



OERB[®] FACT SHEET

Why is Hydraulic Fracturing Used?



- Experts believe 60 to 80 percent of all wells drilled in the United States in the next ten years will require hydraulic fracturing to continue operating.
- Hydraulic fracturing makes existing wells that were depleted years ago or wells that have never been commercially productive viable.
- “Fracking” makes it possible to recover crude oil and natural gas from unconventional resources like coalbed methane, shale gas and tight sands.
- Fracturing is estimated to account for as much as 50% of U.S. recoverable oil and natural gas reserves.
- It has been responsible for the addition of more than 7 billion barrels of oil and 600 trillion cubic feet of natural gas to meet U.S. energy needs.
- Even more, the U.S. Energy Information Administration reports there is more than 750 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable shale gas and 24 billion barrels of technically recoverable shale oil resources in discovered shale plays.
- Oil and natural gas is not found in enormous void or hollows in the Earth. Instead, the fuel fills gaps, cracks and pores in rock formations.
- While the rock is porous enough to hold fossil fuels, the holes are not large enough to allow oil and natural gas to easily flow through the rock and into the wellbore.
- Creating cracks through the process of hydraulic fracturing opens up fissures, or cracks, that free up the resources, allowing them to flow freely.

