

Why do we need a fracking waste ordinance in Weston?

- **Where does fracking waste come from?**

The process of extracting oil and natural gas using hydraulic fracturing (or fracking) produces large amounts of liquid and solid waste. Fracking waste includes rock and drilling lubricant left over from the process of drilling a well, as well as wastewater and sand from the fracking and production processes. Some of this waste is being imported into New York State from Pennsylvania. Some of it comes from more than 12,000 conventional, low-volume oil and gas extraction wells within New York State.

- **Why would CT be impacted?**

Connecticut has no oil or gas deposits, and therefore no fracking. However, fracking waste has been shipped to other states from Pennsylvania and New York. Also, there are hazardous waste treatment facilities in Bridgeport and other locations in Connecticut. Fracking waste could be transported there over interstate highways.

- **What are the risks to our towns?**

Fracking waste contains many pollutants, such as chemical additives, heavy metals, corrosive salts, organic carcinogens such as benzene, as well as naturally occurring radioactive materials such as radium. It can leak into the soil and waterways, especially when used as a road deicing agent, as it has been in New York State. There are well documented research studies by Yale University and other reputable institutions that link fracking waste to a wide range of public health impacts, including increased risk of migraines, nasal and sinus symptoms, cancer, and developmental and reproductive health problems. We want to avoid any impacts due to fracking wastes in Weston.

- **What do towns have authority to do?**

Connecticut has a state law that temporarily bans only some waste from gas wells only, and requires future regulations be put in place. The current moratorium is missing language that bans other types of waste that does not come from hydraulic fracturing, such as drilling waste, storage and leachate waste, and toxic and radioactive brines produced years after hydraulic fracturing is done; it also doesn't ban any waste from oil wells. Since there is no law, these types of waste are not banned and can legally be brought to any CT town that hasn't passed a comprehensive ordinance. As of year-end 2017, 33 CT towns had passed local fracking bans.

Learn more:

Fact sheet – Fracking Waste (Riverkeeper NY) <https://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/FACTSHEET-Fracking-Waste.pdf>

Compendium of Scientific, Medical, and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (Concerned Health Professionals of NY) <http://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>