

TOWN OF ASHFORD

Office of the Selectmen

The following information was supplied by the Conservation Commission to further explain the proposed ordinance "Prohibiting the Storage, Disposal or Use of Waste From Oil and Gas Exploration or Extraction Activities, or any Derivative Thereof, in the Town of Ashford, Connecticut" which is scheduled to be considered at a Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room of the Town Office Building.

Fracking is a process used to extract natural gas and oil. Millions of gallons of a toxic chemical solution are injected underground at high pressure to crack dense rock and release oil and gas. Fracking fluids and contaminated solids come to the surface and need to be disposed of as waste. There are no good options for disposing of this toxic and possibly radioactive waste or its by-products in Ashford. The dangers associated pose an unacceptable risk to health and safety, municipal and private property values and natural resources.

While there is currently a temporary moratorium for disposing fracking waste in CT, CTDEEP is currently considering regulations to allow this waste to be imported into CT, and may submit these regulations for review as early as next summer. Regulations cannot prevent accidents, spills and leaks from contaminating soil, surface and ground waters, and aquifers and drinking water have been contaminated in other states.

Ashford is proposing a local ordinance that would ban the application of fracking and other oil & gas extraction wastes. If passed, the application of wastes and by-products would be prohibited on any road or real property. Storage, disposal, handling, acquisition, sale, treatment and processing within our town would also be prohibited. The town would also require vendors who are entering into contact with the town to sign a statement that they will not source any materials from fracking wastes or by-products. There are also legal parameters in the ordinance to impose cease & desist orders and hold violators accountable for remediation.