



Hydraulic Fracturing (“fracking”) – summary from online survey November 2013

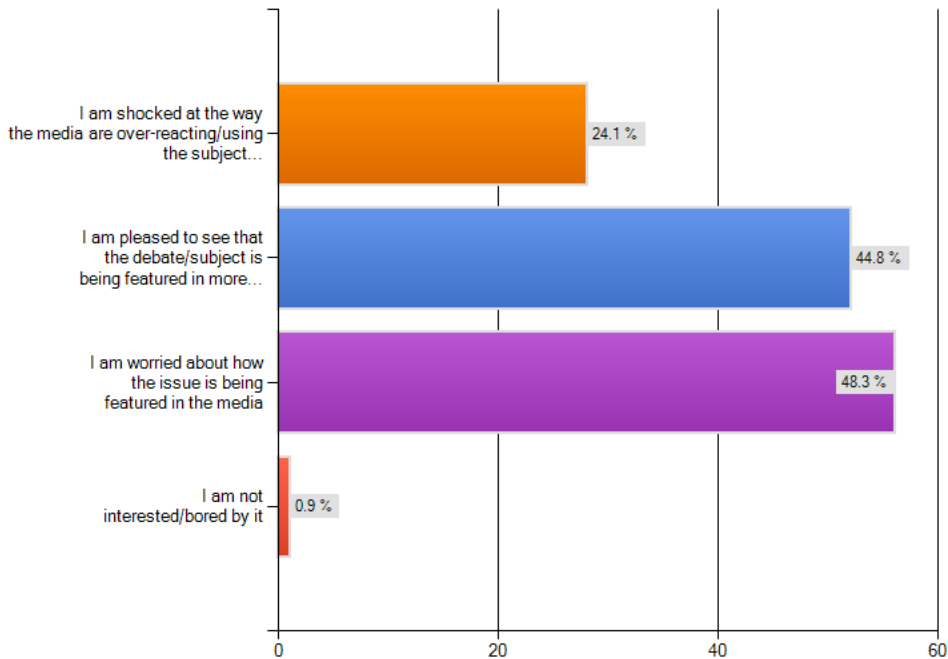
IAH members and associates will know of the growing interest amongst governments and the big energy companies in using the technique of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to improve the recovery of shale gas for energy generation. Naturally, with this growing commercial development also come concerns about the possible environmental impacts and the ability of regulatory agencies and planning processes to balance potentially conflicting pressures. The result has been intense media interest in many countries. One consequence is that IAH as a professional association is sometimes asked for a view on hydraulic fracturing and it has been suggested by some that we should have a “position” on fracking. Many of you may have been asked as well by your friends and neighbours. As with many contentious issues in the geological sphere, a large professional association such as ours has members working on the commercial development side, for regulatory agencies and undergoing research, and providing a simple “view” is not appropriate. Professional associations such as ours do, however, have a responsibility to educate and to help ensure that the various participants in the debate have sound technical information at their disposal. To gauge the views of our members, a simple online survey has been carried out. Of the 100 or so respondents, most were pleased to see more debate in the media, but worried about how fracking was being treated and that negative aspects were being given more prominence. Respondents felt that environmental pressure groups were not always well informed, and that more independent research is needed.

In response to a question about what IAH itself should be doing, few felt that the association should stay completely out of the debate about an activity with potential impacts on groundwater. Some suggested we should prepare a paper setting out the scientific aspects and also provide educational materials, others that we should encourage independent research and monitoring, and promote scientific debate through workshops and conference sessions. We are considering whether and how IAH might take up some of these suggestions.

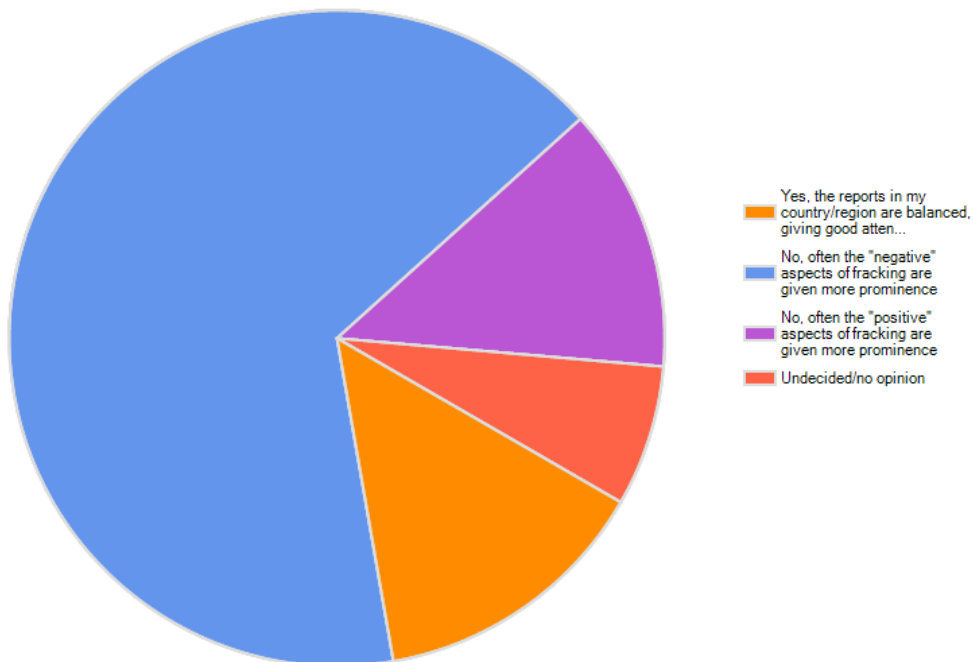


Summary from online survey concerning Hydraulic Fracturing (“fracking”), November 2013

What is your general reaction to the media reports? (you may give more than one answer)

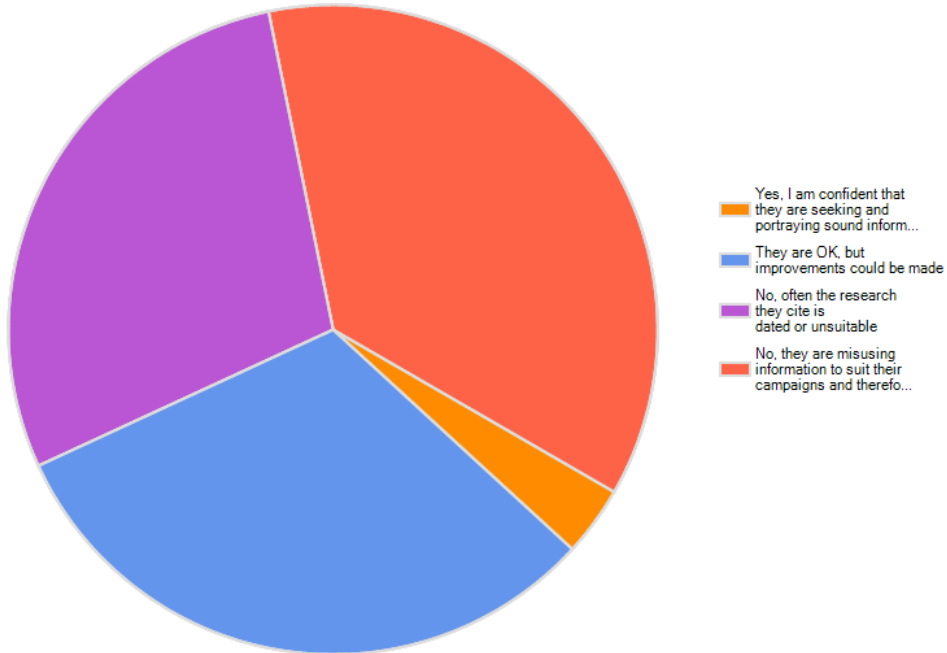


Do you think that the message about the potential risks to groundwater is being clearly represented in media reports about fracking?

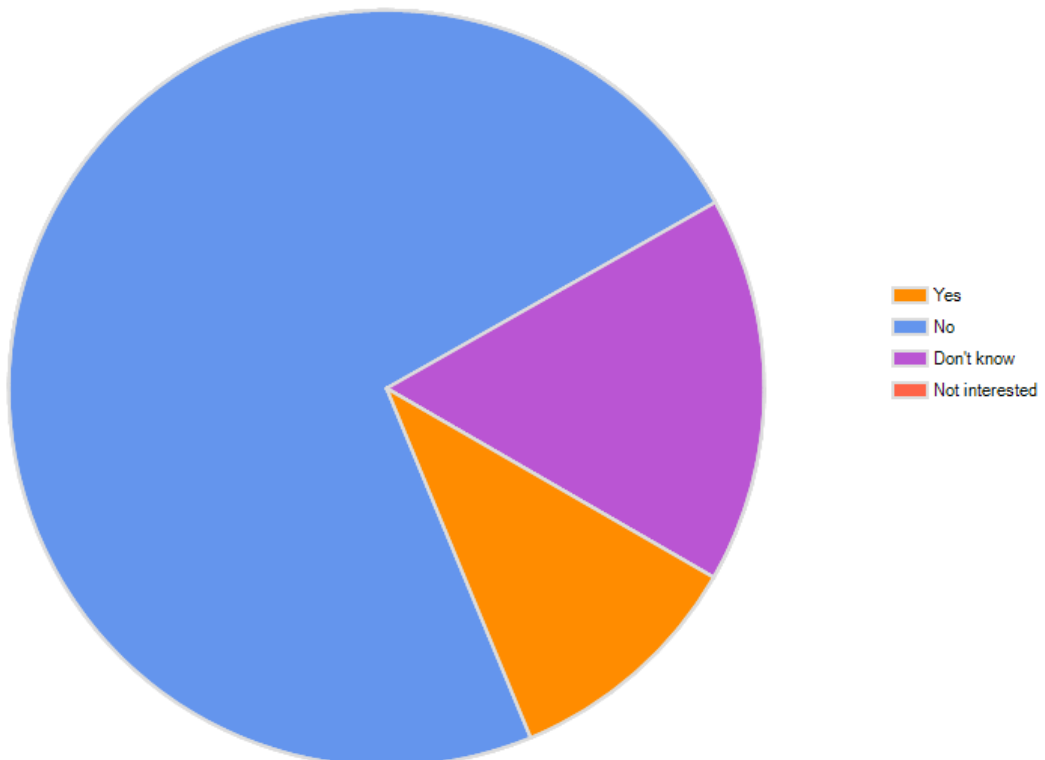




Do you think that environmental pressure groups/communities are well informed?



Do you think enough independent research is being undertaken on the effects of fracking, especially in relation to the potential impacts on groundwater?





Are you?

