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Major Improvements to FracFocus Coming Soon

As it enters its fourth year, FracFocus, the nationwide system for disclosing chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process, continues to improve its performance and versatility.

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) and Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), joint venture partners in the FracFocus initiative, announce the coming release of improvements to FracFocus' system functionality. Among the new features for 2015 include:

- Reduce the number of human errors in disclosures
- Expand the public's ability to search records
- Provide public extraction of data in a "machine readable" format
- Update educational information on chemical use, oil & gas production and impacts

The installation of new self-checking features in the system will help companies detect and correct possible errors before disclosures are submitted. This feature will detect errors verifying that Chemical Abstract Service numbers (CASRN's) meet the proper format.

A new "systems approach" will decrease the need for filing trade secret claims in order to protect proprietary fracturing ingredients. This improvement will allow companies to file a complete list of chemicals used in a hydraulic fracturing job. This approach, which provides fuller transparency of chemical additives, was requested by many of the operating companies.

The public's ability to search records will be expanded by increasing the number of specific fields that can be searched.

Improved capability to capture data through the extraction of "machine readable" data sets will provide wider data access for the public. At present FracFocus records are available only in PDF format.

These improvements will continue the site's goal in providing highly accurate information about chemicals used in individual hydraulic fracturing operations. An additional dozen small improvements will allow participating companies and the public to access data more efficiently.

FracFocus is the state oil and gas agencies reporting option of choice with twenty states currently housing disclosures on the website. Plus, a licensed version of the system is operating in five Canadian provinces. Nearly 100,000 accessible disclosures and more than 1 million visitors to the site from 134 countries, FracFocus will continue to expand its capabilities and enhance functionality for public use.