



Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends
P.O. Box 1565
Warsaw, VA 22572
rwrfriends@gmail.com

Fracking Policy

Executive Summary – “Policy on Hydraulic Fracturing in the Taylorsville Basin.”

Upon careful consideration, we the Friends of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge) oppose the practice of “fracking” in our region. (See attached report.)

We urge our representatives at the local, state, and Federal levels either to ban fracking throughout the Tidewater region, or at least to regulate narrowly the practice so that sensitive environmental resources, on the Refuge and elsewhere, are protected.

The refuge contains parcels on both sides of the Rappahannock River and thus includes [portions of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula in Virginia, touching the counties of Caroline, Essex, Westmoreland, King and Queen, and Richmond. The Refuge is underlain geologically by the Taylorsville Basin, a shale formation rich in oil and natural gas resources.

The fracking process would consume millions of gallons of fresh water that could otherwise be used productively for public water supplies and crop irrigation, as well as providing clean water sources for the abundant surface waters and wildlife that are an economically beneficial recreational resource in the area of the Refuge.

Fracking constitutes essentially an industrial activity that is incompatible with the rural character of the area. It would bring heavy truck traffic and result in costly public expenditures to meet increased needs for transportation and public utilities. The use of government powers of eminent domain to take private property for routing pipelines is an example of the possible impacts of fracking operations on land use in our area.

Fracking has potentially harmful environmental impacts, such as wastewater spills; ground water contamination with mercury, radioactivity, and salinity, and release of CO₂ and methane into the atmosphere.