
DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2015 No.

**The Onshore Hydraulic Fracturing
(Protected Areas) Regulations 2015**

Definition of “protected groundwater source areas”

2.—(1) This regulation defines “protected groundwater source areas” for the purposes of section 4A of the Act.

(2) A “protected groundwater source area” is any land at a depth of less than 1,200 metres beneath a relevant surface area.

(3) For the purpose of paragraph (2), “relevant surface area” means any land at the surface that is—

- (a) within 50 metres of a point at the surface at which water is abstracted from underground strata and is used to supply water for domestic or food production purposes, or
- (b) within or above a zone defined by a 50-day travel time for groundwater to reach a groundwater abstraction point that is used to supply water for domestic or food production purposes.

(4) In this regulation, “groundwater” has the same meaning as in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010⁽¹⁾ (see regulation 2(1) of those Regulations).