Risks and Mitigations for Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater Disposal Operations in Western Canada

Mauricio Reyes Canales, Rabia Ladha, Melissa MacDonald, & Wayne S. Park

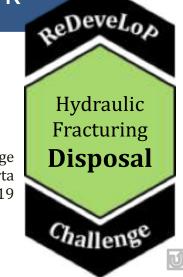








The ReDeveLoP Challenge Calgary, Alberta May 27 – 31, 2019

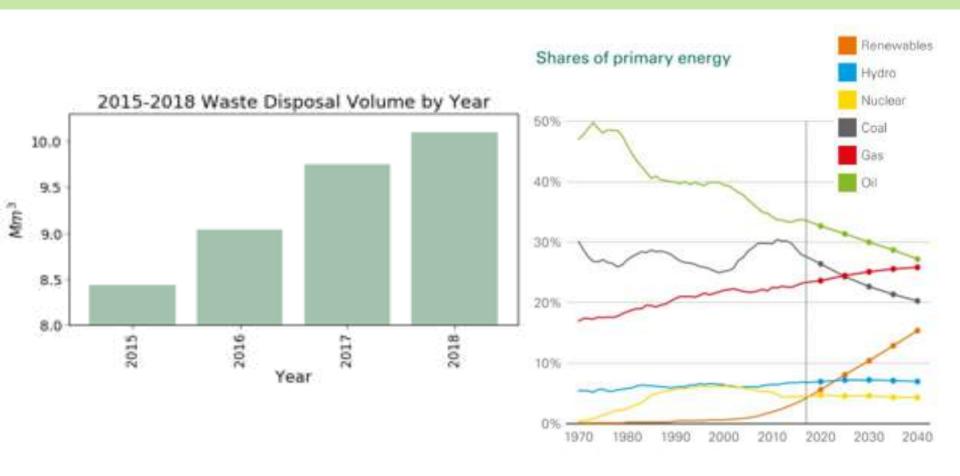


What are the **risks** of wastewater disposal in hydraulic fracturing?

How can these risks be mitigated?



Why is this relevant?

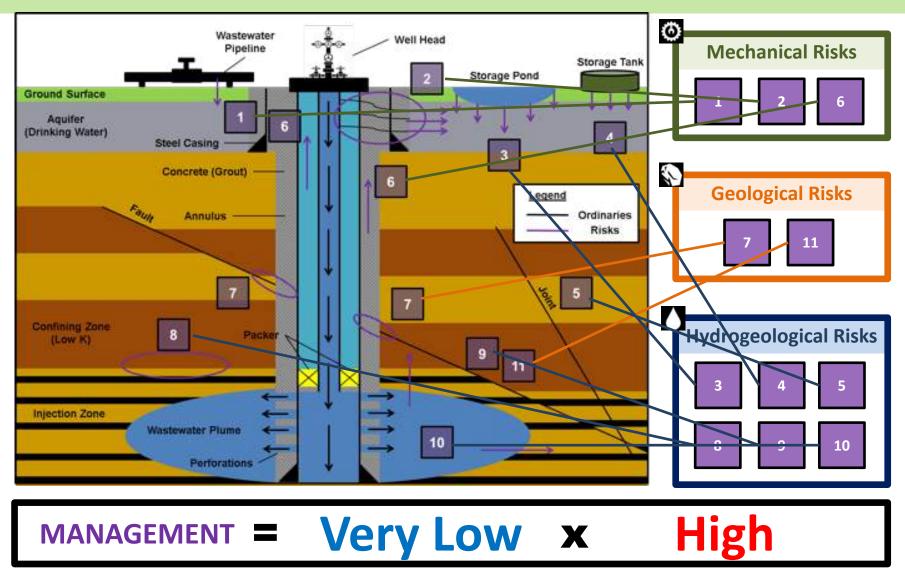


From Petrinex database.

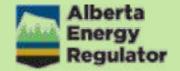
From BP Energy Outlook 2019.



Sources of Risk for Disposal Activities



Risk Management Strategies



Hydroge

and mitigatio incorporating materials, mo

inspection of

Canada's oil and gas industry ranks highly on many performance dimensions, including corporate governance, transparency, environmental stringency, and innovation.

[Directive 05] Canada ranked the second most responsible oil producer in the world.

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rules, hies are hazards

- Financial Post, June 12, 2018 -

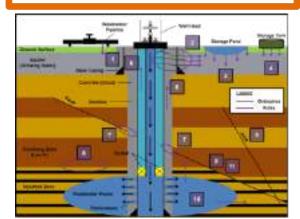
leakage detection devices

10

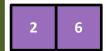
Disposal injection occurs kilometers away from the potable groundwater resources.

#Uncertainty

appropriate action to report and repair the failures



develop comprehensive management programs and *systems*



[**Directives 013 & 051**] Any well integrity failures should be reported and immediately repaired

Dispose or Recycle? Decision Parameters

Economics \$

Distance



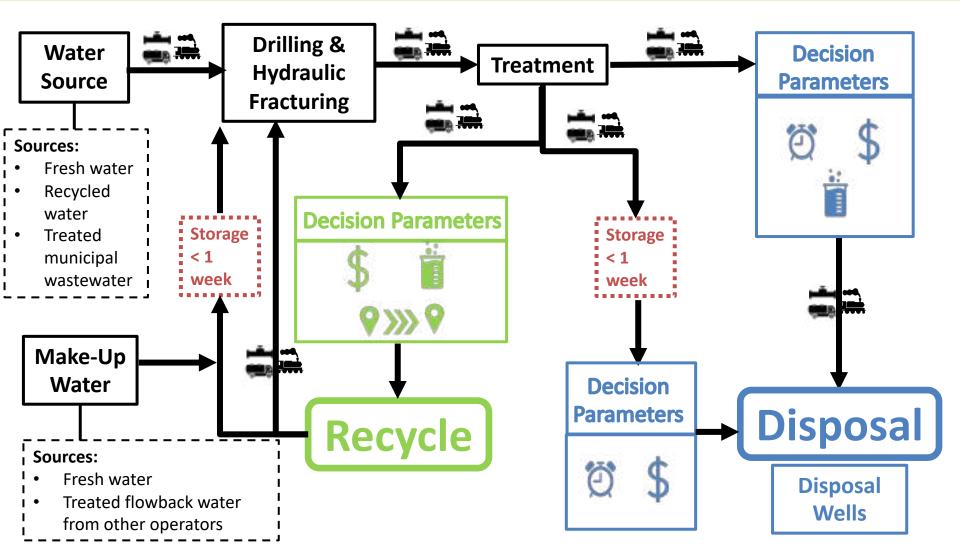
Time



Chemistry



Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle





Recycling Flowback Water

Why recycle?

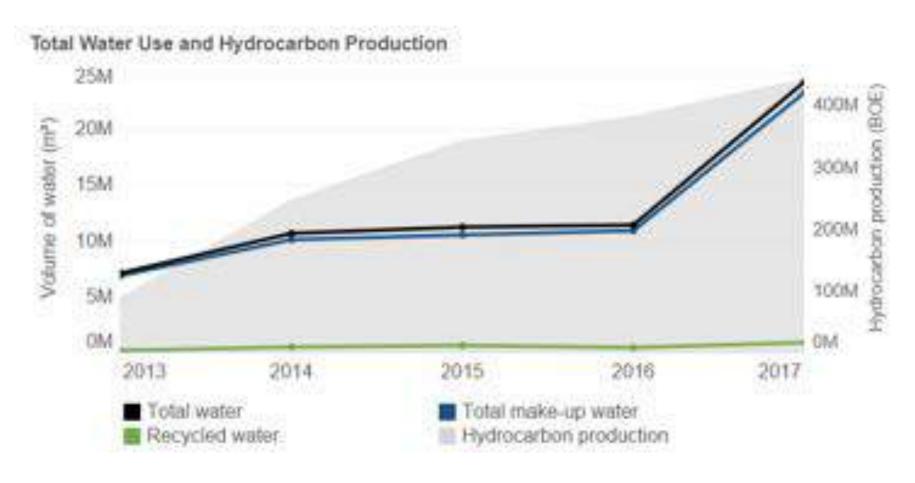
Reduce the amount of fresh water used

Reduce the amount of disposal water

Methods used to recycle flowback water:

Blending, Filtration, Evaporation, Electrodialysis, Gravimetric separation, Electrocoagulation.

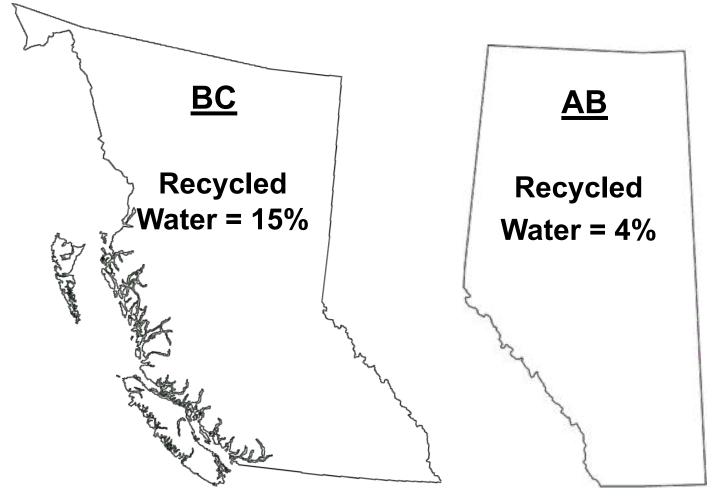
Current Water Recycling Practices in AB



From Hydraulic Fracturing water use report, AER.



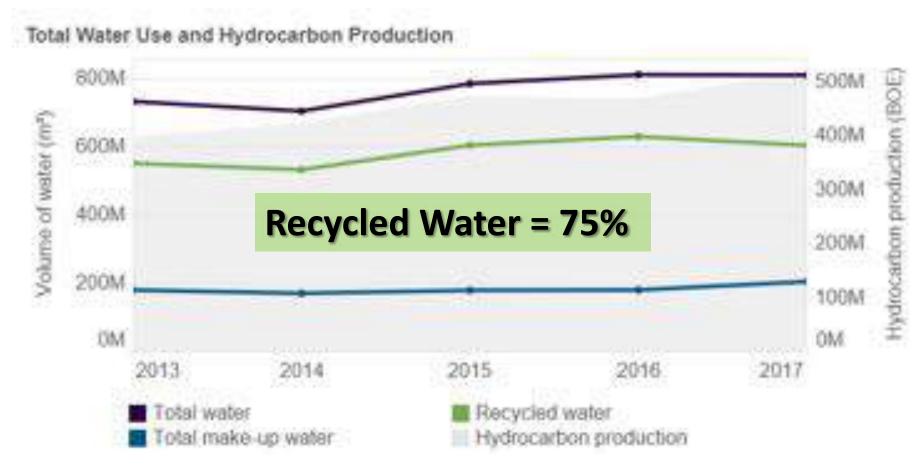
Comparison of AB and BC Water Recycling Practices



From BC Oil and gas commission water use report (2015) and Hydraulic Fracturing water use report, AER (2017)



Comparison to In-Situ Oil Sands in AB



From oil sands mining and in-situ water use report, AER.



Why is There More Recycling in the Oil Sands?

Maturity of oil sands development

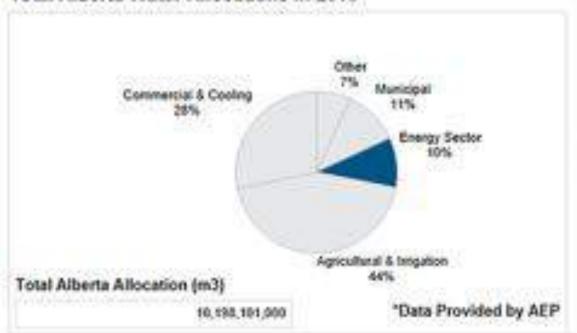
Regulations incentivize water recycling

Capability of storage facilities

Close proximity of produced water to nearby operations

Water Use in AB

Total Alberta Water Allocations in 2016



Expected to increase across sectors with increasing population.



Prudent management is imperative to maintain public trust.

Existing Policy Issues in AB

Classification of water by source not properties

Limits on storage timeline

Conditions on water licenses that limit water sharing

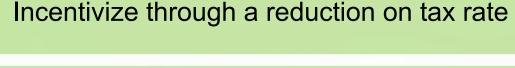
Prevention of mixing water from different basins

Leads to only 4% recycled water in hydraulic fracturing operations (2017)

Policy Recommendations

Address existing policy issues through regulatory measures

Implement an incentive program to encourage recycling



Metric: water intensity, measure for saline and non-saline water sources

Metric: % of recycled water, tiered approach

Address uptake, risk mitigation, environmental footprint & meaningful consulation



Conclusions

Risk mitigation is achieved with the following steps.

Intensive monitoring of groundwater in the vicinity of disposal sites.

Increasing the recycled water ratio in hydraulic fracturing operations.

Addressing policy issues.

Implementing an incentive program.

Questions?



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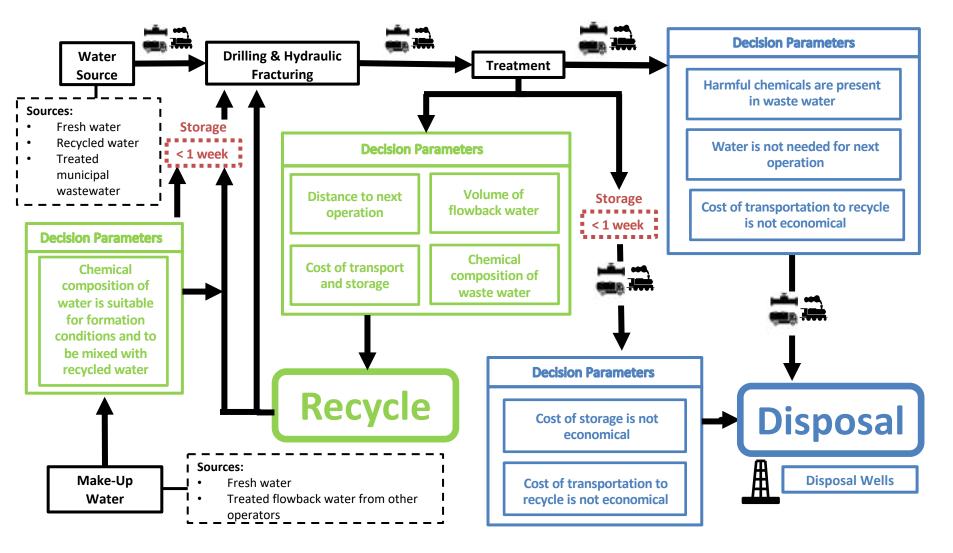
Backup Title Slide Questions Ground Water Monitoring Strategy Why is this relevant? Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle Sources of Risk for Disposal Activities Current Makeup Water Sources in AB Risk Management Strategies Non-Saline Water Use Intensity in AB Dispose or Recycle? Decision Parameters Total Non-Saline Water Use Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle By Extraction Technology in AB Recycling Flowback Water Non-Saline Water Use Intensity **Current Water Recycling Practices in AB** By Extraction Technology Comparison of AB and BC Water Recycling Water Recycling Rates **Practices** By Extraction Technology in AB Comparison to In-Situ Oil Sands Water Recycling Technologies 1 Why is There More Recycling in the Oil Sands? Water Recycling Technologies 2 Water Use in AB **Definitions of Water in Existing Policy Issues Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Policy Recommendations** Shale Gas Resources in AB Conclusions Shale Gas Resources in BC

Groundwater Monitoring Strategy

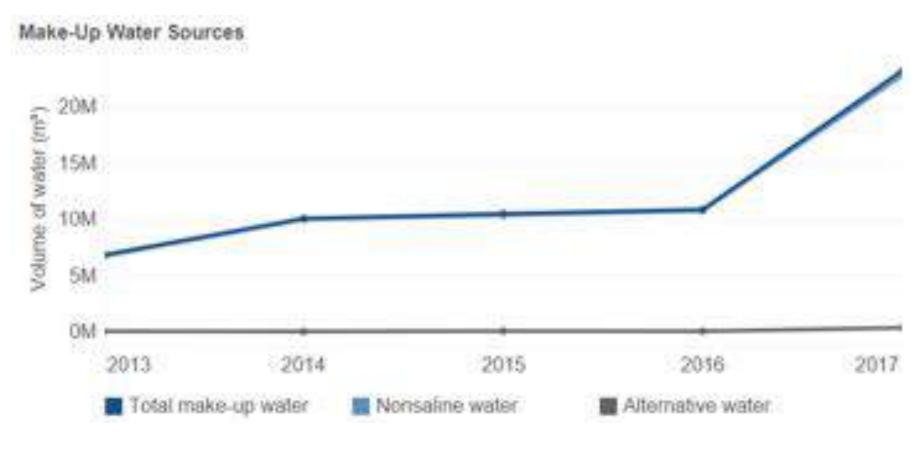




Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle



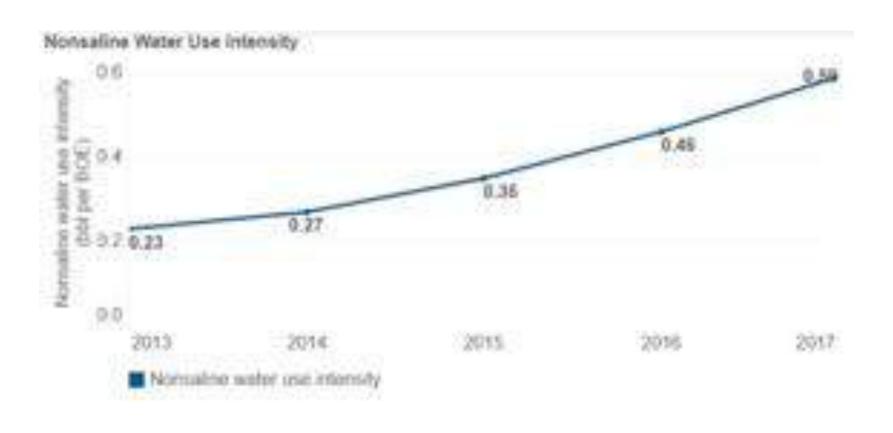
Current Makeup Water Sources in AB



From Hydraulic Fracturing water use report, AER.



Non-Saline Water Use Intensity in AB

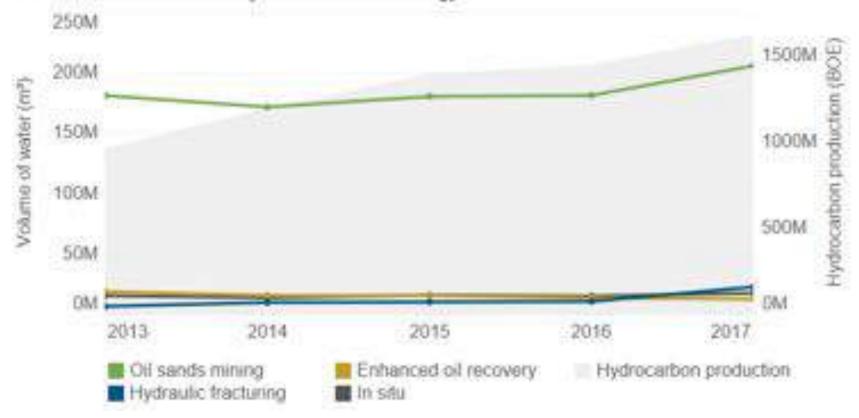


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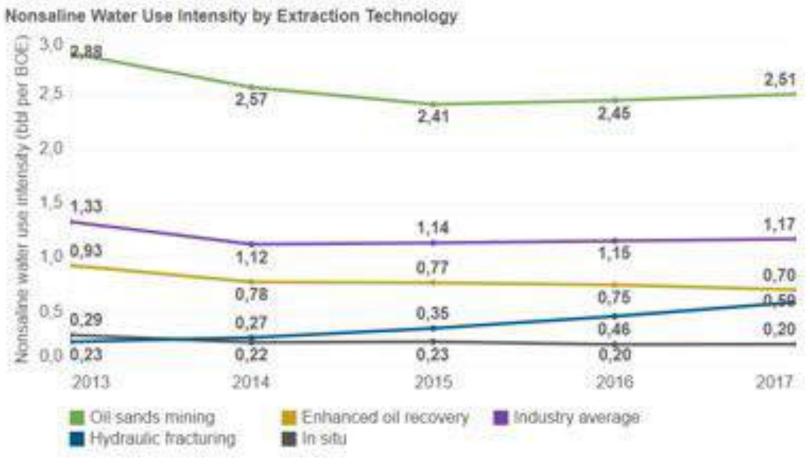
Total Non-Saline Water Use By Extraction Technology in AB

Total Nonsaline Water Use by Extraction Technology



From water use report, AER.

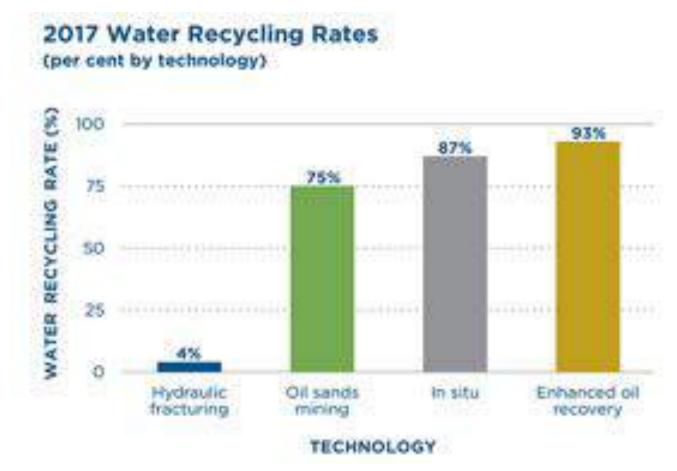
Non-Saline Water Use Intensity By Extraction Technology



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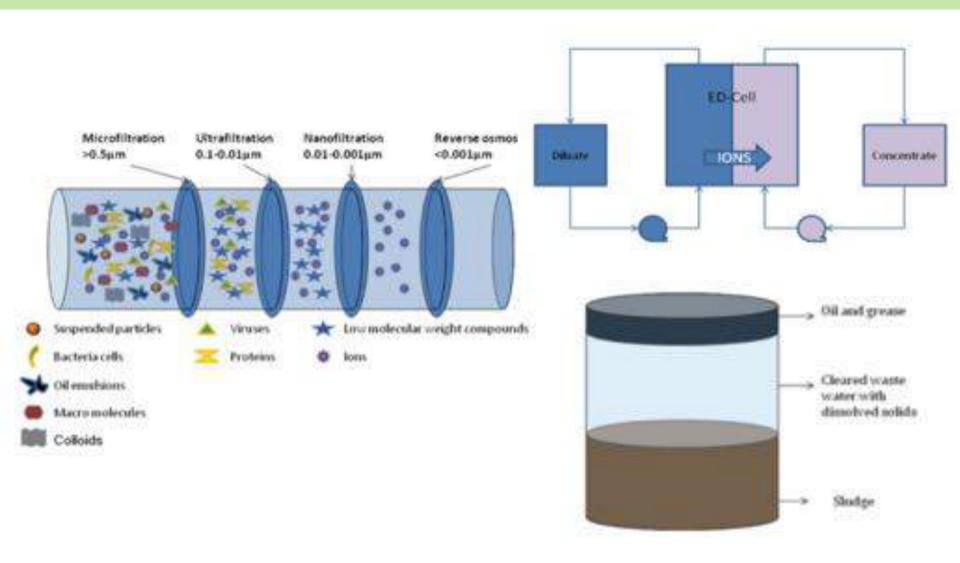
Water Recycling Rates By Extraction Technology in AB



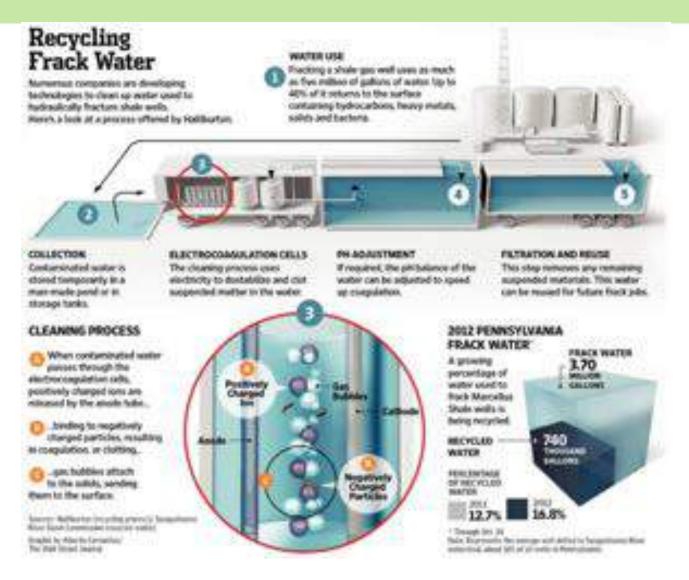
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Water Recycling Technologies



Water Recycling Technologies

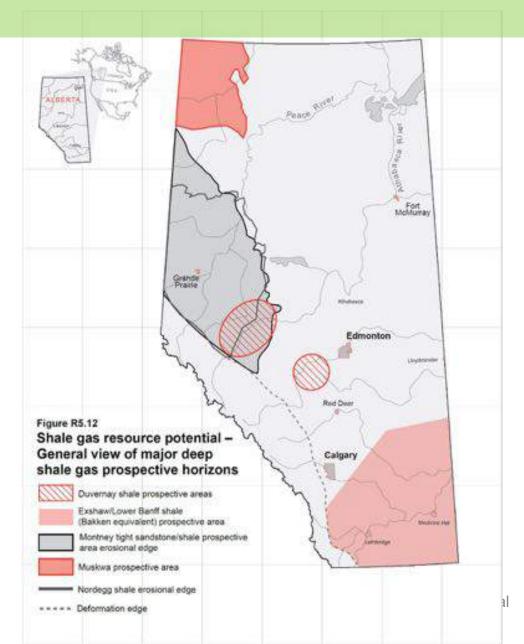


Definitions of Water in Hydraulic Fracturing Activities

Wastewater	A mixture of flowback fluids and produced waters that are not recycled. It has a high Total dissolved solids (TDS) and may also contain hazardous compounds, including methane, synthetic organic compounds, and radioactive materials.
Make up water	Water that is added to an energy process to replenish water lost. It can be obtained from either non-saline or saline water.
Recycled water	Water that was previously used in an energy activity and is then reused by operators in that same process.
Non-saline water	Water having a TDS content of 4000 mg/L or less, sometimes is referred to as fresh water.
Alternative water	Water other than surface water and non-saline groundwater, including saline groundwater, produced water, etc.
Produced vs. Flowback Water	Flowback refers to the return of injected fluids, while produced water is formation water that is high in gas and oil.



Shale Gas Resources in AB





Shale Gas Resources in BC

