

# Wyo. regulators caught in crossfire over fracking rules

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Wyoming regulators are trying to gather a comprehensive list of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing in an effort to fend off U.S. EPA and other critics of the state's regulation of the drilling practice, but they have met resistance from some in industry who contend the concerns about groundwater contamination are overblown.

"We need to keep others at bay, and we want to keep primacy of this," said Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission supervisor Tom Doll.

Gov. Dave Freudenthal (D), who chairs the commission, has directed the agency to gather a list of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, a process in which a mixture of sand and various fluids is pumped into the well bore to create enough pressure to force out the natural gas buried in the rock.

"It's the direction we were given, and as long as he's my boss that's the direction we're headed," said Doll. "The bottom line is we don't have the detail that the governor feels we need to have in the files to prove to EPA we are protecting groundwater in the state."

EPA announced last month that it would study the impact of hydraulic fracturing on water quality and public health. State and industry officials hope to thwart an EPA takeover of the regulation of fracturing, and state officials say they must collect more information from energy companies in order to do that.

Some environmental advocates, meanwhile, want the state to go even further with the proposed rule changes by requiring companies to disclose all the chemicals they use in the hydraulic fracturing process, not just the main active chemicals, as the state has proposed.