Extracting Natural Gas From Rock

A look at the process and hazards of hydraulic fracturing.

As the fluid recedes, sand grains or ceramic pellets remain in the fractures, holding them open so pressurized gas can escape and rise up through the well.

Related Links

Regulation Lax as Gas Wells’ Tainted Water Hits Rivers

Sources: Dr. Anthony R. Ingraffea, Cornell University; gas industry publications