is one of the primary means by which the US EPA and States can safeguard our ground water resources;

**Whereas**, federal funding for state underground injection control programs has remained at \$10.5 million since 1988;

**Whereas**, a 1998 survey of states conducted by US EPA and the Ground Water Protection Council estimated there is a \$48 million shortfall of funding for State Class V Programs;

**Whereas**, on August 28, 2002, the US EPA released a draft Phase I Study evaluating impacts to underground sources of drinking water by the hydraulic fracturing of coalbed methane wells;

**THE** National Drinking Water Advisory Council makes the following recommendations to the Administrator, US EPA, concerning the issues of coalbed methane production, hydraulic fracturing, and underground injection control:

**Recommendation 1:**

The Administrator should seek, prioritize and direct additional resources to the underground injection control program, with particular emphasis given to the resource needs of the Class V Program.

**Recommendation 2:**

With respect to the issue of hydraulic fracturing, the Council recognizes that certain constituents of concern are introduced into fracturing fluids through the use of diesel fuel and other toxins as additives. As such, the NDWAC encourages the Administrator to work through voluntary and/or regulatory means as appropriate in order to eliminate the use of diesel fuel and related additives in fracturing fluids that are emplaced in geologic formations containing sources of drinking water.

**Recommendation 3:**

Recognizing that certain aspects of the coalbed methane production process, such as the dewatering of drinking water formations and the discharge of produced water to the surface streams, rivers, and lakes could have adverse consequences to the quality of those waters, the US EPA should continue its studies of these actions to determine the extent and nature of public health and environmental problems that could occur as a result and recommend appropriate actions to avoid these impacts.

**Recommendation 4:**

The Council encourages the Administrator to defend as necessary the US EPA's existing authority and discretion to implement the Underground Injection Control Program in a manner that advances the protection of our ground water resources from contamination.

Finally, the Council pledges its support to the Administrator in working toward the above ends.