

For Immediate Release:

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Florida Legislators Reminded of Fracking Health Impacts, Scientific Evidence

Health Professionals Recount New York's Studies

Tallahassee, Florida – The Concerned Health Professionals of New York (CHPNY) strongly urged Florida legislators to learn from New York State's efforts to assess the health impacts of fracking. CHPNY and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), co-authors of the 500-study compendium of fracking-related health studies, added that Senate Bill 318 fails to even look at the health impacts in Florida and should be discredited.

In December 2014, the New York State Department of Health released its own review of the health impacts of fracking, which served as the foundation for a statewide ban after CHPNY had advocated for years that the health costs of fracking were too high.

As Florida gears up to make this decision, legislators would be wise to review some of the key studies that offered compelling reasons from New York's efforts in 2015:

Water contamination:

[An analysis](#) of complaints from four states with fracking showed that "hundreds of complaints have been made about well-water contamination from oil or gas drilling"

A Duke University [study](#) linked fracking with nearby groundwater contamination, corroborating an [earlier study](#) that found "systematic evidence for methane contamination of drinking water associated with shale gas extraction."

The U.S. Geological Survey released a report focusing on fracking in the Appalachian Basin that raises [many concerns](#) and found serious impacts to watersheds and water quality, as well as issues with radiation and seismic events. The [report](#) notes, "Although the technology for [fracking] has improved over the past few decades, the knowledge of how this extraction might affect water resources has not kept pace."

A [study](#) by the University of Missouri School of Medicine links fracking with dangerous hormone-disrupting chemicals in the water near fracking sites.

A University of Texas at Arlington study of fracking sites in Texas' Barnett Shale showed that ["there are elevated levels of arsenic and other heavy metals close to natural gas extraction sites"](#) and that the compounds could end up in drinking water.

The Denver Post [reported that](#) Colorado state data show more than 350 instances of groundwater contamination resulting from more than 2,000 oil and gas spills over the past five years.

The Scranton Times-Tribune obtained Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection data that showed at least 161 [homes, farms, churches and businesses](#) had their water supplies damaged by drilling and fracking between 2008 and the fall of 2012.

Dangerous air pollution:

Based on three years of monitoring, a Colorado School of Public Health study [found](#) air pollutants near fracking sites at levels sufficient to raise risks for cancer, neurological deficits and respiratory problems.

American Lung Association data [show](#) worse air quality in intensely fracked rural areas than in urban areas. The American Lung Association has joined the [New York State Medical Society](#), the American Academy of Pediatrics of NY and [hundreds](#) of medical experts, scientists and health organizations in calling for a moratorium and comprehensive health impact assessment.

Tests at fracking sites in West Virginia [revealed](#) dangerous levels of air contaminants, prompting the health department administrator to warn, "the levels of benzene really pop out... The concerns of the public are validated." In Texas, air-monitoring data in the Eagle Ford Shale area [reveal](#) that residents could be exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution, including both benzene and hydrogen sulfide gas.

Medical experts at a single rural clinic in Pennsylvania [documented](#) a wide range of health problems in 20 individuals and conclude that these problems are caused by exposures to airborne emissions from nearby fracking operations.

CHPNY added that legislators should learn from New York's long-term assessment of the health implications associated with fracking and ultimately save Florida time and money by rejecting SB318.