

# The Energy-Water-Health Nexus: Assessing the Environmental Impacts and Public Health Implications of Oil and Gas Production in Richland County, Montana

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## **Background**

- Resource extraction industries have a long history in Montana, beginning with gold and silver mining in the 1800s, and currently, oil and natural gas production.
- Contamination of groundwater have been raised due to release of highly toxic agents that are harmful to the environment.
- Link between industrial activity and water contamination were documented.

## **Aims**

The project aims to conduct a preliminary investigation of existing and potential health impacts that are directly and indirectly implicated in the activities associated with oil and gas production in Richland County, Montana

## **Scientific advances**

- Clarification of methods for approaching private well owners.
- Clarification of methods for reporting back to private well owners.
- Clarification of methods for reconciliation of perceptions of problems vs reality of problems in drinking water.

## Public Health Impact Statement

The people of the Bakken-area communities, constituency groups and state officials will have data to examine as opposed to “suspicions”. Policy development can proceed in light of the information gathered.

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