

From: "Jane Varcoe"
To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/27/2011 06:08 PM
Subject: NATURAL GAS DRILLING REGULATIONS

I am emailing my comments and will also FAX to you the attached letter concerning natural gas drilling.

Mr. Edward Hanlon -Designated Federal Officer of the SAB Staff Office

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

I have been on Waymart Borough Council for 37 years, President of the Waymart Area Historical Society, Chairman of the Board of the Waymart Volunteer Ambulance Corps and an EMT. I retired after 35 years as a teacher in Western Wayne School District and taught science along with reading in our sixth grade curriculum. I certainly do not have an extensive background in science but I am an avid reader and have kept up with particular interest to environmental concerns, findings and theories.

I find the EPA's present study of natural gas in Pennsylvania to be unwarranted and extremely prejudicial. From my perusal of the draft plans, I find the EPA seems inherently focused on actively finding problems with natural gas development, rather than actually evaluating the safety of the processes presently in place.

The EPA is assuming hydraulic fracturing is dangerous and seems set to proving that assumption. By creating doomsday scenarios that will be extremely harmful to my community, rather than focusing on examining the risk associated with current practices, is unproductive and drives a point based on fear. This study seems to already have an agenda and conclusion and is not a working document. This is not a study; it is reinforcement of predetermined ideas.

I know EPA previously did a study in 2004 that found no incidents of water contaminations from hydraulic fracturing and concluded a low risk of incidents in the future. 1,787 gas wells exist today in Pennsylvania with only minor incidents reported. Thousands of jobs have been created generating revenue for communities across our Commonwealth. I ask, what would be fair about eliminating clean gas production that was previously deemed safe in your own study?

My life is dedicated to public service and I know the worth of listening with compassion and understanding. I feel the EPA needs to listen and conduct a study that will allow people to understand the facts about natural gas not the fears. This vital industry must prosper in our United States; events of today in the world reinforce our need for self-reliance by utilizing our natural resources especially gas.

Thank you for your time and seriously considering my opinion which reflects the overwhelming majority of our community and our county.

Sincerely,
Jane M. Varcoe, VP-Waymart Council, PO Box A, Waymart, PA 18472