

3. The Facts

There is a belief that extracting natural gas by hydraulic fracturing poses a risk to B.C.'s water supply and is an environmental hazard. In fact:

- The technology has proven to be safe and efficient. Hydraulic fracturing has existed in British Columbia since the 1960s, with no incidence of groundwater contamination.
- Natural gas is contained deep below the surface. The water table is normally less than 300 metres below the surface. In British Columbia, there are two to three kilometres of rock and impermeable earth between natural gas and water.
- Natural gas wells are double-lined with steel and concrete to protect the water supply. The lining extends far below the deepest part of the drinking water supply.

You may hear that hydraulic fracturing uses too much water. In fact:

- It takes an average of 17 million litres of water to extract natural gas from a well. Metro Vancouver consumes one billion litres of water per day.
- The natural gas industry uses less than half of 1% of the annual runoff (the rain, snow or ice water that drains into lakes and rivers over the year) in northeastern B.C. for hydraulic fracturing.

Some people believe that transporting natural gas by pipeline to LNG plants, and shipping LNG to international markets, will increase the risk of a gas leak or spill. In fact:

- Natural gas and LNG are very different from oil or gasoline. Natural gas is non-toxic, odourless and non-corrosive. If a leak were to occur, the natural gas would evaporate into the atmosphere.
- All equipment (pipelines, plants and ships) are stringently maintained and inspected.
- Pipeline technology is proven in British Columbia. There is a long history of building, inspecting and maintaining pipelines in the province.
- There are 40,125 kilometres of pipelines in B.C., and additional pipelines will be needed to get natural gas to LNG plants.

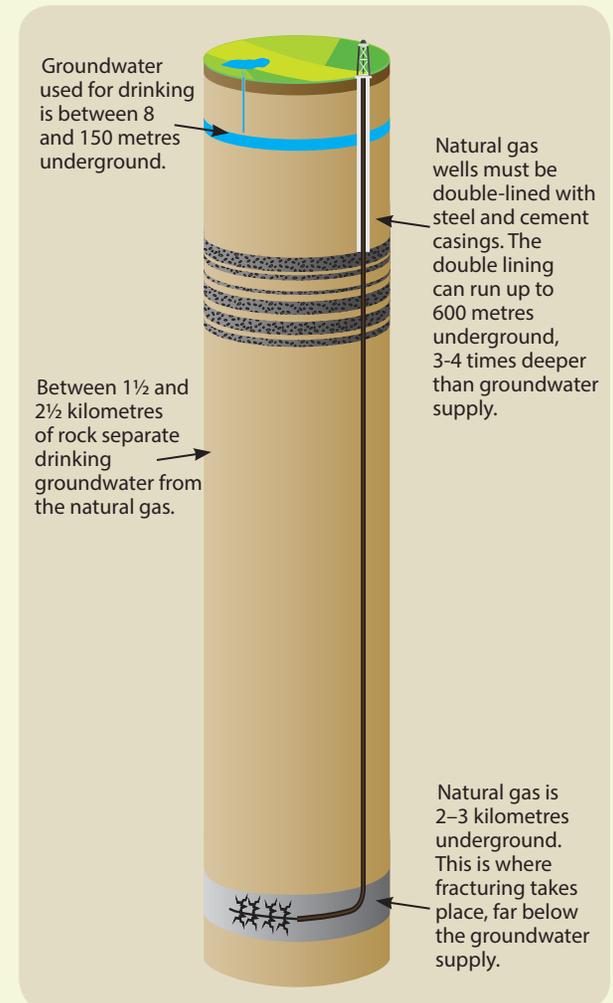
You may hear that hydraulic fracturing creates small earthquakes. In fact:

- The BC Oil and Gas Commission was the first regulatory agency in North America to identify that hydraulic fracturing can cause small, localized earthquakes. Research done by the Commission and the University of British Columbia has shown that these small events have not resulted in any potential damage to surface structures or risks to the safe operation of wells.
- As a result, B.C. has tightened its requirements for monitoring and reporting.

Points to consider:

- How informed do you feel you are on the natural gas industry, LNG, and the potential for growth in B.C.?
- What are some reliable sources of information about natural gas and the LNG industry?

Dig a little deeper:



3. The Facts, *continued*

There is a belief that expanding an industry that relies on burning fossil fuel will increase greenhouse gas emissions, and continue to damage the worldwide environment. In fact:

- Natural gas is the world's cleanest burning fossil fuel, and is often used to supplement even cleaner sources of energy, including wind and solar power.
- British Columbia is actively marketing natural gas to China, one of the largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions. If China switched from coal to natural gas today, its carbon dioxide emissions would be reduced by up to 40%.

There is fear that expanding natural gas and LNG industries will only benefit companies. In fact:

- The LNG industry will create an estimated 100,000 jobs in B.C.
- The LNG industry is expected to generate significant revenues for federal and provincial governments, money that will be used to provide a wide range of public services:
 - \$150 billion in tax revenue for the federal government.
 - contribute up to \$1 trillion to the province's gross domestic product.

There are concerns that more shipping activity automatically increases the risk of an accident and environmental damage. In fact:

- In more than 50 years, there have been no safety incidents involving LNG containers.
- Ships are required to meet rigid construction and inspection standards.
- Ships are escorted by tugboat when they are near land – between port stations and shipping lanes.

There may be questions about whether communities can meet the high demands for infrastructure and social supports of a fast-growing population. In fact:

- The LNG industry will create a wide variety of well-paying, skilled jobs in British Columbia.
- Communities, especially First Nations, are already developing and implementing economic development and social infrastructure plans.
- Following the release of the *B.C. Skills for Jobs Blueprint*, the provincial government announced that it is investing \$6.8 million to add more training seats in public post-secondary institutions.

For more information:

- Visit LNGinBC.ca for more information about liquefied natural gas.
- Visit gov.bc.ca/mngd for information about natural gas and the Ministry of Natural Gas Development.
- Visit bcogc.ca for information about natural gas oversight and regulations.