

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 15-0241R

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: July 24, 2015

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 15-0241R introduced by Councilmembers Kraft, Henry, Holton, Stokes, Branch, Scott, Middleton, Welch, Clarke, Curran, Spector, Reisinger, and Council President Young.

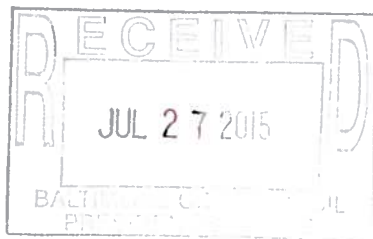
The purpose of this resolution is to support the passage of a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing in Maryland.

Hydraulic fracturing is a horizontal drilling technique used to access and retrieve oil or natural gas trapped in subterranean rock formations. By creating fractures in rock formations that are not naturally porous, the trapped oil or natural gas can be released in a wellbore at very economic rates. The technique requires pumping large amounts of water mixed with sand or other propellants to fracture the rock and release the oil or gas. When the wellbore pressure is released, a percentage of the water flows out of the well and requires treatment to remove chemicals and other contaminants.

City Council Resolution 15-0241R, if approved, would urge the State of Maryland to enact a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing. During the 2015 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation was passed to ban hydraulic fracturing in the state until October 1, 2017. It also requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt regulations on hydraulic fracturing by October 1, 2016. Prior to the passage of this law, Maryland had a de-facto moratorium on hydraulic fracturing that had been in place since 2011, allowing time for a task force to study the issue.

In 2013, Baltimore City enacted Ordinance 13-113 which prohibits the storage, treatment, discharge, or disposal of flow back or other wastewater resulting from hydraulic fracturing in the City or in any City-owned facility or property, wherever situated.

The Department of Public Works has no objection to the passage of City Council Resolution 15-0241R, while also recognizing that the Maryland Department of the Environment is required to adopt regulations by October 1, 2016.



Sincerely,

Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

RSC/KTO:ela