Public Health Impacts of NGI: Maryland snapshot of the known and unknown.

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Public Health Impacts of NGI: Accident, Maryland



Public Health Impacts of NGI: Karst Geology



Karst Geology • Limestone

- Dissolves with water
- Forms
 - Cracks
 - Fissures
 - Sink holes
- Connection to surface
- Water flows faster
- Limited filtration

Public Health Impacts of NGI: Climate Policy

Table 1 The climate policy toolkit

	Supply-side	Demand-side
Restrictive	Restrictive supply-side climate policies	Restrictive demand-side climate policies
	(e.g. FF subsidy reduction; FF supply tax; FF production quotas; FF supply ban/moratorium)	(e.g. carbon tax; carbon cap-and trade; mandatory CO ₂ emissions standards)
Supportive	Supportive supply-side climate policies	Supportive demand-side climate policies
(of substitutes)	(e.g. direct government provision of low-carbon infrastructure; R&D subsidies; renewable energy feed-in-tariffs)	(e.g. government procurement policies; consumer subsidies for energy-efficient or low-emitting substitutes)

Notes: *FF* = fossil fuels. Shaded area represents the focus of this article; unshaded areas are those typically analysed in the comparative literature on climate policy instruments.

Cutting with both arms of the scissors: the economic and political case for restrictive supply-side climate policies, Green, F. & Denniss, R. Climatic Change (2018). https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2162-x

Public Health Impacts of NGI: Local Concerns

<u>AIR QUALITY</u> is an issue for homes up to three miles away which can be exposed to VOCs and a chemical mix that can include xylene, formaldehyde, and other hydrocarbons from condensate tanks, dehydrators, wastewater impoundment pits, and pipelines

WATER QUALITY private wells, and public waterways are all risked by the development of NGI infrastructure and maintenance.

<u>NOISE, SMELLS, & LIGHT</u> from blowdowns, compressors, well pumps and truck traffic contribute to <u>STRESS</u> of local populations.

<u>SOIL</u> benzene, toluene, other petroleum hydrocarbons, barium, and other toxic substances associated with NGI can contaminate soil nearby.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NGI exists as a threat to communities not prepared to evacuate in the event of a spill, explosion or other accident.

Public Health Impacts of NGI: Recommendations

MCCC write/support Health Impact Assessment (HIA) legislation to determine real time impacts of <u>any</u> project coming before a state agency (e.g., MDE, PSC) that will contribute to, or is based in production (e.g., biomass, coal, gas) that would accelerate GHG.

MCCC should recommend that all relevant agencies study the impact of NGI on human health, up to an including (indoor/outdoor) air quality in the footprint of compressor stations, import/export facilities, pipelines and related truck traffic hotspots.

MCCC should reject any proposal to develop new NGI and begin preparation for retiring existing NGI as healthier sources of energy come online. This includes recommendations to include new or expanded NGI in the MCCC 40 by 30 plan.

Public Health Impacts of NGI must include consideration of psycho social stressors and mental health considerations.

All available tools including Qualitative Risk Assessment available to relevant agencies should be used to evaluate risk to human health posed by expansion of NGI in Maryland.

All assessments must include input from impacted communities which is collected early and often.