Water Resources: Reporting and Contingency Disclosure

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Water, an ecosystem service, is universally considered an essential human right. Not only essential to maintain life, but also required for economic activity, development and business. As such, tension exists between ecosystem protection and the use of water for energy security. Hydraulic fracturing is seen as a promising energy source to help transition the United States from fossil fuel-based energy to cleaner, nationally sourced energy. This paper examines the use of hydraulic fracturing, the regulatory framework and the potential to capture risks to ecosystem services through contingency reporting.

Keywords: Hydraulic fracturing, Ecosystem services, Fracking, Environmental loss contingency disclosures