

trucks of  
water for  
each well

**200**

# FRACKING

## HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Fracturing fluid (a mix of water, sand, and chemicals) is pumped into the well

The pressure causes the rock surrounding the pipe to crack

The proppants hold open these cracks to allow the trapped natural gas to escape

Gas flows up the well to be collected

## POTENTIAL RISKS

groundwater contamination  
air quality degradation

WATER  
SAND  
CHEMICALS

**70 to 140 billion**

GALLONS of water used to fracture 35,000 wells in the U.S. each year

equals approximately the  
**ANNUAL WATER CONSUMPTION**  
of 40 to 80 cities with  
population 50,000

(sand or ceramic beads) **300,000 to 4 million**  
pounds of proppants  
used per well

various chemicals make up up to  
**0.5% to 2.0% = 330 TONS**  
total volume of fracturing fluid

NATURAL GAS