Special Issue

Environmental Health Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing

Message from the Guest Editor

Hydraulic fracturing has opened up previously-inaccessible oil and gas deposits to economical recovery. At the same time, concerns have been raised over the health and ecological impacts of the process. A variety of potential impacts on health have been proposed including occupation accidents, water and air contamination, and stress associated with community changes. Regulatory approaches have spanned a range from acceptance to categorical bans of the practice. There is a need for research to identify the magnitude of the risks as well as mitigation options, so that appropriate regulatory actions can be taken. For this Special Issue we invite submissions examining the relationship between hydraulic fracturing activities and public health. The topic is construed broadly to include any research that contributes to identifying or mitigating health risks due to hydraulic fracturing. Studies of interest include epidemiological studies, risk assessments, environmental impact assessments, and regulatory policy analyses.

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