

County of Granville

North Carolina

1746

Resolution Opposing Hydraulic Fracturing in Granville County

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," refers to a method of extracting natural gas that involves fracturing rock thousands of feet below the surface with a high-pressure mixture of sand, water and industrial chemicals in order to reach pockets of natural gas trapped in shale and coal deposits; and

WHEREAS, there are documented impacts on the environment and public health from other states where hydraulic fracturing is used, including contamination of drinking water wells, surface waters and air quality; and

WHEREAS, many residents of Granville County rely on private water wells and community water wells supplied from groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Granville County Citizens Advisory Committee for Environmental Affairs (EAC) was given these general powers by Granville County: "The EAC shall have the power to investigate, publicize and report to the Board of Commissioners any activities in Granville County involving threat to any land, water or air resources which are found by the Board to endanger or threaten to endanger the persons and property of citizens of the County. The Board shall serve as the "Eyes and Ears of the Board of Commissioners on any environmental issue;" and


WHEREAS, the Granville County Environmental Affairs Committee recommends that the Granville County Board of Commissioners oppose hydraulic fracturing in Granville County due to the negative impacts on ground water quality, surface water quality, atmospheric quality, soil quality and the lack of significant standards and oversight applicable to hydraulic fracturing; and


WHEREAS, Section 5 of the North Carolina Constitution states that "It shall be the policy of the State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivisions, to control and limit the pollution of our air and water, and in every other appropriate way to preserve as part of our common heritage of this State its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands, and places of beauty;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Granville County Board of Commissioners, oppose hydraulic fracturing and will use whatever legal powers are available to us to prevent the development of fracking and horizontal drilling for oil or gas in the County. We call on the General Assembly to sustain the current moratorium on the permitting of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling operations indefinitely. If permitting for these activities should be allowed by legislative vote as required by SESSION LAW 2013-365 (Senate Bill 76), Part I, Granville County will use its ability, through zoning, general police actions and other powers and community services normally available to us, to protect our environment and safeguard the property rights, health, and drinking water of our citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the leadership of the North Carolina General Assembly and the Granville Legislative Delegation.

Adopted, this the 21st day of October 2013.


Edgar Smoak, Chairman
Granville County Board of Commissioners


Debra A. Weary
Clerk to the Board