



F R O M	Name & Title	Oxiris Barbot, MD Commissioner 	Health Department	 MEMO
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 13-0190 – Wastewater from Hydraulic Fracturing		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

March 1, 2013

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 13-0190 Wastewater from Hydraulic Fracturing. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the storage, treatment, discharge, or disposal of backflow or other wastewater resulting from hydraulic fracturing.

It is known that a variety of chemicals proven to be toxic to humans and animals are used in the fracturing process. How these chemicals are stored treated and ultimately disposed of is of great significance to us, particularly in the Chesapeake watershed.

The Clean Water Act through the Safe Drinking Water Act (SWDA) requires EPA to develop minimum federal requirements for Underground Injection Control (UIC) Programs to safeguard public health by preventing injection wells from contaminating groundwater. However SWDA §1421(d) essentially excludes hydraulic fracturing from UIC requirements, which leaves drillers virtually unregulated. This legislation serves to remedy that.

The Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recently stated there should be studies to examine whether wastewater from the wells can harm people or animals and vegetables they eat. Until more scientific data is available we must act to safeguard citizens of Baltimore City from potential harm.

BCHD's mission is to promote a healthy Baltimore City by advocating, leading, and providing services of the highest quality in order to promote and protect the health of the residents of Baltimore. Therefore, BCHD supports the legislation.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Mary Beth Haller, Asst. Commissioner, Department of Health  
Amy Samman, Legislative Director, Department of Health

