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ENVIR. APPEALS BOARD

**\*\*\* Appeal \*\*\***

Petition for review of UIC Permit # PAS2DO13BIND

Submitted by: William J. Woodcock III  
April 8<sup>th</sup> 2014

The following is a letter asking for rational thinking and an appeal for help in preserving the tranquility of Grant Township.

As a resident of Grant Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, United States of America, I would like my concerns heard regarding the allowance of the YANITY REFUSE INJECTION WELL site under permit # PA52DO13BIND.

Please take the time to completely read this letter as I have written it and submitted it for your review.

In advance I will say, thank you for your time and your patience.

Most sincerely yours,

William J. Woodcock III  
Farnsworth House  
2416 Eastrun Rd.  
Grant Township,  
Marion Center, PA 15759

I started visiting the Valley known as East Run in Grant Township twenty six years ago.

My dream of living in a rural setting, quiet and peaceful, with fresh air, clean water and a landscape reminiscent of a Hudson River School painting washed with bright sunshine, was realized twenty years ago when I purchased ten acres of land along the East Run branch of the Little Mahoning River from my friend, John Farnsworth.

I've worked hard to improve my yard, plant gardens and keep my property in tidy order as not to become offensive to my neighbors.

I enjoy the quiet evenings listening to the song birds in my yard, or watching the deer, fox, rabbits and other wild life emerge into the open fields to feed on the green grasses of summertime. In the section of the East Run that flows through my property, I have observed wood ducks, mallard ducks, and large blue heron. There have been pheasant, grouse, turkey, deer, rabbit, raccoon and fox in the meadow below my yard. From the small salamanders to the recently observed American Bald Eagle we saw high above the tall and stately white pine trees, there is a calm in our lives that only a few people can appreciate as much as the residents of Grant Township do.

Recently there is a threat to this tranquil setting.

It comes in the form of an industrial waste site known as a Class II Refuse Injection Well.

This well would be situated at the top of the hill overlooking East Run.

There will be numerous large and loud tanker trucks arriving in a steady stream of noise, dust and fumes, delivering gas well waste to be pumped into the earth. There will be equipment, constantly in need of repairs. On top of all that, there will be a fear about what could happen if something goes terribly wrong with this well and the brine solution laced with chemicals much too numerous to mention here.

If you are already thinking to yourself, “there is nothing to worry about with the technology involved in the Injection Well systems”, please continue to read along and keep an open mind.

Pennsylvania has been a supplier to the world of inexpensive energy for many years, going back to the days of Col. Drake and his first oil derrick to the coal industry pulling vast amounts of soft and hard coal from beneath the ground, and shipping it all over the world.

We still have the unsightly waste piles of debris littering our hillsides and farm fields, in the form of “slag heaps” or “boney piles”. During the four months of the summer foliage season, they tend to “blend in” as part of the rolling landscape. But during the eight months of late fall, winter and early spring, those rolling hills are exposed as coal mining waste, abandoned by companies over eighty years ago when a particular seam of coal “ran out”. Now, Indiana County is left with many areas of unsightly landscapes to be viewed when the trees have dropped their lush green leaves of summertime.

Entertain yourself with a Google image search for “boney pile” just in case you do not know what one looks like.

### JUST ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE...

**LOVE CANAL:** The families, who moved into the LaSalle neighborhood of Niagara Falls during the late 1960s and 1970s were excited to move into beautiful, newly built homes in recently expanded streets, and begin raising their families.

Charming Cape Cod-style homes, ranch homes were fresh and new. Two new schools were built in the neighborhood, and the children could walk to school for their education and play on the school playgrounds.

Long-time residents of Niagara Falls remembered the tale of William T.

Love, and his failed dream to build a shipping lane from the upper Niagara River, bypassing the actual “Fall” of Niagara and connecting to Lake Ontario to the north.

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But the people moving into their new homes between 99<sup>th</sup> Street and Read Avenue were not aware they were moving into homes built on a toxic waste site.

After all, the land was smooth, covered with new streets and sidewalks. New trees planted along those same sidewalks and street lights to stroll under in the evening after finishing dinner.

All the bucolic scenery would soon change!

With an unusually high rate of miscarriages, birth defects, cancers and mental retardation of new born children in the “Love Canal area” of LaSalle, people started to question environmental influences that could be the cause of these mishaps.

The awful smelly substances leaching into the basements of those shiny new homes, and bubbling up in the yards, killing the grass, trees and gardens were soon discovered to be 21,000 TONS of waste chemicals “safely” buried years earlier.

Take a moment and read what the United States Environmental Protection Agency had to say in 1979:

“...Residents exhibited a disturbingly high rate of miscarriages... Love Canal can now be added to a growing list of environmental disasters involving toxins ranging from industrial workers stricken by nervous disorders and cancers to the discovery of toxic materials in the milk of nursing mothers.”

You can say the Love Canal situation is completely different from what a Class II injection well is designed to perform like. Most notably, Love Canal was a very shallow disposal site as compared to the thousands of feet below the ground surface an injection well waste site would be.

Fundamentally they are identical: Love Canal, coal mine refuse piles and injection wells are all industrial waste repositories.

You might also be asking, why is William so hung up on comparing the YANITY refuse injection well site to Love Canal?

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It is because, while growing up on my parents' farm in Western New York, I was there!

I saw what it did to the families of that neighborhood. I saw how their health was destroyed, their property value destroyed.

Every evening on the nightly news, and every morning in the newspaper there were new stories emerging about the devastation to the "Love Canal Zone" as it was to become known.

Take a moment and Google "Love Canal" and see for yourself how truly awful this tragedy became.

All this was because of 21,000 tons of toxic waste. What do you suppose the 2 billion gallons a day, of waste being pumped into the approximately 144,000 Class II wells that are currently in operation today will amount to?

I know salt water (brine) is what makes up the majority of the waste fluids.

BUT - There is a laundry list of other chemicals that make up the balance of waste being injected into the ground.

From my Wikipedia search for "List of additives for Hydraulic Fracturing," there are 750 compounds listed as additives for hydraulic fracturing in a report to the U.S. Congress in 2011, after originally being kept secret for "commercial reasons". Some are known to be carcinogenic.

Love Canal and the 800 residents who lived there, is not an isolated case in the continuing saga of what to do with our country's industrial waste byproducts.

Do a Google search for "Times Beach, Missouri" and read about the ghost

town that once was the home of more than two thousand residents before they were evacuated in 1983, due to the buried chemicals that were leaching up into the homes, streets and yards of the properties there.

As recently as April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, Reuters reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico: “Inspectors ventured into an underground nuclear waste disposal vault to begin an on-site investigation of a radiation leak nearly seven weeks

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ago that exposed 21 worker and forced a shutdown of the facility.

Although an alarm automatically switched the ventilation system to filtration to keep radiation from spreading, trace amounts of man-made isotopes such as americium – 241, were measured at the surface from 2,100 feet below the desert.”

Please do not think of me as an “alarmist” or that I believe an injection well is akin to the severity of nuclear waste materials.

What I do want you to know is: I believe whatever you dispose of into the ground, **NO MATTER HOW DEEP YOU BURY IT**, it is bound to show up again in the form of a problem to the people nearby.

I live here with a clean well for drinking water. I do not have another source for water. There is not a municipal water system this far out in the country. My neighbors are in the same situation as myself.

We enjoy our quiet days and evenings in our yards, listening to the song birds and crickets. I can hear the bells in the church steeple at the end of the valley every evening and I know it is six o'clock and time to put my gardening tools away for the evening and get ready for dinner.

If a problem occurs at the YANITY Injection Well site, we will be left with no readily available source of clean drinking water. If the silence of our quiet surrounding is destroyed by the noise of multitudes of tanker trucks delivering thousands of gallons of waste to be pumped into the ground by loud machines running constantly, what are we to do?

The reasons I love living in this area will have been removed!

The YANITY Injection Well site is closer to my home than the church I mentioned above, just in case you are thinking I probably won't hear any of the equipment used to pump liquids into the ground under my home.

If you are wondering where all this worry comes from, all you have to do is look at the reports in the newspaper or on the television. Do a little research for yourself and you will find multiple cases dating back through

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the years. Case after case of how the constant struggle of finding places to dispose of our industrial waste, yet while trying to live and be productive citizens in the same areas has been a battle rarely without its faults and problems.

Recently on National Public Radio, from April 12<sup>th</sup> 2012, reports that a deep well injection well site (Clearfield County, PA) failed sometime in early April 2011 according to a release issued by the EPA .

But the company (Exco Resources) continued to inject the frack fluid until August without notifying the EPA.

Do not let Grant Township (named after Ulysses S. Grant in 1868) become one more name on the EPA's "growing list" of environmental disasters.

Please put a stop to the YANITY Injection Well Site!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wm. J. Woodcock III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and "J". The "III" is written in a smaller, more formal font at the end of the signature.

William J. Woodcock III