

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF COLORADO

CONSENSUS POSITION -- Hydraulic Fracturing

Adopted by LWVCO Board on March 20, 2013

POSITION IN BRIEF

LWVCO supports policies that enhance public participation in the permitting and monitoring of oil and gas operations in the state. LWVCO supports efforts to improve coordination with local governmental units for environmental management and wise land use. We support strong environmental regulations for water quality, air quality and impacts on human health.

POSITION

Support for:

- Public hearings in the actual community of the drilling
- Public notice on web sites and other media
- Use of the Local Government Designee (LGD) and education for LGD's in the state in order to more easily respond to local citizen concerns
- Strong environmental and safety regulation of water quality and air quality
- Transparency in the reporting of all chemicals used during drilling, posted on a neutral website that is easily accessible to the public
- Adequate number of inspectors for the number of wells in the state to ensure that accidents are properly reported and mitigated
- Research, development and use of environmentally friendly extraction methods and equipment, including those providing for the capture of methane
- Pre and post testing of water wells and air around all oil and gas well sites
- Monitoring of the water quantity used for oil and gas drilling operations in a manner that is transparent to the public
- Reporting of information on the demands for water used for oil and gas drilling in specific river basins
- Reuse of produced water, with regulatory oversight

Colorado has a rich mineral history that includes oil and gas drilling. By early 2013, Colorado had over 49,000 oil and gas drilling operations, predominantly on the Front Range and in the southwest part of the state. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was established in 1951 to handle the permitting and oversight of these operations. There is increasing concern in many counties and municipalities regarding the public participation in the permitting process and during drilling operations. The nature of hydraulic fracturing raises issues that relate to land use, water and air quality, and public health impacts.