

SECTION BY SECTION

H.R. _____, the EPA HYDRAULIC FRACTURING STUDY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Section 1. Short Title

This section establishes the short title as the “EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act.”

Section 2. EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Research

This section places requirements on the Administrator of the Office of Research and Development at the Environmental Protection Agency in carrying out the *Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources*.

The bill requires that any interim or final report pertaining to the EPA’s study on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water be considered as a Highly Influential Scientific Assessment (HISA). This codifies EPA’s designation of the final report as a HISA, and also requires the Administrator to abide by the more stringent standards for peer review and information quality that accompany such a designation. The guidelines the bill specifically requires the Agency to follow are those outlined in the 3rd Edition of the Agency’s Peer Review Handbook and its current Scientific Integrity Policy, and the Office of Management and Budget’s Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

The Administrator is also required to provide objective estimates of the probability, uncertainty, and consequence of any possible impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water identified throughout the study and shall ensure that such estimates be as quantitative as possible and take into account the current risk management practices of states and industry.