Everything You Need to Know About the Collier-Hogan Well:
Why Fracking and Fracking-Like Activities Should be Banned in Florida

September 2013

The oil and gas operator, Dan A. Hughes Company, submitted a workover notice to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and conducted a matrix acidizing operation at the Collier-Hogan Well, which is located near the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and upstream of residential wells.

A workover encompasses all forms of extreme well stimulation treatments (hydraulic/acid fracturing and matrix acidizing). Once the well permit is in hand, there is not a separate permit or approval process for workovers.

Matrix Acidizing injects acid and other fluids into a well to dissolve rock and enhance oil production.

Hydraulic Fracturing and Acid Fracturing are also well stimulation treatments. These treatments inject fluids into an oil well to fracture rock and enhance oil production. Like matrix acidizing, the fluids used contain numerous toxic chemicals.

December 2013

The Dan A. Hughes Company submitted another workover notice, this time for hydraulic fracturing. This was the first instance of hydraulic fracturing in Florida.

Hydraulic Fracturing: With this information, it can be concluded with confidence that the workover on the Collier-Hogan 20-3H involved hydraulic fracturing of the formation on each of the seven (7) stages. Considering the volume of fluids used in all stages, in ALL’s experience the subject workover would be considered multi-stage “High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing” (HVHF).

FINAL ORDER REQUIRING OPERATIONS AT WELL 20-3H COLLIER-HOGAN CEASE AND DESIST

After reviewing the workover, FDEP determined that there wasn’t sufficient information provided to ensure that the hydraulic fracturing operation would be protective of groundwater resources and issued a cease and desist order. However, the operator did not comply and continued hydraulic fracturing, ending January 1, 2014.
April 7, 2014

FDEP issued a Consent Order in which Dan A. Hughes Company was to pay fines and submit information regarding both well safety and water resources.

There are two older oil wells nearby that are about as deep as the Collier-Hogan well that were not properly plugged and abandoned according to modern standards, making them a potential pathway for contamination.

There was not sufficient data collected -either at the nearby wells or at the Collier-Hogan well itself- in order to adequately evaluate potential impacts on our aquifer systems.

September 23, 2014

FDEP and Conservancy enter into Stipulation Agreement in which FDEP would commit to deep well groundwater monitoring, obtaining samples of flowback to investigate potential inappropriate treatment and disposal, and evaluate the nearby abandoned wells for potential contamination from the Collier-Hogan operation.

September 29, 2016

FDEP issued a warning letter to Dan A. Hughes noting that the operator had illegally dumped 83.5 barrels of oil/oily waste into shallower portions of the oil well, which is closer to protected drinking water sources.

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida continues to monitor this situation and engage with FDEP to determine the scope of impacts associated with the Collier-Hogan well.

July 18, 2014

FDEP revoked all of Dan A. Hughes' permits due to violation of the Consent Order. These violations included: failure to provide records, failure to post signs, and for improperly storing fluids in an unpermitted dumpster on site, which leaked into adjacent waterways.

With these revocations, FDEP required that the Collier Hogan well be plugged and abandoned, and that an independent contamination assessment be conducted.

The Collier-Hogan well greatly underscores in how risky it is to utilize well stimulation techniques in Florida at all stages of well production from operation to wastewater disposal. As seen in the example of this one well, this includes improper and illegal disposal of toxic wastewater, surface spills, and continued risk to groundwater supplies.

This technology has not been proven safe in Florida and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida fully supports a statewide ban on all fracking and fracking-like activities.