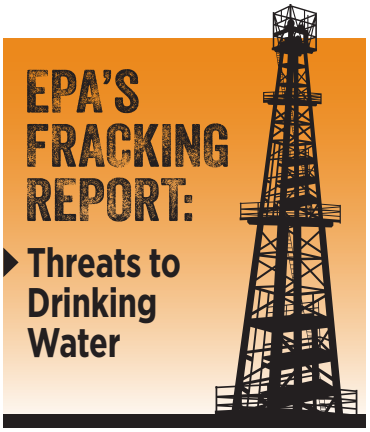
CLEAN WATER ACTION
CLEAN WATER FUND

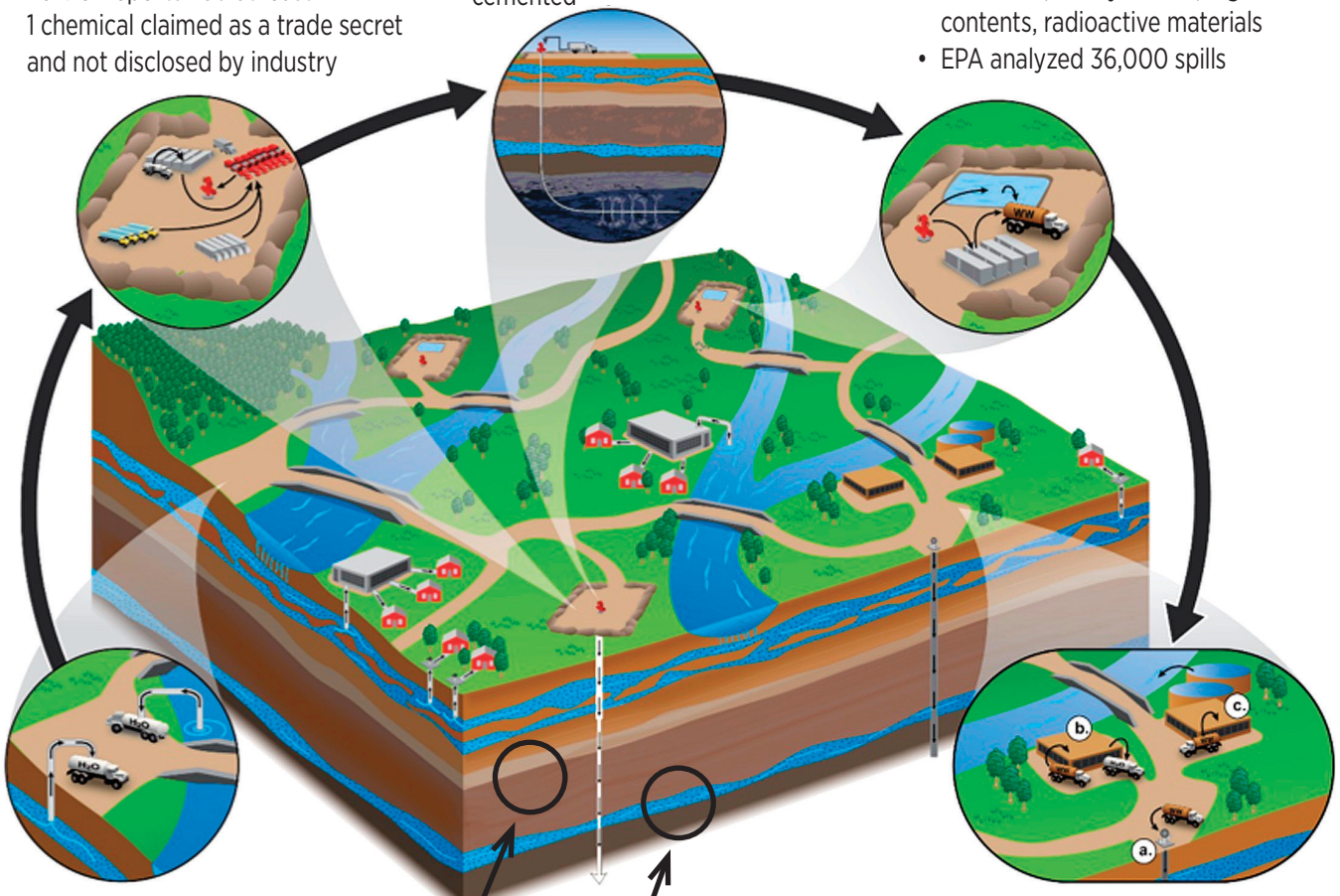
EPA Identified Threats to Drinking Water from Fracking



Chemical Mixing
- 1075 chemicals identified
- 70% of reports had at least 1 chemical claimed as a trade secret and not disclosed by industry

Well Injection
- EPA confirms underground pathways for gas and fluid migration
- 3% of wells are not properly cemented

Flowback and Produced Water
- Wastewater laced with fracture fluid chemicals, heavy metals, high salt contents, radioactive materials
- EPA analyzed 36,000 spills



Water Acquisition
- Over 1 million gallons of water used per well
- Impacts in areas with low water availability can be severe

- 20% of wells are fracked at shallow depths

- Injecting fracture fluid directly into formations with drinking water occurs

Wastewater Treatment and Disposal
- Contamination via improper treatment and discharges to surface waters, storing waste in unlined pits, spills, leaks
- Over 90% of wastewater is injected underground which was not included in draft Assessment

"...we found specific instances where one or more of these mechanisms led to impacts on drinking water resources, including contamination of drinking water wells." ***(p. ES-23)***

Image Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Winter 2016