

AGL Gloucester Gas Project community update.

What goes into our hydraulic fracturing fluid?

One of the most frequent questions we hear is, when you hydraulically fracture a natural gas well, what substances go into your fracturing fluid?

The answer is, mostly water.

In fact, while the exact mix varies from project to project and well to well, we are planning on using a blend that is more than 99% water for the Waukivory Pilot. The remaining additives are mostly substances that are commonly found in household products.

For example, guar gum is found in foods you find in the grocery store and acts as a fracture fluid thickener to help carry sand down the well and allow the fluid to open the millimetre-wide fractures in the coal seams more effectively, allowing natural gas and water to flow. Diluted acetic acid, which is found in vinegar, is also used regulate the pH of the fluid.

Importantly, we have never used BTEX chemicals, and we never will.

Even before the NSW Government banned BTEX additives, AGL decided to never use these substances in hydraulic fracturing, and we have never used them in any of our wells. All our additives are disclosed and subject to a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment process before they are used to make sure they pose no undue risk to community or environment.

For more information about hydraulic fracturing fluid and how AGL works to protect the environment, visit our website - www.agl.com.au/waukivorypilot, or call your local Community Relations Manager, Karyn Looby, on 1300 799 716.

Join AGL's online community – YourSayAGL.com.au or follow us on Twitter @YourSayAGL

