



Senate Bill 149: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING PERMITS & REPORTING

Current Sponsors: Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Representative Patricia Roybal Caballero

Short Synopsis:

SB 149 calls on the constitutional obligation of the New Mexico Legislature to control pollution and protect the air, water and other natural resources of this state. In line with the [executive order](#) from President Biden pausing new federal oil and gas leases to analyze the cumulative impacts of fracking, SB 149 places a four-year moratorium on *new* oil and gas permits wherein the Energy Minerals Natural Resources Department, Department of Agriculture, Environment Department, Department of Health, Office of the State Engineer, Indian Affairs Department, and Workers Compensation Administration are directed to report on the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, as well as provide recommendations for legislation and appropriations to conduct analysis.

Background:

New Mexico's leadership is unable to make informed decisions regarding oil and gas regulation because there is a glaring lack of knowledge and reporting requirements related to industrialized fracking - multi-stage horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing - and its impacts on our lands, water, air, public health and safety.

SB 149 finally provides for the State of New Mexico to learn the truth about fracking. The Bill allows for reasonable restraint, asking for a pause on new fracking permits until state agencies are able to report to decision makers.

Supporting Organizations:

350 New Mexico	NM League of Conservation Voters
Adelante Progressive Caucus	NM MoveOn
Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice	Nortenos for Peaceful and Sustainable Futures
Center for Biological Diversity	Our Revolution New Mexico
Citizens Caring For the Future	Pueblo Action Alliance
Common Ground Rising	Retake Our Democracy
Dine Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment	Rio Arriba Concerned Citizens
Earthcare NM	San Juan Citizens Alliance
Earthworks Oil and Gas Accountability Project	Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter
Frack Off Greater Chaco	Southwest Organizing Project Albuquerque
Frack Free Four Corners	Sunrise Movement - ABQ Chapter
Frack Free New Mexico	TEWA Women United
Food & Water Watch	Torreon Community Alliance
Native American Democratic Caucus	We Are One River
New Energy Economy	Western Environmental Law Center
NM Environmental Law Center	WildEarth Guardians
NM Green Party	YUCCA (Youth United for Climate Crisis Action)

It's good business to do your research.

- SB 149 gives legislators the time and information they need to responsibly manage industrialized fracking in our state.
- The ultimate goal of the bill is to learn the whole truth about fracking, providing a pause for protections so that this new onslaught of industrialized oil and gas activity does not do irreparable harm to our culture, health, water, or environment.

This isn't regular or conventional oil and gas.

- Conventional drilling used vertical wells at 1,000 feet below ground where multi-stage fracking and horizontal drilling – industrialized fracking - drills 10 times that depth and horizontally up to two miles in every direction. Hydraulic Multi Directional Fracking is not regulated under the Oil and Gas Act.

This bill helps us look before we leap.

- Industrialized fracking isn't regulated under the Clean Water Act and there are proposals in New Mexico to pump poison fracked water onto our crops, roads and into our rivers.
- Currently our state agencies know next to nothing about how many industrial wells are operating what [impacts they have on our communities, environment, and long-term health](#).

We don't know enough about fracking.

- Our state is now one of the top three oil and gas producing states in the nation, but we still have the worst public education and the highest rates of child poverty in the country. If oil and gas were going to make us rich, we'd be rich by now.
- The volatility of relying on oil and gas revenue has left our state with a budget shortfall of [hundreds of millions of dollars](#), while operators routinely leak, spill, and explode toxic fracking waste across New Mexico daily.

Support transparency. Pause for protections.

- Senate Bill 149 provides a temporary four year moratorium on new fracking permits so that agencies have time to report and provide policy recommendations for legislators to consider.