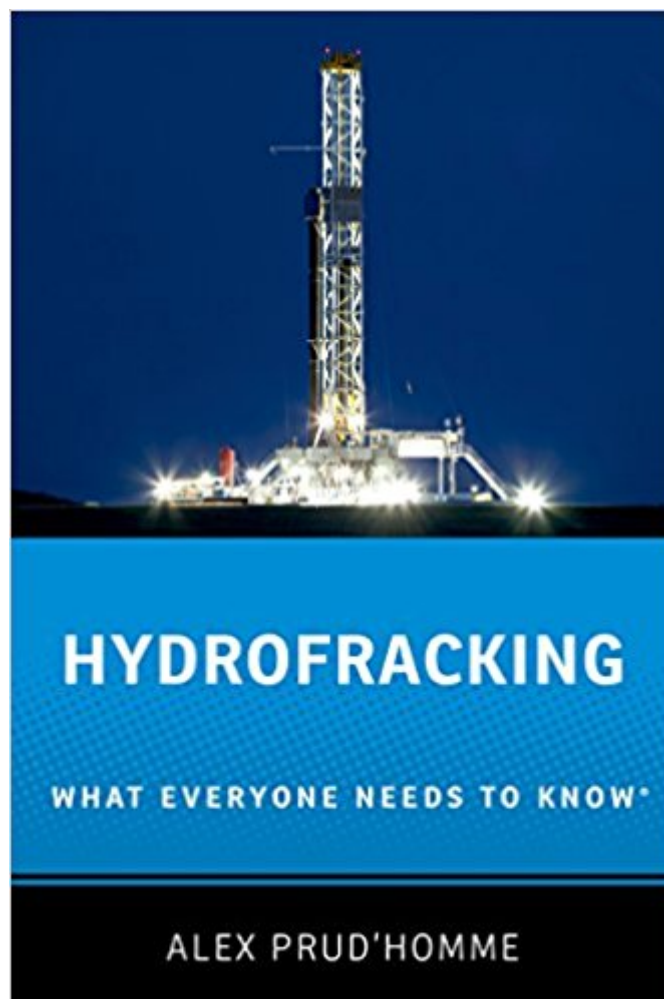


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Hydrofracking: What Everyone Needs To Know™



Synopsis

Constantly in the news and the subject of much public debate, fracking, as it is known for short, is one of the most promising yet controversial methods of extracting natural gas and oil. Today, 90 percent of natural gas wells use fracking. Though highly effective, the process-which fractures rock with pressurized fluid-has been criticized for polluting land, air, and water, and endangering human health. A timely addition to Oxford's What Everyone Needs to Know[®] series, Hydrofracking tackles this contentious topic, exploring both sides of the debate and providing a clear guide to the science underlying the technique. In concise question-and-answer format, Alex Prud'homme cuts through the maze of opinions and rhetoric to uncover key points, from the economic and political benefits of fracking to the health dangers and negative effects on the environment. Prud'homme offers clear answers to a range of fundamental questions, including: What is fracking fluid? How does it impact water supplies? Who regulates the industry? How much recoverable natural gas exists in the U.S.? What new innovations are on the horizon? Supporters as diverse as President Obama and the conservative billionaire T. Boone Pickens have promoted natural gas as a clean, "21st-century" fuel that will reduce global warming, create jobs, and provide tax revenues, but concerns remain, with environmental activists like Bill McKibben and others leading protests to put an end to fracking as a means of obtaining alternative energy. Prud'homme considers ways to improve methods in the short-term, while also exploring the possibility of transitioning to more sustainable resources-wind, solar, tidal, and perhaps nuclear power-for the long term. Written for general readers, Hydrofracking clearly explains both the complex science of fracking and the equally complex political and economic issues that surround it, giving readers all the information they need to understand what will no doubt remain a contentious issue for years to come. What Everyone Needs to Know[®] is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.

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Customer Reviews

The book begins with a glossary, this is excellent. It describes the national and regional disputes over fracking, using a Q&A format throughout. It details the fracking revolution and the spluttering environmentalist backlash. The PRO side+ fracking blasts apart the decades-long presumption of limited supply+ there is no peak oil+ low cost energy increases domestic manufacturing+ exports increasing+ OPEC getting crushed as global oil prices fall. Some very bad regimes are hurting now. That's good.+ transforming transportation+ decades of environmental evidence on fracking demonstrates no harm+ natural gas power plants emit only half the GHG as coal+ do methane leaks negate the good news on GHG? EPA statement from 2013, page 67+ good quote: Pragmatic leaders understand... that with natural gas we don't have to choose between our economic and environmental priorities. (66) Opponents of fracking say the larger point is not climate change or green house gases, but a required move away from energy production. The book presents the CONs of fracking.- water use, especially in the west- road use- visual aesthetics- potential for drinking water contamination- studies on fracking have been limited to drilling, do not include accidents or spills A few notes on the book: (76) ProPublica is not an "independent online newsroom." They are a leftist propaganda group. The EPA is facing political and financial problems complying with all the studies fracking opponents demand. After the EPA poisoned the Animas River and the Navajo nation in retaliation over a land use dispute, people are right to be suspicious of the EPA's politicised findings. The adverse health section offers too many hypotheticals and unsubstantiated anecdotes. More academic rigor is needed - the situation is too emotional. In many places, the problem is old infrastructure, like in Boston (90) The conclusion is exciting: the opportunities for innovation brought by low cost, clean natural gas make renewables a much h

worse option. As far as the grid, delivery, and storage systems, renewables are more environmentally damaging. Financially they are ruinous. And try building a hydroelectric dam in the west. Environmentalists will not permit them to be built. Decades of research, testing, and innovation have produced the fracking revolution. It is not inevitable. Politics could still stop it. The book has a huge notes section and a great bibliography. Excellent for high school research project.

An extremely balanced review of the industry and its practices. Though it is balanced there is no way to approach corruption and obviously destructive activities without appearing to have bias. Understand that this book left me with a feeling of loving the idea of hydrofracking but hating its execution.

This was great easy to read, covers all aspects of fracking, very informative, and delivered quickly. Reasonably priced, kudos to all involved.

It was an eye opener and I was glad to be able to read about this problem.

Very professional

im satisfied

I THE MAIN REASONS I RATED THE BOOK HIGH WAS THAT IT STARTED WITH THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE ENERGY INDUSTRY AND MOVED INTO THE VERY BASICS OF WHY FRACKING IS SO SUCCESSFUL' I BORN AND RAISED IN THE OIL COUNTRY MANY YEARS AGO AND OUR FRACKING WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY. ALSO, DRILLING AND PRODUCTION WAS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT . IF THE INDUSTRY HANDLES THIS PROGRESS RIGHT, THEY HAVE A "TIGER BY THE TAIL."

I moved to Colorado this year, so I felt somewhat obliged to read at least something about this perpetually contentious and, for me, very local topic. It's a short primer and covers the absolute bare bones in a clear accessible style, Prud'Homme provides a slew of data and simple, direct summaries to explain what fracking is, where it came from and why it matters. He tries to offer balance and clarity and to provide smart arguments both for (it's cheap and there's probably a lot of shale gas in American soil) and against it (it uses an obscene amount of water, its overall

environmental impact can be a mess, and it's really just a stop-gap away from fossil fuels into renewables down the road). Obviously a work like this is meant to offer the briefest of summaries. I would gladly have continued reading it if it had been another couple of hundred pages. There is obviously a great deal more to unpack when it comes to hydrofracking, or indeed to any energy policy than what can be hinted at here. This is a solid, short book if you want a light primer on hydrofracking. Now, where is the heavy primer?(less)

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