

Memo

To: Global Gas Associates
From: Susan L. Sakmar
Date: January 31, 2013
Re: 4th Research Assignment - US Federal Regulation Shale Gas/Hydraulic Fracturing
Due Date: Tues. Feb 5, 2013 *** There is no class on Thurs. Feb. 7!

Since Atlantis does not have an FTA with the United States and the prospects of US LNG exports to non-FTA countries remains uncertain, the Government of Atlantis has decided to move forward with shale gas development and is in the early stages of developing a regulatory framework that takes into account the numerous issues that have been raised. The Government is looking for potential models to follow and would like to know what the US regulatory framework is for shale gas and hydraulic fracturing. They have asked us to address both Federal regulation and various state regulations.

This memo should focus on the Federal regulation of US shale gas development and answer the following questions:

1. What are the main environmental and public health laws that apply to unconventional oil and gas development?
2. Are there any exemptions for the oil and gas industry?
3. What is the main federal law that ensures the quality of drinking water?
4. What is the UIC program and how does it work?
5. What is the "Halliburton Loophole"? Be sure to discuss the background leading up to this.
6. What is the "Frac Act"? What is the current status?
7. Who has primary authority for issuing leases and permits for federal oil and gas resources?
8. Are there any existing or proposed rules for shale gas/hydraulic fracturing on federal lands?