

2015 Biennial Convention

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #11

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HYDRAULIC & ACID FRACTURING AND IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE BAN ON THESE DRILLING PROCESSES

WHEREAS: Oil and gas well stimulation, such as hydraulic and acid fracturing (fracking and acidification), involve the use of chemicals and hazardous materials during construction, drilling, fracturing, gas production and delivery, well maintenance, and workover operations; and

WHEREAS: Florida's water supply comes from highly permeable limestone formations which are vulnerable to contamination from hydraulic rock-fracturing activities designed to extract hydrocarbons; and

WHEREAS: Fracturing of underground geologic formations is accomplished by injecting a complex mix of fluids and chemicals under very high pressure to create fractures in gas bearing geologic formations; and the water used is contaminated forever; and

WHEREAS: Wastewater from fracking can contain radioactive elements and has been discharged into rivers that supply drinking water for millions; and

WHEREAS: Well stimulation may permanently pollute millions of gallons of water with the chemicals used in fracking and acidizing and with the radioactive materials and heavy metals in the flowback; and

WHEREAS: Wastewater disposal is a critical concern for our fresh water supply and environment, such as surface ponds, trucking wastewater over long distances, deep well injection and treated flowback to use at well heads all have potential for harm; and

WHEREAS: Many of the chemical constituents injected during fracturing have documented adverse health effects and/or adverse environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS: Pollution of water caused by well stimulation and fracking threatens the long term economic wellbeing of communities, as businesses and consumers depend on clean drinking water; and

Late-filed √
Adopted 9/27/15 Amended:
Rejected _____
Withdrawn _____



WHEREAS: Oil and gas industry is not required by federal law to publicly disclose chemical formulas of well stimulation and fracturing fluids so that this information is publicly unavailable for health and safety purposes; and

WHEREAS: There are numerous reports detailing how these drilling processes are exposing workers to these incredibly dangerous toxic chemicals with little regulations for basic safety and that these regulations are not forthcoming; and

WHEREAS: These processes have contributed to energy production fields that have a fatality rate seven times the national average; and

WHEREAS: Wise stewardship of our natural resources involves protection of Florida's water supplies and water resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS: Workers must be protected from dangerous work places and the fracking industry continuously fights these protections; and

WHEREAS: Protection of Florida's water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to cleaning up contamination and restoring degraded environments after the fact and that all Florida's workers are impacted by contamination and degradation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO support a statewide ban on oil and gas hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing and any form of extreme well stimulation and resource extraction, including prohibiting the disposal of related materials and byproducts, anywhere within the State of Florida or in the waters adjacent to the State;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida AFL-CIO incorporate this goal into its overall legislative program beginning with the 2016 Legislative Session.

Respectfully Submitted:
Cynthia Richberg
APWU 1419