

Administrative Rule Analysis



HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

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Department: Environmental Quality
Agency: Office of Oil, Gas, and Minerals
Rule Set No.: 2014-029-LR

Complete to: 2/27/15

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES SUBMITTED TO JCAR

Rule set 2014-029-LR amends the Oil and Gas Operations section of the Michigan Administrative Code in response to an increase in high volume water withdrawals for hydraulic fracturing. The Department of Environmental Quality manages the state's water resources and regulates the drilling of wells for oil, gas, and mineral extraction. This regulation includes the issuance of permits to drill. The proposed rule changes would require permit applicants who plan to engage in high volume hydraulic fracturing to disclose the chemicals used in their fracturing activities. Reporting requirements would include the submission of water quality samples to verify content and address potential impacts to Michigan's water resources, including drinking water. Permit to drill applicants may withhold the identity of certain chemicals if they qualify as a trade secret; these applicants would still be required to disclose the chemical family or other identifying information of the trade secret chemical without revealing full identity.

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED RULES

The administrative rules amended by 2014-029-LR would not have a significant fiscal impact on the Department of Environmental Quality of local units of government.

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