

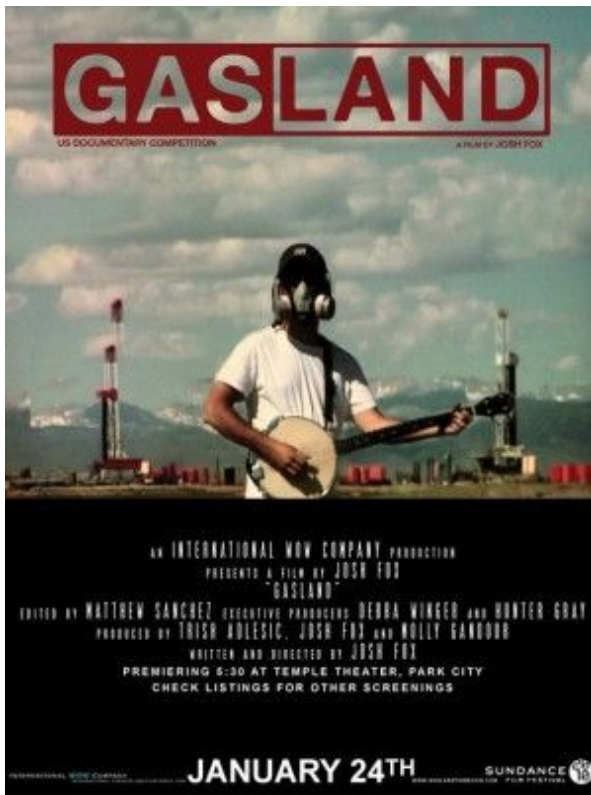
Gasland Movie Review - HBO Documentary Gasland Review

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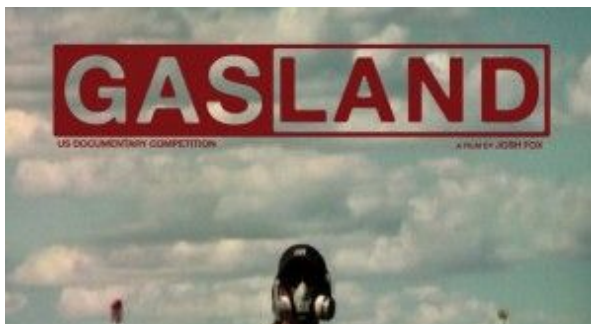
Gasland: A Film About Fracking, Halliburton, and the Danger of Onshore Drilling

By [Tim Heffernan](#)

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The





Gulf oil spill is leading lots of people — environmentalists, politicians, profiteers, [Sarah Palin](#) — to push for supposedly safer drilling options, like, for example, not locating oil wells in a mile of seawater. One dryland alternative picking up support is "clean burning natural gas." The problem, however, is that while it may be clean burning, methods used to harvest natural gas can be a mess. Take, for example, hydraulic fracturing, typically referred to as "fracking." The method, which was perfected by Halliburton, uses thousands of gallons of carcinogenic chemicals injected into a well at high pressure to break through bedrock and release natural gas deposits. Once the well is in place, those chemicals are left where they are, underground ... which also happens to be where most drinking water comes from. Only one state, Wyoming, even keeps track of what chemicals are being used, let alone tests for their presence in drinking water sources. Yet despite [the clear potential danger](#) to the public, the prospect of a new tax base is proving tempting to politicians of all stripes, including New York governor

[David Paterson](#). (Fracking was also exempted from the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 by the Bush administration's 2005 Energy Policy Act, in what has since been referred to as "The Halliburton Loophole." You'll recall that then-VP Dick Cheney held [hundreds of thousands of options](#) in his former company at the time.)

Anyhow. I first learned about this dirty business from a new documentary, *Gasland*. Director Josh Fox interviews people around the country who have seen the effects of fracking first hand, after the process was used on or near their own land. Effects reported range from horrific physical ailments, such as cancer and brain lesions, to at least one guy who can light his home's tap water on fracking fire. (Seriously, [watch the trailer](#).) The film is showing [all this month](#) on HBO, and is also [being screened](#) in select cities over the coming months. Recommended, especially for those who still think the Gulf spill is just a local problem.

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