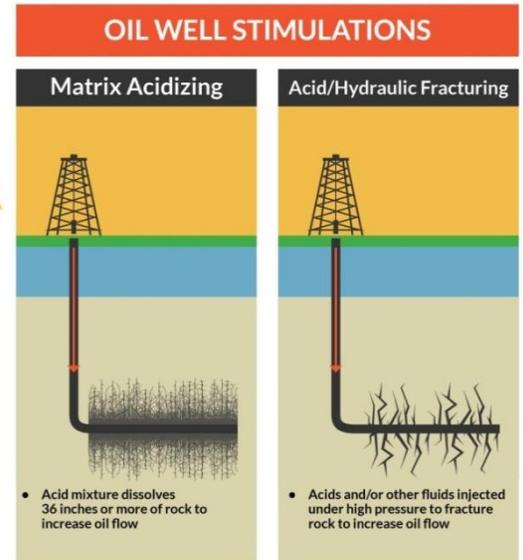


Matrix Acidizing: Too Risky For Florida

Matrix acidizing is a form of well stimulation, which uses methods similar to fracking.

Well stimulation is an umbrella term that captures any operation at an oil well whereby fluids are injected into the rock formation in order to increase the production or recovery of an oil and gas well. Matrix acidizing involves a lower pressure than acid or hydraulic fracturing. It dissolves the rock, rather than fractures it. These well stimulation techniques all involve large quantities of freshwater, chemicals, and are untested in Florida's unique geology and hydrology.



Fracking and fracking-like techniques are risky and need to be banned in Florida.

The fluids used in well stimulations contain numerous chemicals, many of which are toxic to humans. These chemicals can cause eye and skin irritation, organ damage, cancer, and other adverse health effects. Pollution of our water resources from these chemicals and from the oil itself can arise in any number of ways, from surface spill to contamination of aquifers through improperly constructed or plugged wells.

Further, these techniques utilize large amounts of potable freshwater in their operations. This water cannot be recycled into the natural system once combined with toxic chemicals and underground elements. Instead, it becomes a toxic byproduct and must be disposed of, which involves underground injection – a potential pathway to contamination itself. Florida has a naturally porous geology and use of these techniques, including matrix acidizing, pose an untested risk to Florida's water resources. Additionally, our relative flat topography, rain-driven aquifer recharge, limestone geology, and inconsistent confining layers make all forms of well stimulation risky in Florida.

Banning matrix acidizing would not restrict routine well cleaning.

Routine oil well cleaning can also involve the injection of acid into a well. However, the intent of such cleaning is to remove scale and other debris built up in the wellbore. Unlike matrix acidizing treatments, cleaning operations do not target deep into the rock formation. By rule, cleaning operations could be distinguished from matrix acidizing stimulation if the amount of acid used does not dissolve the rock formation more than 3 feet beyond the well bore (in either direction). Treatments that fall below this acid volume threshold can be defined as routine cleaning operations; those that are above this threshold are well stimulation treatments that should be banned.

