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State of Michigan

**Draft Injection Well Permit
Jordan Development Company, LLC**

**Public Hearing
June 19, 2018**

1 here to the beautiful country, and now big oil
2 companies are coming in and they are putting their
3 wells in, because the farmers can't make enough money
4 on their farms. So they are taking advantage of the
5 farmers by using their property for these wells, and
6 it's all going to go bad. Thank you.

7 MR. JANN: Thank you.

8 MS. HANSEN: Could you ask people to come to me?

9 MR. JANN: Yes, I'm going to do that. I will ask
10 Janette to sit here with her microphone. And ask the
11 speakers to come forward toward Janette.

12 PUBLIC VOICE: Make us do all the work, boy.

13 MR. JANN: And then I will call folks. So next we
14 have Tyler Roberson, followed by Scott Lackey. So if
15 you could come forward as your cue for the next
16 speaker.

17 MR. ROBERSON: Hello. My name is Tyler Roberson.
18 I was born in Gladwin, raised on the banks of the city
19 river, right north of Townhall Lake Road.

20 Right after serving as an officer in the armed
21 forces I finished my master's in fishery and wildlife
22 biology. It just so happens that for my master's
23 thesis I did a case study on the Cedar River. I've
24 been involved within the scientific community as it
25 pertains to our watersheds for a number of years before

1 You know this entire situation revolves around
2 dishonesty. The pollution itself by name is a complete
3 fabricated lie. You call it brine. I guess you call
4 it brine because potentially radioactive waste with
5 heavy metal toxic waste rings better to our ears.

6 Pennsylvania alone had 271 confirmed cases of
7 water contamination last year from brine storage.
8 Homes around the brine storage well in Guatemala and
9 Texas saw real estate values drop 14 percent.

10 Another thing to consider is that Michigan has the
11 largest number of independent water wells in the United
12 States. Gladwin is certainly one of those communities
13 that rely upon them. I'm realistic and I understand
14 that modern life requires fossil fuels to operate.
15 However, Gladwin is still moderately untouched by
16 pollution. The proposal would be much better suited
17 for places already dealing with this issue, and not
18 induce a new situation in such a pristine watershed.

19 Those making this decision need to ask themselves,
20 would the income generated from 30 miles of trucking
21 costs cover 100 percent of the cost of a toxic spill or
22 toxic contamination? The answer is most certainly no.
23 Just ask the Pennsylvania residents that.

24 MR. JANN: Let me mention that you are about a
25 minute over, and we will be more than happy to take any

1 any science. Besides the formal study I've lived on
2 the river all my life.

3 It's not by accident that Gladwin was founded upon
4 the river. Most communities are founded upon rivers
5 and streams for good reason, for water means life.
6 It's an important element of all life on earth.

7 To hear that a company is potentially being
8 allowed by the EPA to dispose toxic waste near its head
9 waters rings of insanity to me, especially over 30
10 miles of trucking costs. Our community has certainly
11 seen hard times. Now we are letting outsiders try to
12 drive the final nail in our coffin and seal our
13 community's fate.

14 Let me ask you, how many companies are going to
15 move to Gladwin when their employees are at risk of
16 being subjected to poison by toxins within their water
17 supply? That is safe? We're being told this is safe
18 without danger, without risk. Time has shown
19 otherwise.

20 By your own research, there's been 457 leaks in
21 just eight states, and that's just between 2006 and
22 2012. 50 percent of those were directly related to
23 storage wells just like the ones you are trying to
24 bring to our community. That is according to your
25 guys' research.

1 written comments that you have at this time.

2 MR. ROBERSON: All right. Sounds good.

3 MR. JANN: Thank you. Thank you. So are you
4 Mr. Lackey?

5 MR. LACKEY: Yes.

6 MR. JANN: Followed by Richard Cassiday, and then
7 the third in cue will be Mike Bailey, please.

8 MR. LACKEY: Hello, my name is Scott Lackey. I'm
9 new here. I moved in 22 years ago. I live in
10 southeast Gladwin County. Everybody down my road has
11 had to put new wells in. Some oil companies were there
12 in the '50s and '60s. Now, I don't know what the
13 regulations were then, and I know nobody cares now.

14 But I have a cup of water here that anybody can
15 drink that wants to. It just came out of my garden
16 hose. It's salty, and if you leave it sit overnight it
17 gets a scum on the top. I've had it tested. In my
18 house I have to have reverse osmosis, I have to have
19 water filters, I have to have water softeners. I've
20 had to replace everything, and plus we still don't
21 drink it. I wouldn't let my children drink it. This
22 happened years and years ago.

23 So a company came, got their money, and left.
24 People from the EPA, I appreciate you being here. I
25 know you took the brunt of this tonight, but with the

1 then there's no penalty and no concern for the wildlife
2 whatsoever, which is concerning, too.
3 And the fact that this is a poor community. Why
4 is it always the poor communities that this happens to?
5 I don't, I don't get it. I don't understand. Do we
6 not have the money to fight this? I don't know. But
7 that's what I had to say.
8 MR. JANN: Thank you.
9 MS. KEITH: Thank you.
10 MR. JANN: Amy Kruske, followed by Robert
11 Townsend, please. Then after Mr. Townsend, Annette
12 Murray.
13 MS. KRUSKE: Okay. I'm Amy Kruske, K-r-u-s-k-e.
14 Thank you for this hearing. I know it's been hot and
15 debated, but to tell you the truth, we wouldn't have
16 had this hearing right now had it not been for a letter
17 to the editor, and I think it was in October, that my
18 husband and I saw, and we were pretty outraged. The
19 letter didn't come from anyone here, it came from a guy
20 in Clare, about this proposed well. So we got our pals
21 together and our neighborhood and we wrote letters to
22 Janette to get this hearing. I don't know who else
23 wrote letters, but thank you.
24 Our concern was, obviously, it's very close to
25 where this well is proposed. It's just, I mean, it's a

1 stone's throw away from the Cedar River watershed.
2 It's also not very far from my own personal well. It's
3 in my backyard. So that made us very nervous, still
4 does.
5 I will read my notes now. I guess, here's one of
6 my big concerns, too. Okay. We weren't informed of
7 this well to begin with. So how are we going to be
8 informed if it has a spill or a crack? Now, there's
9 information, you know, that we're trying to show us,
10 like, I see that there's a well that has casing around
11 it, things like that. However, there have been many
12 spills reported. There were 6,000 spills in 2014 in
13 just four states. That's not our state. That's other
14 states that have been fracked more heavily.
15 I don't know if since then it's really hard to
16 find information on that, but I'm sure the numbers are
17 very high. It's not that it doesn't happen. It
18 happens more than we would like to know, and when it
19 happens in my backyard I'm not going to be happy about
20 it.
21 Especially since I don't know what to test for,
22 because we don't even know what's in the brine. What?
23 How will I test my water for that? I've tested my
24 water in the past, it's expensive, and you have to
25 basically tell them what you want them to test it for.

1 So that's another concern that I have.
2 MR. JANN: Just so you know, we're at time.
3 MS. KRUSKE: Oh, no, we're at time.
4 MR. JANN: And we're happy to take any written
5 comments that you may have.
6 MS. KRUSKE: Okay. Thank you.
7 MR. JANN: Robert Townsend, followed by Annette
8 Murray, and then Donna Ridley.
9 DR. TOWNSEND: Good evening. Thank you all for
10 coming out. My name is Dr. Bob Townsend,
11 T-o-w-n-s-e-n-d, and I just want to express a couple of
12 concerns that I have.
13 First of all, I came to this meeting with an open
14 mind. I don't have a care one way or the other on
15 fracking, as far as no predisposed ideation or anything
16 like that.
17 There are two things that deeply concern me. As
18 soon as I walked in the door I saw people signing
19 petitions, and the EPA came up and lied to me. That's
20 my first contact with EPA. They told me they had no
21 idea who those people were, but the EPA was lying. Why
22 don't they just say that they are signing petitions
23 about fracking and move on? Be honest.
24 The second thing that really disturbs me is why is
25 the State of Michigan not here? They should be here

1 addressing some of these concerns with the DEQ and the
2 other agencies responsible for this, because there are
3 questions. A pipeline is not covered under the EPA.
4 It's covered under the State of Michigan as far as I
5 know. Why are they not here explaining that to us?
6 That's the big concern to me. That's going into the
7 water supply, the creeks. The injection well 3,000
8 feet deep is not.
9 So before we approve this, first I'd like to see a
10 bond to cover the cost of clean-up for that pipeline in
11 case it ruptures. Second of all, I'm tired of hearing
12 from government agencies that it's not my circus, not
13 my monkey, all right, and that's all I have to say
14 about that.
15 This goes from a site of origin to the site of
16 disposal, and it all needs to be looked at. Thank you
17 very much.
18 MR. JANN: Annette Murray, followed by Donna
19 Ridley.
20 MS. MURRAY: Hi, I'm Annette Murray, M-u-r-r-a-y.
21 I just have one question or comment. Who is Jordan
22 Development and why their interest in Gladwin County?
23 What are they getting out of it? That's it.
24 MR. JANN: Thank you. Donna Ridley, followed by
25 Jessica Shanahan, please.

1 I'm saying that was a concern. So I bring that to the
2 attention here. Where is our officials, why are we not
3 hearing from them?

4 I think there are just way too many things for the
5 EPA to say, yeah, let's go ahead. No, we have to have
6 some answers for a lot of questions. We need more,
7 another hearing, honestly. We need more information.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. JANN: Next we have Tracy Curtis, followed by
10 Jim Rackord, I believe, and then Judith Schroeder.
11 Please state your name and spell your last name.

12 MS. CURTIS: Tracy Curtis, C-u-r-t-i-s. I just
13 have a concern, nobody has mentioned that this is
14 within one mile of a nice lake that has beautiful
15 people, beautiful things, that we all need to be aware
16 of. Well, actually, two lakes that are within range
17 that can be affected by this. There would be no
18 fishing, there would be no skiing on the lakes, if it
19 gets contaminated or anything.

20 So I just wanted to make sure that you guys are
21 aware that not only our drinking water is going to be
22 affected, but our environment is going to be affected.

23 MR. JANN: Thank you. Jim Rackord, if I'm
24 pronouncing that correctly, followed by Judith
25 Schroeder, and then Jon Freier, I believe.

1 it would be Jon Freier, please.

2 MS. SCHROEDER: S-c-h-r-o-e-d-e-r. All right.
3 The EPA's duty is to protect our water, right, is to
4 protect our waters? I would ask -- I think it would be
5 important to send this to our state representatives,
6 write letters to our state representatives. You know,
7 we need to do that.

8 And the third thing is, I believe God is for the
9 people, and to use prayer. There's power, we still
10 have power. There's a battle going on, and I look at
11 it between good and evil; money and whatever, whatever
12 the plan is. They don't care about us. God cares
13 about us. The state representatives will hear us. So
14 I would encourage you to write to your state senators
15 and pray. Thank you.

16 MR. JANN: Jon Freier. Jon Freier, followed by
17 Stephen Ostrander, and then Jeff Ennis.

18 MR. FREIER: It's Jon Freier, F-r-e-i-e-r. How is
19 it going tonight? Not very good, is it? Like she said
20 before about the state representatives and to regulate
21 about the surface pipe, regulations about the surface
22 pipe that's below the ground 3 feet or 4 feet below the
23 ground or what not, and I called the soil conservation
24 before this, and they had no idea that this meeting was
25 going on tonight.

1 MR. RACKORD: I will this evening -- pardon me?

2 MR. JANN: Name and spell it, please.

3 MR. RACKORD: Jim Rackord, R-a-c-k-o-r-d. I've
4 lived here all my life. I live on Wiggins Lake, and
5 I've lived in a community on one of our trout streams
6 on top of that. One of them I would like to address
7 and --

8 MR. JANN: I think she's having a hard time
9 hearing you.

10 MR. RACKORD: -- basically, when I lived down
11 here. I have 40 plus pages of documentation off the
12 internet of leaking and also leaking into groundwater.
13 And one of them I want to talk about here now is the
14 EPA due to their lack of regulations has allowed
15 fracking companies commonly to dispose of contaminated
16 fracking water in the cheapest, easiest ways they can
17 find, regardless of consequences for communities, water
18 treatment facilities, and environment.

19 I think, like one of the gentlemen said earlier, I
20 believe this should be put on the ballot in November to
21 vote on whether to allow this in our community. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. JANN: Judith Schroeder, is that correct?

24 MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.

25 MR. JANN: Okay. Spell your last name. And then

1 So reach out to everybody; the EPA again, DEQ,
2 call your soil conservation, MSU, whoever. We don't
3 want it. We don't need it.

4 MR. JANN: Thank you. Stephen Ostrander, and Jeff
5 Ennis, followed by Michelle Wojtas. I'll go to number
6 four in the event somebody is approaching the front of
7 the room. Dr. Ronald Kruske, please, and after Dr.
8 Kruske we have Dan Ostwick, I believe.

9 DR. KRUSKE: Dr. Ronald Kruske, K-r-u-s-k-e. I
10 came here tonight basically to find out what our
11 administrative avenues were to try and challenge this
12 permit. We got a little bit of that answer. Thank
13 you, Steve. And I would like to thank you both for
14 allowing us the chance to talk tonight.

15 It sounds as though it's up to you guys, and that
16 we don't have any avenues to pursue this at this point,
17 and I realize you guys are pretty limited by
18 guidelines, that you have to work within the Safe
19 Drinking Water Act. I'm aware that there's also a 2010
20 environmental justice guidelines, and I hope you could
21 maybe find something in there that could help us maybe
22 deny this permit.

23 Again, if we had some administrative options, I
24 think we would try to exercise those. So try to keep
25 that in mind in your decision-making process. Thank

1 you.
2 MR. JANN: Thank you. Dan, and I'm
3 mispronouncing, I know, but Ostwick; and then Scheryll
4 Gerendsky; and then Andy Szerdi, S-z-e-r-d-i.
5 MR. OSTWICK: My name is Dan Ostwick,
6 O-s-t-w-i-c-k. I just wanted to say that I think
7 fracking and on the waste that we create that has to be
8 stored forever is highly irresponsible of allowing it
9 to happen. And in the permit to Jordan, there's
10 absolutely no responsibility of them if this well
11 should leak. It's our problem. There is no
12 responsibility.
13 I have a copy of the permit that was signed on
14 September 15, 2017. That's before we knew about it.
15 The EPA signed a permit, Christopher Korleski. Why is
16 there a signed permit before we even know about it?
17 The EPA is not on this with us.
18 PUBLIC VOICE: Told you, they were lying.
19 MR. JANN: I'll break with my own rules and speak
20 to that, which is, that the document that was signed is
21 a so-called Statement of Basis, which describes the law
22 and facts that were most important, but you may see
23 that the permit itself has a draft stamp on it. In
24 fact, you see that sheet of paper that's on the table,
25 the permit says draft.

1 MR. OSTWICK: This is the one that's got the
2 signature.
3 MR. JANN: That's a Statement of Basis. It's a
4 separate document, but the permit is stamped draft.
5 MR. OSTWICK: It says permit number MIO51 --
6 PUBLIC VOICE: I thought you said you didn't
7 answer questions.
8 MR. JANN: Yeah. That's why I said I'm violating
9 my own protocol. So the permit is a draft. I will
10 state that unequivocally. So let's move on to our next
11 person. Sheryll Gerendsky, maybe that's the best
12 pronunciation, followed by Andy Szerdi, S-z-e-r-d-i,
13 and Todd Sweet. Okay. Then we have Tamie Robinson,
14 please.
15 MR. SZERDI: Andy Szerdi, S-z-e-r-d-i. The
16 Michigan strata is a basin, it's shaped like this. You
17 push it in here, it will come up out over the edges, if
18 you do enough of it. This is a bad thing. This will
19 pollute the Great Lakes.
20 Also, there is no need for this. You can
21 evaporate it. You can put it in shallow ponds or you
22 can precipitate it in reactors, you just have to have a
23 container to cook it out of. So there's really no need
24 to be shoving bad stuff back into the ground where we
25 get all of our water to drink. This is bad. Thank

1 you.
2 MR. JANN: Thank you. Todd Sweet, followed by
3 Tamie Robinson, please.
4 MS. ROBINSON: Hi, I'm Tamie Robinson,
5 R-o-b-i-n-s-o-n. I have a few questions and a few
6 comments. First of all, we are still trying to find
7 out what exactly is in the brine. We would like that
8 posted, if that could come out. We would really
9 appreciate that.
10 We also want to know where this solution, this
11 brine, is coming from. I know you say it's from
12 Jordan, LLC. Is that a Michigan only company? Is that
13 from other places? We would like to know that.
14 Also, is this the same company, the Jordan
15 Development Company, that holds and monitors the same
16 pipeline that's under our Mackinac Bridge right now
17 that was just struck and is already creating problems
18 with our water here in Michigan? We don't need more
19 water problems here in Michigan. We have enough.
20 We want to make sure the water is safe. We want
21 to make sure we are safe. Our drinking water, our
22 animals, our society, everything that we have here, we
23 need to keep safe.
24 I understand that you have a job to do. I know
25 that, and you have a job to do. I know that, but we

1 want to keep us safe. Thank you.
2 MR. JANN: Heather Schiele, S-c-h-i-e-l-e,
3 followed by Joe Servetter.
4 MR. SERVETTER: Very good.
5 MR. JANN: I got one right.
6 MS. SCHIELE: You wasn't too far off. You are
7 okay.
8 MR. JANN: And then third would be Paul Reece, I
9 believe.
10 MS. SCHIELE: Hello. Thank you. My name is
11 Heather Schiele, S-c-h-i-e-l-e. And the last time I
12 found myself in this high school and this auditorium is
13 when we were listening to Michigan DEQ and Michigan
14 State Extension telling us about fracking and how it
15 was going to be so safe for our area, explaining that
16 they were going to take all of the poisons that they
17 put in the ground and they were going to take it
18 elsewhere, and there was going to be no problem, they
19 would cover the well and that would be it. And here we
20 are now, and they are talking about making these wells
21 into injection wells, just as expected.
22 The problem I have is many don't know that in 2013
23 I took the DEQ to court to try and find out what their
24 proprietary poisons were, so I could properly test my
25 well, because it's very specific things that you need

1 here, and I have an issue with this. I mean, thank you
2 all for talking about it. I feel like if it doesn't
3 leak soon it will eventually leak, and my kids or me,
4 my future grandkids, if I raise a family here, are
5 going to be impacted by this.

6 Chemicals are extremely scary, as most of you
7 know, and it's even scarier when they are affected by
8 -- they affect the life of living organisms like we've
9 all seen tonight. It's just insane to think that this
10 is even happening.

11 Also, it was just brought to my attention that our
12 township officials are compensating for this well. So
13 that's another thing to really think about. And that's
14 all I want to say. Thank you.

15 MR. JANN: Sam Bridle.

16 MR. BRIDLE: Thank you. My name is Sam Bridle,
17 B-r-i-d-l-e. I've only lived here a few years, but I
18 live on Pratt Lake. For those of you who don't know
19 much about Pratt Lake, it's 30 feet deep, and it's
20 spring fed from an underlying aquifer. So that's my
21 first concern.

22 We're very close to the site for the proposed
23 injection well. Two years ago we had to drill a new
24 drinking water well on our property, and we actually
25 hit water 90 feet down, which we were very happy about,

1 Also, another hearing should be held, because I
2 think a lot of information has not been provided yet to
3 the public. I was, about a year ago, I was at the
4 Berry County injection well hearing that you were
5 actually at, Steve, I'm not sure if you were, but the
6 same question was asked, what is the failure, casing
7 failure, rate in Michigan, and whoever with the EPA
8 said we don't know that, and here it is a year later
9 and they are still saying it. We need and the public
10 deserves to have that information prior to a public
11 hearing.

12 There are a lot of different reasons why you
13 should deny it, and then the only things you are
14 looking at are process, geologic siting, well
15 engineering, operation and monitoring standards.

16 A couple of reasons why you should deny it. If
17 you can't deny it because of people like Donna, who was
18 here earlier with cancer -- I don't know if you ever
19 deny anything, and I really admire her bravery and
20 courage to come up here and tell you what she's doing.

21 And as well casing failures do happen, and we need
22 to know that failure rate. You know the failure rate.
23 In fact, in 2016 your own study showed that, let me
24 just go through a bunch of stuff that I have here and
25 comments that were already given to you, from December

1 but when you put those two things together, that
2 aquifer is 90 feet and Pratt Lake is only 30 feet deep.
3 We know this injection well is going to be quite close.
4 In addition to that, there is this pipeline where it
5 connects to the well.

6 So our big concerns are, how deep does the
7 underlying aquifer under Pratt Lake, how far down does
8 that go? How close does it get to that 3,800 feet that
9 the injection well will operate at?

10 So I would hope that the EPA would take a very
11 close look at that before they even consider granting
12 this permit. Because any kind of leakage in the
13 injection well or the pipeline system could easily
14 contaminate Pratt Lake and our drinking water well.

15 So that's all I have to say, but I hope it carries
16 some weight. Thank you.

17 MR. JANN: Thank you. Now, we have LuAnne Kozma,
18 followed by Ellis Boal, and then John Dalton.

19 MS. KOZMA: Thank you. I'm LuAnne Kozma,
20 K-o-z-m-a, from Charlevoix, Michigan, and I'm on the
21 committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan, director of the
22 ballot initiative. We request that you deny this
23 permit, and I hope everyone in this room writes to you
24 by the deadline, and that you provide that information
25 as to how they do that, to deny the permit.

1 13, 2016, specifically saying that injection wells are
2 a source of contamination, that's your own EPA
3 information, and so you reverse course, according to
4 the New York Times.

5 I hope that you are looking at every study by Tony
6 Egraphia (phonetic), by the oil and gas industry
7 itself, that shows that their injection wells, you
8 know, the casings fail. It's just a matter of time.

9 So if you are about to, you know, guarantee to
10 this community that this casing will never affect the
11 groundwater here, not in 5 years, 10 years, 35 years,
12 100 years, 200 years, I mean, that's what we're looking
13 at. You know, this community is looking at the
14 entirety, you know, in the future looking forward.

15 Radioactivity is another I will be writing you
16 about, and I won't go on about it now, but all this
17 waste is highly radioactive, and I don't think you are
18 testing for it. I don't think Jordan is testing for
19 it. How can we test for it, if you are not even
20 testing for it?

21 And I just encourage everyone here to write to the
22 EPA by the deadline and give them every single study
23 that they need to be looking at in making this
24 decision. And please deny the permit. And we do
25 request another hearing. Thanks.