

[Marcellus Shale Resources](#) Marcellus Shale News. Leases, Pipelines & More. Learn More Today. [AskChesapeake.com](#)  
[Marcellus Well Testing](#) Find Certified Well Water Testing For Marcellus Shale Drilling Region [www.microbac.com](#)  
[Gas Drilling and Fracking](#) Gas Drilling By Fracking May Contaminate Ground Water. [www.yourlawyer.com](#)

# Environment News Service

International Daily Newswire

Since 1990

We Cover the Earth for You

Home

About

Services

Subscribe

News Index

Search

Contact

World-Wire

**CHK Marcellus Shale**

Natural Gas Info. Leases, Drilling & Pipelines In NY, PA, WV. Learn More [AskChesapeake.com/Marcellus](#)

**Marcellus Well Testing**

Find Certified Well Water Testing For Marcellus Shale Drilling Region [www.microbac.com](#)

**Gas Drilling and Fracking**

Gas Drilling By Fracking May Contaminate Ground Water. [www.yourlawyer.com](#)

**Oil & Gas Investments**

43 Years Exp. & Hundreds of Wells Logged. Working Interest Available! [www.Oil-Gas-Investment.com](#)

**Marcellus Shale**

Eliminate Toxic Chemicals In Hydraulic Fracturing. Learn How? [www.EcosphereTech.com](#)

## Fracking Shown to Mobilize Uranium in Marcellus Shale

[Print this page](#)

**BUFFALO, New York**, October 25, 2010 (ENS) - Fracking - pumping millions of gallons of water and chemicals deep underground to fracture shale rock, releasing the natural gas it contains - is controversial because it may pollute groundwater used for drinking with proprietary chemical cocktails that drilling companies keep to themselves.

Now scientists at the State University of New York at Buffalo have found that a chemical everyone recognizes - uranium - also can be released by fracking in Marcellus shale and that it too may pollute groundwater.

The researchers examined uranium released by fracking in Marcellus shale, a massive rock formation that stretches from New York through Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, considered to be the nation's largest source of natural gas.

"Marcellus shale naturally traps metals such as uranium and at levels higher than usually found naturally, but lower than manmade contamination levels," says lead researcher Tracy Bank, PhD, assistant professor of geology in UB's College of Arts and Sciences.

"My question was, if they start drilling and pumping millions of gallons of water into these underground rocks, will that force the uranium into the soluble phase



UB geologist Tracy Bank with shale rock from Marcellus shale. (Photo courtesy UB)

[www.breitlingoil.com](#)

## Oil and Gas Wells




High Return Potential

**INVEST NOW!**

Ads by Google



## Today's Press Releases

[The Politics of Lung Cancer](#)

[Colorado Cleantech Action Plan Identifies Combination of Innovation in Wind, Solar, Smart Grid and Bio-derived Sectors and Progressive State Policies as Drivers of Industry Growth](#)

[To Save Bees 13-Year-Old Tries to Become Paul Newman of Honey](#)

[New Eco Products Seen as Game-Changers for Government and Ordinary Americans](#)

[New Eco Products Seen as Game-Changers for Government and Ordinary Americans](#)

[State Officials And Regional Non-profits Praise Innovative Plan That Promotes Recreation, Tourism and Bay Conservation](#)

[Verizon Appoints Relan LLP an Exclusive Partner to Initiate Innovative Nation-wide Billboard Upcycling Program](#)

[EPA Biosolids Regulation, Scientific Integrity Hand on Court Ruling](#)

[EcoBlu Products Performs Successful Trial of New Product](#)

[Solar MHD - Super Heated Gas Going Through Magnetic Field Most Efficient Way of Converting Solar Energy to Electricity](#)

and mobilize it? Will uranium then show up in [Delaware Valley College Hosts Sustainability Symposium](#)

To find out, Bank and her colleagues scanned the surfaces of Marcellus shale samples from Western New

York and Pennsylvania. Using sensitive chemical instruments, they created a chemical map of the surfaces to determine the precise location in the shale of the hydrocarbons, the organic compounds comprising natural gas.

[Newmont Included in Dow Jones Sustainability World Index for Fourth Consecutive Year](#)

[Diverse Coastal Interests Release Recommendations To Sustain Gulf Region In Aftermath Of Oil Spill](#)

[Sampling Keeps Mum About Its Ties With Malaysian Top Politician](#)



Professor Joseph Gardella with the ToF-SIMS machine in his lab at the State University of New York at Buffalo. (Photo courtesy UB)

research is the first to map samples using this technique, which identified the precise location of uranium.

[Post Your Press Release on World-Wire](#)

The required use of sophisticated methods of analysis, including [one news story to ENS editors called Time](#)

[upload environmental news videos of-Flight](#)

[Secondary](#)

[Share ENS stories with the world](#)

[Ion Mass Spectrometer RSS](#)

[SIMS RSS](#)

[laboratory RSS](#)

[Joseph Gardella RSS](#)

[professor RSS](#)

[chemistry RSS](#)

[with University RSS](#)

[Buffalo RSS](#)

[Bank RSS](#)</p

"Even though at these levels, uranium is not a radioactive risk, it is still a toxic, deadly metal," Bank said. "We need a fundamental understanding of how uranium exists in shale. The more we understand about how it exists, the more we can better predict how it will react to fracking."

State and federal regulators have reported that fracking has already have polluted drinking water sources in Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and New York.

Bank's research will be presented at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver on November 2.

Copyright Environment News Service (ENS)  
2010. All rights reserved.