

BEFORE THE
US EPA
OF WATER PROTECTION DIVISION

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IN RE: US EPA HEARING

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BEFORE: JAMES BENNETT, Chief

MARK NELSON, Member

ROGER REINHART, Member

DAVID RECTENWALD, Member

HEARING: Wednesday, July 26, 2017

6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The Plum Community Center

499 Center - New Texas Road

Plum, PA 15239

WITNESSES: None

Reporter: Diana L. Inquartano

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to call this hearing to order. Thank you for the Township and for the Senior Center for hosting this hearing tonight. I wanted to start off by saying there was a request for copies. I did bring 30 with me, however there's more of you than 30.

So what we're going to do is there is copies on our EPA website of our public notice. Can you hear me now? You guys can hear me now? There's copies of our public notice, draft permit and statement and basis on our EPA website. I have 30 copies for people that don't have access to the Internet.

I ask if you don't have access to the Internet, plus also the local county library has copies of all this information as well. So there's three different places you can. At the end of the hearing, if you don't have access to the Internet I - I have copies of all of it up here for 30 people.

Okay?

I'd like to say thank you for your attendance tonight. This is a - this is a formal

1 public hearing on a proposed permit under the
2 federal Underground Injection Control Program for a
3 project consisting of one brine disposal well known
4 as the Penneco injection well Sedat Number 3A in
5 Plum Borough, Allegheny County.

6 Public notices for these permits were
7 distributed to state officials, interested parties
8 by written or calling EPA and also published in the
9 Tribune Review on June 22nd, 2017.

10 I ask for your cooperation in adhering
11 to the procedures I will outline for you shortly so
12 that we could make the most of this opportunity for
13 public comment.

14 First, however, I want to introduce
15 myself and other members of the - of the agency. I
16 am James Bennett, the Chief of the Groundwater and
17 Enforcement Branch of the Water Protection Division
18 located in the U.S. Environmental Protection
19 Agency's office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With
20 me tonight are Mark Nelson, our project officer,
21 Roger Reinhart our enforcement team leader, and Dave
22 Rectenwald, our oil and gas inspector.

23 For those who came here today out of
24 general environmental interest and concern, I would
25 like to acquaint you with the basic goals of the UIC

1 program, which EPA is administrating in the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act in
4 1974 and its amendments recognize the importance of
5 safeguarding our nation's drinking water supply in a
6 number of ways. One program authorized by the Act
7 is the Public Water System Supervision Program,
8 which is designed to ensure that public water
9 supplies deliver safe drinking water to their users.

10 This program is currently being operated by the
11 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

12 Congress also recognized at the time
13 of the law's enactment that our groundwater
14 resources which supply approximately half of our
15 national drinking water resources also needed
16 protection from potentially harmful practices, such
17 as the underground injection of fluids.

18 Sections 1421 through 1424 of the Safe
19 Drink Water Act addresses the provisions which
20 authorize the UIC program and covers the procedures
21 under which EPA must implement a federally
22 administered program in those states such as
23 Pennsylvania whenever a state will not or cannot
24 assume primary enforcement for the program.

25 Since June 25th, 1984 EPA has been

1 enforcing the federal UIC program in Pennsylvania.
2 The program addresses a variety of different types
3 or classes of injection wells, including nearly
4 1,500 active oil and gas related wells in
5 Pennsylvania. The objective of the program and the
6 permits authorized under it are to ensure that the
7 construction and operation of these wells provide
8 the highest level of protection to underground
9 sources of drinking water.

10 Underground sources of drinking water
11 are basically defined as those aquifers which supply
12 or could supply drinking water for human
13 consumption. The regulatory definition of USDW also
14 includes consideration of both the quantity of water
15 available and its quality. It protects all water
16 resources with less than 10,000 parts per million
17 total dissolved solids.

18 Any and all new injection laws
19 constructed after June of 1984 are required to apply
20 for an EPA permit to ensure the compliance with the
21 construction, the operational requirements, to
22 safeguard our groundwater resources.

23 It is our intent to enforce the
24 provisions of the UIC program for Pennsylvania to
25 enhance and protect the Commonwealth's groundwater

1 resources by ensuring the injection operations meet
2 protective standards mandated by the UIC program.

3 I would like to clarify the need for a
4 federal program on this issue and the relationship
5 to state and local authorities. Existing programs
6 within the state not historically addressed - did
7 not historically address injection operations. In
8 the preventative sense is it's a federal program.
9 EPA's program is designed to protect groundwater
10 resources through stringent casing, cementing,
11 testing and continuous monitoring requirements. It
12 is the program which seeks to address many of the
13 concerns you are here for today.

14 The UIC program, however, does not
15 address or have jurisdiction to enforce against such
16 issues as noise, air emissions, truck traffic, or
17 siting related to residential buildings that you may
18 also have concerns about. The UIC permit does not -
19 does contain a condition that requires an operator
20 to meet all required local and state laws.

21 The UIC permit m does not override any
22 local or state regulations. The purpose of the UIC
23 permitting process for existing and new wells is to
24 control and prevent any injected fluids from
25 endangering underground sources of drinking water.

1 All injection operations must comply with the
2 construction operation, monitoring, and reporting
3 requirements specified in the UIC regulations.

4 The specific technical requirements
5 for construction of the well, maximum injection
6 pressure limitations and a corrective action plan
7 and area of review which is required to address any
8 unplugged wells that penetrate the injection
9 formation, and which may serve as kind of a fluid
10 migration, are all designed to ensure that the
11 injected fluids contained within the well in the
12 intended injection zone.

13 The EPA has several mechanisms for
14 identifying non-compliance and has made a commitment
15 to strong enforcement of permit conditions and the
16 overall programs provisions. EPA routinely inspects
17 all of facilities to assist in evaluating this
18 compliance.

19 The severity of a penalty will be
20 based on the seriousness of the violation.
21 Violators of the UIC regulations are subject to
22 either criminal or - or civil penalties. Parallel
23 state enforcement authorities under the Commonwealth
24 Oil and Gas Regulations may afford additional
25 protection.

1 Now having supplied you with a brief
2 overview of the UIC program and purposes of this
3 hearing, I'm going to briefly explain the protocol
4 and procedures which govern this hearing. Persons
5 wishing to testify will be called in the following
6 order.

7 We will invite all elected officials
8 representing federal, state or local government and
9 then all other private citizens and representatives
10 of the public or environmental groups. If you wish
11 to present testimony today but have not signed the
12 register, please do so now.

13 In presenting oral testimony, we ask
14 that you clearly identify yourself and your
15 organization or affiliation. We also request that
16 you limit your testimony to a maximum of three
17 minutes to ensure that the interested - that all
18 interested parties have an equal opportunity to
19 speak. For those submitting written testimony
20 tonight, please supply a copy of that record if you
21 have it with you.

22 We will not be responding to your
23 comments or questions during the formal part of the
24 public hearing, because our purpose in being here is
25 to formally solicit your input on the permit

1 proposal before us. Any additional comments that
2 you may take - you may care to make after this
3 hearing may be made in writing no later than a week
4 from today, August 2nd, 2017.

5 We're going to extend the written
6 comment portion of the permit process. You can send
7 that to James Bennett, US EPA, Region 3, 1650 Arch
8 Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, mail code
9 3WP as in Paul, 22.

10 So at this time I'm going to call up
11 the elected officials. Richard Hrivnak. I ask that
12 you spell your name for the stenographer.

13 MR. HRIVNAK: Sure. I can give you a
14 business card. How about that? First of all, my
15 name is Richard Hrivnak. I'm the Mayor here in Plum
16 Borough. Our community is 30,000 plus residents.
17 Sorry. That's the first time I've ever been told I
18 didn't speak loud enough. My name is Richard
19 Hrivnak. I'm the Mayor here at Plum Borough.

20 We have approximately 30,000 plus
21 residents here. And I come before you today as an
22 elected official and entrusted with the welfare of
23 all those residents to state my opposition to this
24 particular project.

25 I - I - and first of all, I want to

1 thank you gentlemen for all coming here because I
2 think this is a very worthwhile process and
3 hopefully you'll listen to what myself and the rest
4 of these residents have to say.

5 You mentioned a lot of these today
6 about the water tables and safe drinking water. And
7 certainly those are at the forefront of my concern
8 as well as, I'm assuming, most of the folks in this
9 audience. The sewage - excuse me, the seepage that
10 is possible from an injection well raises great
11 concern with me and for the - the overall public
12 safety of our community.

13 One thing you didn't mention, and
14 this is something that I think is very important as
15 well, is the possible seismic effects of this
16 particular project. There is a pro public study
17 that was done a couple years ago and you gentlemen
18 may be familiar with that project. Basically they
19 did some testing in Oklahoma about some of the
20 injection wells that they - they - they drilled
21 there.

22 And they found that those wells that
23 were drilled in proximity to the industrial
24 underground uses, i.e., coal mines, had a higher
25 propensity for seismic or earthquake activity. And

1 this area here we're - our history is a mining and
2 farming community. It is undermined throughout this
3 entire 29.9 square miles that we have here. We're
4 very large. And my concern also is for that.

5 We've had subsidence issues across our
6 community, as well as any coal mine community does.

7 And I have some really large concerns about those.

8 The other thing, obviously, and I'm sure the folks
9 will address this as well is that the infrastructure
10 certainly - the elevation of this particular well my
11 understanding is it's a pretty permanent road
12 leading up to the current well site. And it's off
13 of Old Leechburg Road, which is on a rather large
14 hill.

15 And I think that would, A, present
16 some safety issues, which I think hopefully our
17 Borough council will take a look at. And some noise
18 and some residential traffic issues that we would
19 have here, but also the wear and tear on those roads
20 certainly is a concern I think to all of us.

21 For brevity sake, the only other thing
22 I wanted to mention here today is that it also is a
23 concern of mine is doing some brief research.

24 And you gentlemen I know they're out
25 in the eastern part of the state. And please

1 correct me if I'm wrong on this, and I know you said
2 you weren't going to take comment, but I'm going to
3 say it anyhow is there are currently ten approved
4 injection well sites in the State of Pennsylvania.
5 This would be the 11th proposed well. Am I correct
6 there first of all? I don't want to give false
7 information.

8 Okay.

9 I assume by your silence that I'm
10 correct. With that being said this is number 11.
11 The one thing I found very interesting is all 10
12 current sites, including this proposed 11th site,
13 are in western Pennsylvania and that to me speaks
14 volumes.

15 And I think it is vastly important
16 that you hear our comments tonight and please
17 understand why we are all here standing up against
18 this underground garbage dump. Thank you.

19 CHAIR: David Vento.

20 MR. VENTO: Hi. My name is Dave
21 Vento. I'm a Plum councilman, have been for - I'm
22 in my 12th year. Like Rich said, most of the people
23 in this audience I'm sure are here to express their
24 concerns for this project. I'm one of them and I am
25 against it myself.

1 When we talk about safe drinking
2 water, quality of the water in our aquifer in this
3 area, I'm not an engineer, but I know that area
4 pretty well. I used to ride dirt bikes all through
5 there and that's at the top of the hill. And as
6 Rich said, the bottom of that hill is pretty steep
7 going down. I used to drive down there all the time
8 hauling coal and it - 1,900 feet from that point
9 down will put it pretty close to right on the street
10 level or just below it.

11 And that means it's going to be right
12 in the creek, the Puketa Creek area. I think
13 seepage is going to happen quick. I don't know what
14 this well is constructed of. I heard that - you
15 know, and just going by the newspaper articles
16 because I'm actually not well versed in this issue,
17 but I'm trying to become that way now.

18 But it is in the Murrysville shale,
19 which is a soft shale, which I think was quoted from
20 the - somebody at either EPA or Penneco that that's
21 what they're looking for so it can disperse through
22 the shale system. And that'll help, I don't know,
23 clean it out. Well, you know, our water system
24 comes from that shale, too, that water and Plum
25 Borough has recently made a contract with

1 Westmoreland Water.

2 Not only can it go into the Puketa
3 Creek and end up in the Allegheny River, but it can
4 also go the other way through that shale system and
5 end up in the Beaver Run reservoir, which our
6 drinking water is directly coming from that for
7 those of you that don't know that.

8 So, you know, these are - these are
9 some of the issues. Not just the traffic issue,
10 which that hill is - the roadway coming down there
11 faces one way and you want to go the other way.
12 It's going to be a mess pulling out on that road.
13 The roadway itself is actually non-conforming, not
14 in good shape ever. It's a state road.

15 We've been patching it the last ten
16 years because of another coal mine reclamation
17 project, but it's falling apart gentlemen. So, you
18 know, I know as a borough we're going to make you
19 probably bond that road, the state will make you
20 bond the road and, you know, we're going to hold the
21 feet to the fire.

22 If anything does happen to go through
23 there much to our general dislike, we're going to
24 make sure we hold whatever goes in there to all the
25 ordinances we can make from this time on and until

1 the time that - that project starts.

2 So I just want to let you know we
3 don't have any probably recourse to stop this, but
4 like myself and everybody here probably to the man
5 or lady is against this project. Thank you.

6 CHAIR: Tim Sanstrom.

7 MR. SANSTROM: I'm going to do mine in
8 writing.

9 CHAIR: In writing?

10 Okay.

11 Dave Odom.

12 MR. ODOM: Good evening everyone. My
13 name is David Odom. I'm a 14-year resident of Plum
14 Borough and a candidate for council. I have a
15 number of issues with this particular request that
16 went in with respect to the injection well. Mainly
17 in my review of the statement basis that the EPA
18 provided.

19 A number of questions that I have are
20 associated with the lack of granularity that was
21 provided to the statement basis. I have some
22 questions. One, the EPA sent a notice of deficiency
23 dated July 8th, 2016 to permittee requesting
24 additional information, but then notice of
25 deficiency was not made available to the public.

1 The EPA conducted a zone endangering
2 influence using geological information that was
3 pertinent to the injection zone as well as
4 anticipated operational parameters, but there was no
5 mention of how old that geologic data was that was
6 used to determine that endangering influence. I
7 think that's a major point of contention.

8 The draft permit also requires Penneco
9 to perform corrective action on any unplugged,
10 abandoned wells that penetrate the injection zone
11 within the area of review if they are identified at
12 a future date.

13 Who's providing oversight of Penneco
14 other than the EPA? And what requirements exist to
15 provide that documentation to Plum Borough so that
16 we can make sure that it's conducted in a manner
17 that meets those respected identified regulatory
18 compliance requirements?

19 The geological and seismic review
20 section of the statement of basis document also
21 states that the Safe Drinking Water Act regulations
22 for class two wells do not require consideration for
23 seismicity and that the EPA establish the maximum
24 injection pressure that was designed to limit the
25 potential for seismic events.

1 Someone needs to elaborate for the
2 public on exactly what limiting the potential for
3 seismic events actually means. The permit also
4 provides that the permittee shall inject through the
5 injection well only into a formation which is free
6 of known open vaults or fractures within the area of
7 review, but it indicates that although this does not
8 conclusively demonstrate the absence of any faults
9 in the area of the well, that the probability of
10 injection induced seismicity is low.

11 Could someone please provide more
12 specificity other than low on the actual calculated
13 probability of an injection seismic event in this
14 borough? What are the potential impacts to a
15 residential area in the event of an injection well
16 failing from seismic event that results in the
17 contamination of the USDW?

18 There is a historical record of
19 structural failures inside injection wells that it
20 happened on a routine frequency based on inspections
21 that your organization has performed in the past.
22 There's also issues associated with the testing,
23 monitoring, reporting requirements and the oversight
24 associated with this particular activity.

25 Specifically associated with some of

1 the issues that indicate that permittee will also
2 make a demonstration of their financial
3 responsibility that ensures adequate resources will
4 be maintained for well function.

5 What happens if permittee goes belly
6 up financially? Are those documents of financial
7 responsibility going to be released to Plum Borough
8 for review? That's something that we as community -
9 as residents in this community deserve the right to
10 review to ensure that they have the financial
11 liability to perform this over the period of time
12 that they choose to engage in this activity.

13 I don't think I need to elaborate any
14 more on our dissatisfaction with this as a
15 community, but we want to make sure that you, as the
16 EPA, are providing us with the answers that we
17 deserve to have as residents of this borough. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIR: Thank you. Frank Smolenski.

20 MR. SMOLENSKI: Good evening. My
21 name's Frank Smolenski.

22 CHAIR: Can you spell your name for
23 the stenographer, please?

24 MR. SMOLENSKI: Oh, S-M-O-L -
25 S-M-O-L-E-N-S-K-I. Probably I'm going to be most

1 affected by this well because I live directly across
2 the street from it. I'm quite familiar with the area.

3 I've been a resident for 59 years, all
4 my life. And one problem I have immediately with that
5 well, when that well was drilled originally in '89,
6 there was a problem with a landslide. They had to
7 come back in and reinforce - that whole area slid. I
8 think they had to remove the rig when they drilled
9 that well. If you took a tour of that site, you can
10 see this - you know, the original slippage.

11 Another concern I have, there's been
12 landslides constantly moving in that area. I have an
13 area right on the corner of my property that the state
14 fills in quite frequently because of the road slipped,
15 so there's - Besser Road's closed off because of the
16 road slippage. There's numerous road slippages in that
17 area, so that indicates to me that there's a potential
18 hazard right there.

19 Another hazard is the borough moved
20 its school buses down over the hill. Quite a lot of
21 bus traffic there now, so the truck traffic would be a
22 major concern of mine. And I have no city water
23 available to me, so if indeed this does seep and
24 contaminates my spring, which I know originates quite
25 close to that well, I'm screwed because there's no

1 city water available to me.

2 Is Penneco going to run a line for me? Because
3 I can't afford to do it. Those are my major concerns.

4 This stuff can be treated other ways and disposed of
5 properly. This is going to benefit nobody but Penneco
6 because they have to put that stuff someplace
7 regardless and there's going to be no extra jobs
8 created. It's going to be a public hazard. It's no
9 good.

10 CHAIR: Thank you. Lee Anne Weiss.

11 MS. WEISS: I - I will submit my
12 concerns in writing. I'm just here as a concerned
13 resident and parent, and I - many of my concerns have
14 already been addressed.

15 CHAIR: Thank you. Berney
16 Rott -.

17 MR. ROTTSCHAEFER: Rottschaefer.

18 CHAIR: Okay. Can you spell it for
19 the stenographer?

20 MR. ROTTSCHAEFER:

21 R-O-T-T-S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R. A-E-F-E-R. Hi. I own 35
22 acres on top of Logan's Ferry hill up by City View
23 Tavern. Under my house, which I have core borings
24 for, are three mines, only two of which show on the
25 state charts. The third lies a deep mine. It's not

1 on the state charts.

2 We have three wells that have gone
3 through it and it's there. The other problem I'm
4 concerned about is the old Logans Ferry Mine, which is
5 a huge mine that goes underneath the Allegheny River
6 and two tunnels which were bored in 1921. Allegedly
7 they may be leaking at this point. I am concerned as
8 a retired physician that the Haliburton stuff that
9 they put in fracking compounds may be actually
10 endocrinologically active and cause perhaps early
11 puberty in people and certainly the question of
12 carcinogens is questioned.

13 I'm old enough it won't affect me that
14 much, but I'm worried about my grandkids, my great
15 grandkids, my great-great grandkids if you contaminate
16 our water source, we will not be a livable viable
17 community basically. We have wonderful water, we have
18 wonderful administrations here. I think this is the
19 time to say no.

20 Let them put it in some more rural
21 area out west or something and pay the trucking or the
22 railroad fees to get the water there rather than put
23 it in our backyard. Thank you.

24 CHAIR: Thank you. Dave Daugherty.

25 MR. DAUGHERTY: Dave Daugherty, 1801

1 Greensburg Road, bottom of Old Leechburg at 366, right
2 at the bottom of the hill. Your wells will be right
3 up here (indicating).

4 CHAIR: spell your name for the
5 stenographer.

6 MR. DAUGHERTY: D-A-U-G-H-E-R-T-Y.
7 Now, my first comment in the paper here you have a guy
8 Grant Schavellio or something like that. It has his
9 phone number. He works for you guys. I called him
10 twice, left him voicemails to call me back. Never
11 called me back. What's wrong with this guy? He works
12 for you guys. He didn't call me back.

13 Right?

14 We're paying all you guys salaries.
15 He should be calling me back.

16 My next question is we have well
17 water. I guess my question is, when this starts
18 leaking and our well water is polluted, what happens?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You get sick.
20 That's what happens.

21 MR. DAUGHERTY: I'm going to stand
22 here until I get an answer. Who's going to fix it?

23 CHAIR: During the public -.

24 MR. DAUGHERTY: But who's going to fix
25 it?

1 CHAIR: You can come up afterward and
2 we can answer questions.

3 MR. DAUGHERTY: I want to know who's
4 going to fix it. Everyone in here wants to know.

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to know.

6 MR. DAUGHERTY: Everybody wants to
7 know.

8 Right?

9 I don't even why you guys are here if
10 you won't answer the questions.

11 CHAIR: At the end of the thing we
12 answer questions. This part of the hearing is to hear
13 your comments for things that we can go back and
14 address -.

15 MR. DAUGHERTY: You're going to pump
16 54,000 gallons a month.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Barrels.

18 MR. DAUGHERTY: It's even more than
19 that then.

20 Okay.

21 So how many - how long can you keep
22 popping this in there before something happens? Where
23 is it all going to go? What about the pipes that are
24 in there right now? How long has those pipes been in
25 there that you're going to put pressure in there, pump

1 this into the ground? Are they going to put new pipe
2 in?

3 They're going to use old rusty stuff?

4 What is going to happen here? No answers. I don't
5 know I'm even up here. Well, I want to know who's
6 going to fix my water, get me city water when this is
7 done, and how long it's going to take. Because I
8 can't have poisoned water coming into my house. We
9 have well water, we have septic system.

10 I can't pump this all through my
11 septic system, so what is going to happen? Am I going
12 to get an answer tonight about this or do I have to
13 ask again?

14 CHAIR: At the end.

15 MR. DAUGHERTY: This is silly.

16 Okay.

17 You guys just sit there and stare at
18 me.

19 CHAIR: Thank you. Robert Parker.

20 MR. PARKER: Good evening. My name's
21 Robert Parker. I live at 1534 Habor Street Road in
22 Plum Borough. I've been a resident of Plum Borough
23 for almost 35 years now and I have several concerns.
24 The first concern I have is a student asked me one
25 time - I'm not an English teacher. I used to be a

1 science teacher, but he said, what's the difference
2 between empathy and ignorance? And I said, I don't
3 know and I don't care.

4 Fortunately, apparently, you know,
5 based on the number of people that have turned out -
6 which kind of surprised me, you know, due to the
7 almost lack of information I had regarding this
8 meeting because I didn't - I don't tune into the
9 channel that it was on TV. And it wasn't in the
10 newspaper and I just - I'm glad there's so many people
11 here. I really am. But, you know, the - the
12 ignorance part is hopefully going to be solved here as
13 well.

14 I think people are going to become
15 more and more concerned about this and they're going
16 to be reading more and more about it. And I as a
17 resident of the borough am totally opposed to this
18 project, and I can see where it's going to open a lot
19 of doors, you know, to the fracking industry. And
20 that's just going to create more and more problems for
21 the borough of Plum.

22 And I just think that if we can stop
23 this, you know, injection well project, you know,
24 possibly, you know, that obviously is going to be a
25 concern for the fracking industry because where are

1 they going to go, you know, with their wastewater?
2 They can't go to Ohio, you know. So this is the only
3 option.

4 One of the interesting things that I
5 have is that I grew up in Northern Pennsylvania. And
6 if you're familiar with that area, that's where
7 Kendall Oil in Bradford, Pennsylvania was a - you
8 know, a big producer up there. And fracking started a
9 long time ago. My dad worked for Kendall Oil and I
10 remember fracking starting up there then, and they
11 used to have these big fracking trucks running all
12 over the place.

13 And then in those days they weren't
14 using injection wells. They were actually using
15 ponds, you know, to dump a lot of this wastewater and
16 some of those ponds, obviously, overflowed. And for
17 me - I'm a fisherman and this was really upsetting for
18 me.

19 One of them overflowed into one of the
20 best trout streams in Pennsylvania and all you saw up
21 and down that stream was dead fish. So you know that
22 the chemicals coming out of these - you know, these
23 fracking companies or these fracking industry are
24 very, very volatile. And I could read you a list of
25 what's in there because it's - it's really scary.

1 So I think that just because of that,
2 you know, because of the kind of chemicals that
3 they're using - it's not just brine. A lot of people
4 think it's just brine that they're pumping out. There
5 are a ton of other lethal chemicals that are put in
6 there that if they get out, you know, could be deadly
7 not only to, you know, wildlife, but also to people.

8 So there's other reasons. Obviously
9 I'm concerned because of the coal mines we have under
10 here. You know, you create any kind of disturbance in
11 those mines, those columns that are holding the - the
12 mines up could - you know, could fracture and we're
13 going to have more subsidence issues. The spills that
14 could possibly happen and one of the worst things, you
15 know, is possibility of accidents, you know, the
16 trucks hauling the waste and if two trucks should
17 collide.

18 So I think there's so many reasons to
19 not have this well put in here that it should be
20 obvious that, you know, the - the ignorance part is
21 going to be gone. And we should really decide that
22 this is a bad idea, so hopefully the council and EPA
23 will oppose this. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIR: Thank you. Charity Fleemer.
25 Charity Fleemer.

1 Okay.

2 Douglas Shields.

3 MR. SHIELDS: Let me get the
4 submissions to all of you. I came prepared. Thank
5 you gentlemen and here you go. Good day everybody,
6 distinguished panel. My name is Douglas Shields. I
7 am the Western Pennsylvania outreach liaison for Food
8 and Water Watch.

9 Food and Water Watch is a non-profit
10 consumer advocacy organization with offices throughout
11 the United States and 38,691 members and supporters
12 here in Pennsylvania. And we respectfully submit our
13 comments and urge the U.S. Environmental Protection
14 Agency Region 3 to deny Penneco Environmental
15 Solutions, LLC, the underground injection control UIC
16 class 2D permit it seeks from Plum Borough in
17 Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

18 Let me get my notes here. I - I am
19 not going to read all my testimony. I'll respect the
20 time, but I will give you a little bit of our top
21 notes on this. The proposed seismic - I'm sorry. The
22 proposed underground injection well unnecessarily
23 exposes as Plum Borough residents to seismic activity,
24 groundwater contamination, and other associated public
25 health and environmental risks that would threaten or

1 diminish the quality of life for Plum Borough's more
2 than 27,000 residents.

3 Penneco, the applicant, has a very
4 poor compliance record. They get from - they get
5 permits, they violate the provisions of permits, they
6 pay fines, they move on and do it again. Since 2005,
7 Penneco Oil, and affiliated Penneco Environmental
8 Solutions, has been fined \$123,900 by the Pennsylvania
9 Department of Environmental Protection, \$87,000 for
10 environmental health and safety violations, and
11 \$36,000 for administrative violations.

12 Furthermore drilling a well for
13 disposal of hydraulic fracturing fluids, wastewater
14 would also likely increase truck traffic. Not in your
15 purview. Unfortunately the citizenry here see this as
16 en toto and EPA is not going to consider truck
17 traffic.

18 However, it is important to know that
19 truck - truck accidents is the leading cause of death
20 and accidents in the oil and gas industry in the
21 United States. And if you like, I can provide you
22 data. It shows a direct corollary between increased
23 drilling activity and increased automobile accidents
24 involved with trucks that are working in the oil and
25 gas industry.

1 And while that is not germane to your
2 permit process, I think that is a - a gross - it's
3 kind of myopic. You can't just look at one piece of
4 this to make a decision. You have to look at it in
5 total. Injecting toxic wastewater underground induces
6 seismic activity even in typically non-seismic areas.
7 I read the application.

8 It states that in this area there has
9 never been a recorded seismic event in Allegheny
10 County or near this area. That is true, but they
11 never had an injection well here either. That was
12 exactly what was stated in the reports from the
13 Youngstown, Ohio injection well that had an unusually
14 high amount of seismic activity that culminated in a
15 quake.

16 And that is in the record there as
17 well. Youngstown, Ohio never was the source of an
18 earthquake. Maybe they felt the tremor from up in the
19 Cleveland area or something like that, but it was
20 never a source until an injection well was there. So
21 I take great issue with that statement being in the
22 application, because it infers to the public that
23 reads this is like, oh, this is okay.

24 When I was a member of Pittsburgh City
25 Council, and this was coming in, we started to do our

1 due diligence. We asked about injection wells. Oh,
2 don't worry about it we were told by state DEP people.

3 This is not a good place for injection wells. The
4 geology of Pennsylvania is not conducive for injection
5 wells. That's why we're going to drill them over in
6 Ohio and they did, and they had earthquakes in Ohio
7 where they never had earthquakes before.

8 Colorado is another example that
9 demonstrates seismic risks of underground injection
10 wells and - and causing earthquakes. And in March of
11 1962, the United States Army at the Rocky Mountain
12 Arsenal decided, hey, we don't know what to do with
13 all this stuff. Let's stick it in the ground.

14 Good idea except from April '62 to
15 August '67, there were more than 1,500 earthquakes
16 rumbling through the Denver region and subsided once
17 that practice stopped in the November '67 and
18 basically stopped in the 1980s. So to discount
19 seismic activity simply because it never happened here
20 before is not certainly any kind of scientific basis
21 to move forward to do this.

22 Oklahoma. Again, a friendly oil and
23 gas state, a production state, has had legendary
24 amounts. In '09, the state had 20 of the 3.0
25 magnitude or greater earthquakes and it has been since

1 2015 where both injection and fracking has occurred.
2 That number exploded 45 fold to 902 from 2009 to 2014
3 as earthquake activity increased drastically.
4 Wastewater injection volumes grew by about 43 percent.
5 To suggest there is not a corollary between injection
6 wells and seismic activity is just isn't true and it's
7 not possible based on the science.

8 Going back to Youngstown where
9 earthquakes never happened before, it had its share of
10 induced seismic activity and in 2011 they had a
11 recorded earthquake of - I think it was about four on
12 the Richter scale. I got a call from my
13 brother-in-law who lives there on New Year's Eve to
14 tell me he had just been knocked to the floor of his
15 home.

16 Pennsylvania and fracking induce
17 seismicity. Although fracking related earthquake
18 activity has thus far been minor compared to other
19 states, but it has not been immune. In February 2017,
20 Pennsylvania regulators confirmed the first fracking
21 related earthquakes in the state, which trembled
22 across Lawrence County up to the northeast. They were
23 introduced from the fracking process itself, not the
24 injection well.

25 The fracking induced earthquakes are

1 smaller and less commonly felt. The UIC wells are
2 going to cause much more of a jolt based on the
3 volumes compared to what was commonly used in a
4 refractory shale for extraction of gas. Plus you also
5 have toxic water. They say it's bromide. Bromide is
6 a nice word. It sounds pretty salty, or brine or, you
7 know, brine - pickles in brine.

8 Right?

9 Well, this brine also there's a
10 naturally occurring radioactive material that's coming
11 back with this brine that's being taken here.
12 Radioactive. And it's aggregated. It's not so bad
13 when it's spread out. My old man used to say, a
14 little bit in a lot of places never hurt anyway.

15 And so naturally occurring radioactive
16 material is there, but it's now being concentrated in
17 the brine and that is going to be a problem
18 particularly for the truck drivers and other things
19 that carry that concentration material and into the
20 injection well and the pipes themselves may, in fact,
21 become radioactive over time because of its constant
22 exposure to such large volumes.

23 So we also have those risks presented.
24 The groundwater resources, which as some have already
25 testified and they're in fear of their well. And

1 let's not discount fear. Stress in human beings
2 causes disease. That's a fact and you're going to put
3 - by putting this well there you are also --- maybe
4 this isn't in your purview either, but you are going
5 to inject a tremendous amount of stress upon people
6 that live here, particularly those in close proximity
7 from fear of something happening, from the noise, from
8 the constant truck traffic going by. All those things
9 have an impact and they need to be considered.

10 The proposed UIC well conceivably
11 could inject unknown toxics, it could migrate and
12 compromise the abandoned wells and coal mines,
13 ultimately under the ground table, and there are 2,347
14 conventional active, inactive, abandoned, plugged and
15 orphaned wells in Allegheny County nearly 400 of these
16 wells. 300 of them - 387 are right here in Plum
17 Borough.

18 About 13 wells for every acre. The
19 density of existing wells makes it easier for any
20 wastewater injections to migrate into wells that could
21 provide conduit and potentially contaminate
22 groundwater systems. I ask the EPA to begin to look
23 at this in a manner fitting to this community.

24 There is more than just sticking it to
25 a pipe in a hole in the ground and getting rid of

1 something that you cannot get rid of anywhere else.
2 This liquid cannot be cleansed. It's the holy grail
3 of the industry. If I come up with a patent to figure
4 out to get fresh water back out of this and remove the
5 - the contaminants in that water, I'd be a billionaire
6 overnight, but they can't. And they had to truck it
7 out to Ohio for years.

8 They dumped it in our rivers which
9 caused our rate base in our water systems to deal with
10 trihalomethanes because the bromide levels in the
11 rivers are mixing with the chlorine and causing
12 trihalomethane formation, which is a known carcinogen
13 that is directly linked with bladder cancer. So where
14 are we going to put it now?

15 We couldn't put it in the river.
16 Ohio's not crazy about it anymore, so let's put it in
17 injection wells in Pennsylvania, the place that I was
18 told that the geology of Pennsylvania is not conducive
19 to injection wells. Thank you for your time. I
20 appreciate - and I have some sign up sheets in the
21 back if anybody wants to get information from us about
22 this issue, please do so.

23 CHAIR: Judy Sadowsky.

24 MS. SADOWSKY: I'll submit my comments
25 in writing.

1 CHAIR: Writing? Dave Smith.

2 MR. SMITH: Good evening. Dave
3 Smith. That's S-M-I-T-H. I am the outreach
4 coordinator for Clean Air Council in Southwest
5 Pennsylvania. We are concerned that this has not been
6 approached as well as it could have with the public,
7 even though there's a lot of people here.

8 There's a lot of us that can
9 communicate what's going on with it. We think this is
10 a rush - rushed efforts. The public needs more
11 research done that will be - that they may be
12 sufficiently informed particularly for those to know
13 how close this well is to children and to the elderly
14 as it will impact health - the health of those people.

15 Experts say that underground injection
16 wells risk causing earthquakes because of the large
17 volumes of water being pumped into them. Earlier this
18 year Pennsylvania's DEP confirmed the first gas
19 drilling related earthquakes in the Commonwealth.
20 Scientific evidence links injection wells and seismic
21 activity.

22 Oklahoma state with intense oil and
23 gas activity and more than 3,000 wells experienced
24 some 7,000 earthquakes in 2015. Nearly two dozen
25 public scientific reports have concluded that disposal

1 wells and earthquakes are most likely connected. The
2 27,000 residents of Plum will be at risk. It will
3 bring a dirty industry in the doorstep of Plum
4 residents who will be subject to increased traffic and
5 the risks of earthquakes and water well contamination.
6 Pennsylvanians are tired of this effort and fighting
7 this effort.

8 The EPA needs to step up and honor its
9 citizens and their concerns and look after their
10 health. If the injection well is approved, it must be
11 strictly monitored to address concerns about potential
12 earthquakes. DEP officials have attached conditions
13 to the 11 injection well permits approved so far in
14 the state.

15 These conditions require the operator
16 to install seismic detection equipment to ensure that
17 data gathering is reported in a timely manner. These
18 conditions were attached to injection wells and Elk
19 and Indiana County approved DEP in March.
20 Environmentalists warn the risk of seismic activity
21 will only increase as Pennsylvania natural gas
22 industry grows.

23 There are more jobs in healthy fuels
24 and healthy clean air activities going on now than
25 there are fossil fuels. We need to be making that

1 switch. We need our EPA to stand behind that. Thank
2 you very much.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Matthew Robinson.

4 MR. ROBINSON: My questions were
5 already addressed.

6 CHAIR: Okay.

7 Thank you. Patricia Hagaman.

8 MS. HAGAMAN: Patricia Hagaman, H-A-G-
9 A-M-A-N. Sorry. My question or suggestion is when I
10 was reading the class one and class two injection
11 information, the chemical cocktail that is being
12 injected doesn't have a recipe. The men who created -
13 the ones who do it on site admit on YouTube and any
14 videos that they add whatever they need at the time.

15 Antifreeze is extremely toxic to
16 animals, to the wildlife, to - to humans, so if
17 there's a blowout and it mixes with the water, there
18 is no amount of dilution that's going to fix this.
19 And it - it seems like it's been mentioned already
20 that it's being rushed. This is not the area that
21 this should be done in.

22 To be totally undermined - I have maps
23 here for anyone who would like to have a map of the -
24 the mines that are underneath Plum Borough and the -
25 also a paper on the amount of injection wells and the

1 certification of those wells. I'm just saying why is
2 it not class one and why is it class two?

3 I know you can't answer right now, but
4 class one is chemical radioactive put into the ground.

5 And there are large stipulation about seismic
6 activity, geologic structure that's not in the class
7 two. That's really my question. Thank you very much.

8 This is the amount of wells. This is the maps if
9 anybody would like -.

10 CHAIR: I'd like a copy of that.

11 MS. HAGAMAN: Yes. And this is what I
12 was looking at for the class one certification from
13 your site. It's from your site. And then this is the
14 class one. It's class one, but it should be class one
15 as far as I'm concerned.

16 CHAIR: You can keep the extra copies.

17 I just need -

18 MS. HAGAMAN: Oh, okay.

19 CHAIR: - one today.

20 MS. HAGAMAN: All right.

21 CHAIR: Thank you. Dee Frederick?

22 MS. FREDERICK: Most of my concerns
23 have been addressed already, but I will be sending you
24 a letter.

25 CHAIR: Okay.

1 Jim Pattock.

2 MR. PATTOCK: Jim Pattock,

3 P-A-T-T-O-C-K. I'm in the same boat as Frank is. I'm
4 right below the well. I'm right below the well. I
5 live right below. They're already there Monday
6 messing with the well, you know. It's - you didn't
7 know. They were already there Monday messing with the
8 well. There were pump trucks there.

9 They were pumping some chemicals down,
10 they had a water tank truck there. The noise, I don't
11 think you realize how much noise is going to be
12 incurred because it's - it's in the valley. You're
13 going to have a pumper running all the time. You're
14 probably going to have a big ass tank up there,
15 refrack tanks or, you know, big tanks like what's down
16 in the -.

17 So the truck traffic is going to be -
18 it'll start out slow. It'll pick up once - once -
19 once the price will be below Ohio, which is roughly \$6
20 a barrel plus trucking. So once they beat that we're
21 going to have so much truck traffic. Of course, you
22 got school bus traffic, we have residential traffic.
23 The road is not big enough.

24 Okay?

25 We just - we just got rid of Savage

1 and all this other stuff. We don't need any more
2 traffic. Just leave it go away. Plum has already
3 enough problems with mine fires, abandoned mines, just
4 whatever. We don't need another problem. And I am in
5 the oil and gas industry. I called every one of my
6 friends. Not one of them, not one of them said this
7 is a good thing.

8 They said, go to the meeting, try to
9 get rid of it. Penneco been up there drilling for a
10 while. They got, I don't know, countless wells up
11 there. I live in Plum. I got a stream. My pond is
12 absolutely full of silts. Call them, can't get
13 nothing done, you know. They're not an up and up
14 company. They got dumps in Upper Burrell everywhere,
15 you know.

16 It's - you just can't let it happen
17 because it's not going to be monitored right because
18 it's back in the woods.

19 Okay?

20 Plum's not going - we're growing. We
21 don't need this here. We don't need to dump
22 underneath our community. It can go to Indiana, it
23 can go to ten other sites. It can go to Ohio. It
24 doesn't need to go here, you know. I work with
25 manufactured gas plants. I clean up all the time.

1 Back in 1800, 1900s, I clean it up. We don't - my
2 kids and grandkids don't need to be messing with this
3 later.

4 It doesn't need - not need to happen
5 and I got a lot of technical questions, which none of
6 these guys are going to answer, so no use in asking
7 them. But it doesn't need to be here. It can be
8 someplace else. There's too many people in this
9 community. The liability outweighs what they're going
10 to make on this.

11 Okay.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR: Gillian Graver.

14 MR. UHLER: Excuse me. I put two
15 calls into Mr. Skelireo, the project manager. I'm
16 from Upper Burrell Township, I'm a supervisor, and I
17 have no return phone calls. I put my - I've submitted
18 the letters to them and I have no response.

19 CHAIR: Sir, if you want to come up on
20 the record for that?

21 MR. UHLER: I'm okay. I just wanted
22 to say these people will not get back with you for
23 some reason. The people need to come together.

24 CHAIR: Sir, sir, the stenographer
25 needs a name, please. No, just your name.

1 MR. UHLER: My name's Al Uhler. I'm
2 from Upper Burrell Township for 53 years. Supervisor
3 coming up on 6 years. I'm running for reelection, but
4 people need to know that these - the response - I
5 submitted a letter. I've made two calls into Mr.
6 Skelireo and not one return phone call.

7 If there was a problem that happened,
8 who would we get in touch with? Who's responsible?
9 We need answers. I don't want this coming into my
10 township, the same way it's going to be coming in
11 Plum. The people need to stick together. We have
12 jobs to do.

13 My name's Allen Uhler,
14 A-L-L-E-N. Uhler, U-H-L-E-R. The letter I submitted
15 pretty much answers, but there's no questions coming
16 back. These guys got jobs to do. These are very well
17 paid. Where do you get answers? A lot of people here
18 they have questions.

19 You know, this is a shame. I grew up
20 53 years to have a disgrace that will go in - there's
21 a lot of money going around here. People want
22 answers. You know, this is a shame. I'd like to know
23 what you're thinking.

24 CHAIR: At the end we will have time
25 for questions. Ma'am, if you can spell your name

1 first and last for the stenographer.

2 MS. GRAVER: My name is Gillian
3 Graver, G-I-L-L-I-A-N. Graver, G-R-A-V-E-R. And I am
4 the executive director of a really small organization
5 in Penn Township, actually Penn Trafford Protectancy.

6 And we're here with people from Upper
7 Burrell as you can see, and people from Plum, and
8 people from Penn Township and people from Monroeville
9 and others because we would like to let EPA know that
10 this permanent proposal for an injection well in Plum
11 Borough falls recklessly short of considering the
12 safety and the well being of resident's health and
13 protection for private property.

14 I'm asking today for the EPA to give
15 citizens more time to do their evaluation and not take
16 Penneco's word for it. We do not have enough
17 information to say definitively that this injection
18 well will not harm our community and others and the
19 risks have not been properly analyzed.

20 I would like the opportunity to hire
21 an expert in hydrogeology and do a risk assessment to
22 evaluate this area, the appropriateness of the area of
23 review, the potential hazard to the community. I
24 understand that one - one quarter mile is the area of
25 review, which is an arbitrary number.

1 And with this and all the other
2 unknowns, like uncertainty of well casings, cement
3 integrity, no evaluation of coal mines and how they
4 will interact with proposed activity, improper review
5 of the geology of the upper combining layer,
6 Riddlesburg shale, and potential for earthquakes.
7 It's unreasonable for the EPA to approve this permit
8 at this time.

9 Give the citizens what they want, more
10 time to review, do a risk assessment of your own, and
11 don't just take their word for it.

12 CHAIR: Beth Jamison. If you can
13 spell your name for the stenographer.

14 MS. JAMISON: Beth Jamison,
15 J-A-M-I-S-O-N. I live in Jeanette, Pennsylvania and
16 although - louder?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, louder.

18 MS. JAMISON: Okay.

19 Although not a resident I - I live in
20 Jeanette, Pennsylvania and I'm here to support the
21 people in Plum. Although I'm not a resident, I
22 believe an important issue like an injection well
23 affects all of our collective communities.

24 Mr. Bennett, when you began this
25 evening you gave a brief overview of - I can't

1 remember the letters that you called it, but I believe
2 it's what you're looking for in a permit.

3 Correct?

4 CHAIR: Yes.

5 MS. JAMISON: And it seemed like it
6 was since June of 1984. So I guess one of my
7 questions would be, have you updated what you're
8 requiring of companies for an injection well,
9 especially since unconventional gas well development
10 was not known back in 1984.

11 Mr. Shields talked about the naturally
12 occurring radioactive materials. What happens now
13 with unconventional gas well development is called T
14 norm, technologically enhanced. And the
15 technologically enhanced natural occurring radioactive
16 materials.

17 So we know now that the DEP requires a
18 radioactive handling plan to process waste at the
19 unconventional gas well site. So now you have the
20 produced fluids definitely including radioactive
21 waste, so I'm not sure now what you require for the
22 injection wells that have to do with radioactive
23 waste. Another point that I wanted to bring up are
24 the fractures. The maximum injection pressure has
25 been calculated to prevent the initiation of new or

1 existing fractures.

2 So from an article that was already
3 mentioned this evening it says, it says according to
4 data by states to the EPA, deep well operators have
5 been caught exceeding injection pressure limits more
6 than 1,100 times from 2008 to 2012. So, yes, there
7 are going to be some violations. You're going to have
8 these people who want to hurry up, inject the stuff
9 down into the wells so they can go back and get more.

10 So the pressure of the injection can
11 accidentally shatter the rock that's meant to contain
12 it. So then you have new fractures, ones that you
13 guys are familiar with.

14 The EPA is familiar with fractures in
15 your own final report on hydraulic fracturing and its
16 potential on drinking water resources. On page 26 and
17 27 you write data on the relative location of induced
18 fractures to underground drinking water resources are
19 generally not available because fracture networks are
20 infrequently mapped. So without this data, you're
21 unable to determine with certainty where the fractures
22 have reached underground drinking water resources.

23 Okay.

24 This is a heavy risk to bare, that the
25 citizens and residents have to bear. One thing that

1 I've learned in going to some meetings about the
2 unconventional gas well development is this. There's
3 involuntary risks and voluntary risks. I know that
4 there are risks involved in driving, yet I chose to
5 get a driver's license so I have the freedom to
6 travel.

7 If I book a flight, I know the risks
8 of getting on an airplane, but I know it benefits me
9 if I want to go visit my children in another state or
10 another country. Injection wells are not voluntary
11 risks. They're involuntary risks for the people.
12 They don't want them, they didn't ask for them.
13 There's no benefit to them, only benefit to the gas
14 companies. Thank you.

15 CHAIR: Nicole Ruscitto. Nicole, if
16 you could spell your last name for the stenographer,
17 please.

18 MS. RUSCITTO: Sure. I'm Nicole
19 Ruscitto, R-U-S-C-I-T-T-O. I live in Jefferson Hills.
20 I don't belong to a formal organization. I'm just
21 here to support the people of Plum and - and I'm an
22 advocate for doing the right thing, and this is not
23 the right thing.

24 Most of my sentiments were expressed
25 here already this evening by the people, but I just

1 wanted to mention that I read an article in Rolling
2 Stone magazine, doing some research on them. And it
3 stated that America pulled 189 billion gallons of
4 frack wastewater into the portals of the earth.
5 That's the equivalent of letting Niagara Falls gush
6 directly onto the earth for 14 and a half days.
7 That's disturbing.

8 The frack waters continuously recycle
9 until it gets to a point where it becomes so toxic it
10 can't be used by industry anymore. How toxic is this
11 water become if the industry can't use it anymore?
12 And this is what you want to inject into these
13 people's community.

14 You spoke earlier in the meeting about
15 regulations, that you regulate and monitor this, but I
16 only ask is that you could provide the people of Plum
17 and the council of Plum with a list of all the
18 violations that have occurred during this process.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR: Robert Ressler.

21 MR. RESSLER: This is my street out
22 here. I'm 52.

23 CHAIR: Robert, you need to face the
24 stenographer. Can you spell your last name?

25 MR. RESSLER: It's Robert R-E, S as in

1 Sam, S as in Sam, L-E-R. My high school diploma from
2 1984 says Robert Essler. Like I was saying, this is
3 my street. But it's Texas Road I grew up on. And I
4 did mention that I graduated from high school in 1984.

5 So if you went to school with me, please see me
6 afterwards. I've been gone to the military for 20
7 years and retired.

8 And I was really happy to find a place
9 in Plum that I could afford. And people were hanging
10 stuff on my door when I was off at work saying
11 something about a well being drilled and heard
12 something on the radio. I come up here to get
13 information, so if you can just imagine I come up here
14 and got a lot of information.

15 I sure hope that we give some more
16 thought before this goes through. You know, would you
17 trade places with me? Would you come live at my house
18 and drink my water? Because that's just it, we only
19 have a water well. My five year old and I say we get
20 free water from the sky and, you know, city water, I
21 don't have that. But now I'm being told that maybe
22 there's going to be an earthquake and my house is
23 going to cave in? I don't know. I'm just saying,
24 would you trade places with me? Can I come live in
25 your house with all the stuff I heard and the

1 information?

2 CHAIR: I can't read this, but it
3 looks like the last name Popovich. Could you spell
4 your first and last name for the stenographer?

5 MR. POPOVICH: My name is Thaddeus
6 Popovich. There aren't too many of us with that name.
7 T-H-A-D-D-E-U-S. Popovich is
8 P-O-P-O-V-I-C-H. I grew up in Beaver County, Beaver
9 Falls, PA. He made it, I'm still trying. Currently I
10 live in the borough of Franklin Park, 33 miles from
11 here in the North Hills. Still Allegheny County.

12 So why am I here and why should I
13 care? Mayor Hrivnak, I believe I have his name right,
14 mentioned that groundwater contamination from the
15 proposed injection well could lead into nearby
16 Allegheny River. And if I got my geography right, the
17 Allegheny River joins the Mon to form the Ohio River
18 and by the way, currently designated as the dirtiest
19 river in the country.

20 The first public water intake on the
21 Ohio belongs to the Westview Water Authority.
22 Westview Water distributes water to the communities in
23 Allegheny County north of the Ohio, basically half of
24 Allegheny County up to Butler County line. I am a
25 customer of Westview Water, so what happens here in

1 Plum Borough could happen to me and affect me.

2 That's connecting the dots. These
3 injection wells will aid and abet the fracking
4 industry in Pennsylvania. A pox on our state I
5 believe. I've lived for many years in New York State
6 where fracking has been banned and my friends there
7 look in wonderment and what is going on in
8 Pennsylvania.

9 They see Pennsylvania as guinea pigs
10 for a rabacious industry and greedy politicians. I
11 agree. Meanwhile - and, of course, our environmental
12 and health are at risk as part of this guinea pig
13 issue that's going on right now. Meanwhile there is a
14 call for our region to become a fossil fuel energy
15 hub, mainly to build huge chemical plants owned by
16 foreign companies like Shell to convert wet gas to
17 pellets. We need more plastics.

18 Right?

19 There'll be tons of air and water
20 pollution similar to the cancer allied plants in lower
21 Mississippi between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. If
22 you connect the dots again there will be another
23 increasing need for injection wells because of the
24 needs of the fracking and chemical industries. We
25 don't want it here, we don't want it anywhere. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIR: Elisa Beck.

3 MR. BOWERSOX: Can I ask a question?

4 I know it's not my turn, but we have to ---.

5 CHAIR: Yeah. What's your name, sir?

6 Come on up.

7 MR. BOWERSOX: All right.

8 CHAIR: What's your name, sir?

9 MR. BOWERSOX: My name's Mike

10 Bowersox. That's B-O-W-E-R, S as in Sierra - oh, I'm
11 sorry. Mike Bowersox, B-O-W-E-R-S-O-X, and this is my
12 son Heath. So we're new to Plum Borough. We moved
13 here just a year ago now in July, so this is a little
14 bit different appeal.

15 There's a whole bunch of seismic
16 formation that I've been researching as well as other
17 people in - as well as other people have been
18 researching about the seismic activity about the
19 formations, and the fractures, and the wastewater and
20 water contamination, which is all important. And I
21 know that's what you all study and that's what you all
22 make sure is safe for us.

23 There's gap concerns that - when other
24 people are saying as well as we moved out here to
25 raise him in this community, in a more rural setting.

1 And it is scary to think all the possibilities to do
2 with this. We either risk raising him around it or we
3 try to move again, and that's a big thing. We did it
4 once with - when he was six months, seven months old.

5 That was tough enough, you know, and we don't want to
6 do that. I think so along with that kind of emotional
7 side of this and emotional plead to raise a family out
8 here, there's also more of a scientific concerns that
9 I have about the too low permeability shale formations
10 that exist.

11 So the - and I can't remember the
12 names off my top of my head. Riceville - Riceville
13 shale is on the upper boundary and Riceville Oswallus
14 sic) shale is on the bottom, and another one is on the
15 top. And that's what sandwiches this Murrysville
16 sandstone where it's supposed to be like a wet sponge
17 that sucks up all the water. What happens when you
18 put too much pressure between two very low permeable
19 places?

20 The pressure's got to go somewhere so
21 the gentleman that lives at the bottom of the hill, he
22 either has gas blowouts. I mean, I'm not a scientist.

23 I don't work for the EPA. You have gas blowouts, you
24 have runoff, those kind of things that we're worried
25 about. I'm worried about for him, you know. Probably

1 won't affect me in my lifetime, but it could him. So
2 that's all I wanted to say. Sorry for going in front
3 of you.

4 CHAIR: Thank you.

5 MS. BECK: I gladly deferred to a man
6 with a young boy. My name is Elisa Beck,
7 E-L-I-S-A. My last name is B-E-C-K. I'm from
8 Monroeville, Pennsylvania, a neighboring community.
9 There is as 200 mile square area in the eastern suburb
10 that is being now invaded by fracking. I'm a neuro
11 developmental optometrist.

12 The shale plant has been in Western
13 Pennsylvania since 2006. I am seeing patients that
14 are that little boy's age and seeing patients that are
15 very young. I am seeing patients that are ten years
16 old that have been affected by all of the different
17 things not yet an injection well. I'm the founder of
18 Sustain Monroeville and I'd like to read to you what
19 I'm going to provide to you from the Constitution of
20 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Article One
21 Declaration of Rights.

22 Natural resources public and state
23 section 27. The people have a right to clean air,
24 pure water, and to the preservation of the natural,
25 scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the

1 environment. People's public natural resources of the
2 common property of all the people including
3 generations yet to come, including people in the
4 eastern part of the state.

5 I'm now going to read from the front
6 part of shale field stories published by Friends of
7 the Harm in 2015. It says in here that there are -
8 were 5,000 fracking wells - not injection wells,
9 towers, unconventional wells drilled around
10 Pennsylvania. It is now 2017. There are now 10,000
11 wells surrounding us. This testimonial is from Jill
12 Ontarus Hunkler.

13 I'm just reading excerpts that I
14 underlined so when I turn it in it can be part of my
15 testimony. Fracking infrastructure and injection
16 well. The fracking infrastructure including pipeline,
17 compressor and transfer station began developing
18 rapidly. Injection wells due to radioactive and
19 chemically laden waste were among the first secretive
20 projects to be completed.

21 And I learned tonight that this well
22 that we are supposedly talking about has already been
23 injected by someone from - from the gas industry over
24 here who lives right near it. What is going on in
25 Plum Borough? I'd ask everybody to stay here

1 afterwards and let's get together.

2 We are collaborating Sustain
3 Monroeville, Penn Trafford, Protect PA. We will
4 collaborate with everybody here to keep the momentum
5 going and expand it. None of us really knew about
6 this meeting. It's miraculous that there's at least
7 200 people here. The people of Plum Borough were
8 given use of this room and I understand - and you can
9 correct me if I'm wrong, but they didn't know why this
10 room was being rented out tonight. This is
11 unacceptable.

12 And lastly I believe that what's going
13 on here tonight, what's going on in Monroeville,
14 Pennsylvania where we are trying to get an ordinance
15 in place for seismic testing and we were told it
16 wasn't going to happen until November.

17 And I was out there in front of a
18 pumper truck on Monday, this past Monday. I believe
19 that this is going to lead to the banning of fracking
20 in the State of Pennsylvania. So finally I want to
21 thank you for being here because you are bringing not
22 just Plum together, but Monroeville, Upper Burrell,
23 Lower Burrell, Murrysville, Penn Hills and Trafford,
24 Franklin Park, -

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Allegheny Township.

1 MS. BECK: - Allegheny Township,
2 Jefferson Hills, Oakmont, Washington Township,
3 Westmoreland County and Allegheny County. I think you
4 guys have crossed a line. Thank you for being here.
5 And I hope all of you read this. This is Shale field
6 story. This is really important.

7 CHAIR: Thank you.

8 MS. BECK: Let me just dog ear that
9 page because I underlined - yeah, let just dog ear it
10 and then you'll know which page it is.

11 CHAIR: Thank you.

12 MS. BECK: Uh-huh (yes).

13 CHAIR: Ron Slabe. Spell your name,
14 please.

15 MR. SLABE: S-L-A-B-E. My name is Ron
16 Slabe. I'm a citizen of neighboring Upper Burrell and
17 also spokesperson for our organization Upper Burrell
18 Citizens Against Marcellus Pollution. For many years
19 we have been told that our area is unsuited for
20 injection wells. Our geology not adequate or safe,
21 but now since Ohio is supposed to be phasing out its
22 injection well program, our area is being considered
23 and actively sought even though our geology is known
24 to be uncertain at best.

25 A public report cites the fact that

1 injection wells are notorious - notorious for their
2 repeated leaking. This leakage is known to surface
3 and seep into shallow aquifers and our drinking water.

4 And what is leaking into our aquifers are toxic
5 carcinogen wastes such as strontium and arsenic as
6 well as other radioactive materials that are deposited
7 into an injection well.

8 So many of these wells are leaking
9 that scientists have lost count, showing that science
10 has not kept pace with the reality of injection wells
11 and oversight is not working. Pressure, temperature
12 and fractures change the underground system allowing
13 waste to flow freely or migrate and thus contaminate
14 groundwater.

15 This underground migration can travel
16 long distances undetected and hidden from view, and
17 once contamination of the aquifer occurs, there is no
18 way of reversing the process. The contamination is
19 permanent. Keeping count of waste migration has
20 become a major problem, but in 2000 alone, more than
21 7,500 violations occurred and 2,300 wells failed.
22 Excessive pressure used by well operators has been
23 another source of litigation. And in 2008, for
24 example, some 1,100 violations occurred.

25 Thus the inability to assure well

1 integrity and migration of toxic waste, the wrong
2 underground geology, as well as lack of regulatory
3 enforcement, all call for rejecting the permitting of
4 any injection wells for this area. Finally a summary
5 of my points for this 3A well. Cementing of a well
6 casing for 3A and other wells in the AR - AOR are
7 unknown and opening the question of well integrity.

8 EPA hasn't done a science review of
9 the upper confining layer of the Riddlesburg shale as
10 a guard against leakage. There are other wells and
11 the coalmines just outside the AOR and has - have not
12 been taken into account and should be. This proposed
13 area is riddled with abandoned mines and mine
14 subsidence is a problem that has not been taken into
15 account. Puketa Creek is just outside the AOR.

16 Should spill or migration occur, the
17 water supply for countless thousands would be in
18 jeopardy since the Puketa empties into the Allegheny
19 River. Finally earthquakes are a real possibility
20 since the area is part of the Blairsville Broad Top
21 line, where quakes have occurred in Ohio and Lawrence
22 County, PA. In conclusion, injection wells are a
23 source of toxic water contamination and a major risk
24 to our drinking water.

25 Our geology is just not made for this

1 type of waste disposal and permitting these wells in
2 our area raises the risk of earthquakes. Because of
3 these factors, I urge you to reject any and all
4 permitting of such wells for this area. Thank you.

5 CHAIR: Patricia Emich. Spell your
6 name for the stenographer, please.

7 MS. EMICH: My name is Patricia Emich,
8 E-M-I-C-H. I'm a member of Protect PT, which the PT
9 stands for Penn Trafford. We're a small organization.
10 We like to call ourselves community minded citizens
11 and I'm not here to really talk about anything that
12 anybody else has already talked about.

13 Mr. Shields kind of stole my thunder
14 with all the earthquake information that he gave you,
15 but I do want to point out one thing and that is this
16 is the EPA. And I'm sure you know who your boss is.
17 I don't know if everybody else here knows who their
18 boss is, but their boss is a man named Scott Pruitt.
19 And he is determined to tear you guys apart and to do
20 away with the EPA, and we're here, all these people
21 are here to ask you to stand up and be very - very
22 civil minded.

23 I know how difficult that can be
24 especially when Scott Pruitt's boss is Mr. Trump and
25 that can be a very difficult man to stand up against.

1 But we're all here to say we're going to stand up
2 against it and we're going to oppose this injection
3 well, and we're going to support the citizens of Plum
4 because we know that within Penn Trafford there are
5 ten wells right now being proposed for our little
6 community and more to come.

7 So I just ask that everybody go out to
8 the polls and - and vote and help these gentlemen to
9 get a better boss. Thank you.

10 CHAIR: Angelica McKee.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speak up.

12 CHAIR: Agilica McKee. I can't read
13 the writing. U-C-K-E-E is the last name?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Valerie Yockey?

15 CHAIR: Agilica it says.

16 MR. MCKEE: Agilica McKee.

17 CHAIR: McKee.

18 Okay.

19 That's an M.

20 MS. MCKEE: Hi. My name is Agilica
21 McKee. I live at the Highlands.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you spell
23 your name?

24 MS. MCKEE: M-C-K-E-E. And one of my
25 concerns have been addressed here, but there's only

1 one concern for now and it - it has to do with the
2 regulations. And I know that EPA is supposed to be
3 regulating these injection wells. And because we all
4 know our President's intentions to cut the budget to
5 the EPA, who is going to be doing that job? I'm
6 sorry.

7 You guys are the Environmental
8 Protection Agency and start doing your job and
9 protecting the environment.

10 CHAIR: Skip Drumheller.

11 MR. DRUMHELLER: We'll see if I can
12 speak loud enough.

13 Okay?

14 My name is Oliver Drumheller. I'm a
15 former school board member.

16 CHAIR: Spell -.

17 MR. DRUMHELLER: You have that
18 information. You do have it.

19 Okay.

20 There we go. I'm a former school
21 board member for Gateway, which is in Monroeville and
22 Pitcairn, adjoining Plum. I'm speaking tonight
23 because of my opposition, strong opposition, to
24 approval of this well process not only here but also
25 across the state. The reasons are pretty self-

1 evident.

2 There are health problems,
3 environmental degradation and quality of life issues
4 that need to be considered. The injection of this
5 wastewater and its contents adversely affect our
6 drinking source downstream from the site. Water is
7 essential for life and must be protected. Safety
8 testing and monitoring needs to be done by the EPA or
9 other government agencies to ensure there is no bias
10 due to corporate influence.

11 Self-testing and reported must not
12 take place of public interest control. Injection
13 wells near schools negatively affects children's
14 health, their growth and welfare, also their behavior.
15 Some tests - I'm sorry. Excuse me. As children are
16 our future, their welfare must be ensured. Wastewater
17 injection causes increased seismic activity, as we've
18 heard before.

19 I was working as a consultant in 2011
20 in a downtown high rise and the - we had an earthquake
21 in downtown Pittsburgh. I felt it. My colleague was
22 from San Diego. He knew exactly what it was and you
23 know what he did? He picked up his stuff, went to the
24 elevator, went down and flew back home. It's true.
25 It's very, very dangerous.

1 A question for everyone. According to
2 the United States geologic survey, which is part of
3 the Department of Interior, the area with the most
4 active seismic activity in our country is in Texas and
5 Oklahoma, not on our west coast. This is due to waste
6 injection wells and has to be stopped. Damage to
7 infrastructure from voluminous waste material local -
8 is going to damage local roads and bridges and go to
9 government entities, the local government entities for
10 repair.

11 This is an example of privatization
12 for profit and socializing the costs of this risky and
13 bad behavior. The proposed Plum injection well is
14 also near Boyce Park, which is part of Allegheny
15 County that is used by citizens for recreation and
16 enjoyment. My wife and our family and I use it
17 regularly.

18 Damage to the park would destroy the
19 quality of life that we have in the eastern suburbs.
20 Please consider these points and do not approve this
21 application. Thank you.

22 CHAIR: Elizabeth Rodstec. Ray
23 Brenner

24 MR. BRENNER: My name is Ray Brenner.
25 I'm a lifelong resident of Plum Borough 46 years.

1 Many of my concerns have already been addressed by
2 people up here. One question I have is, how does this
3 benefit our community? How does it benefit it? I've
4 heard nothing but potential downside and risks.

5 Secondly, is there a need for this
6 well? Is there truly a need? Are there not residual
7 hazards, waste disposal facilities in Western
8 Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia
9 that can take and treat - properly treat this
10 material? I know there are. I work in this industry.
11 I closely work with some of these facilities that
12 accept and treat this material.

13 Why does it have to go through an
14 injection well when there are viable options for
15 proper disposal, treatment and disposal? Proper
16 treatment and disposal? Like my dad told me you don't
17 know what the answer to that question is? Ninety-nine
18 (99) of 100 questions comes through money. Who does it
19 benefit? Who benefits from that?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not us.

21 MR. BRENNER: For not having to pay
22 hazardous waste or residual waste disposal facility to
23 treat and dispose of it.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The gas companies
25 pass it on anyway.

1 MR. BRENNER: There is no - there's no
2 benefit to our - to our community. None. Unless we
3 tax the bejesus out of this. Unless we put a
4 ridiculous per gallon tax on this - on this - on this
5 fluid to make it economically unviable to put into
6 this well, there is no upside. There's no upside.

7 I'm trying to see both sides of the
8 picture and the bad side, the downside greatly
9 outweighs the upside for our community.

10 And another thing I wanted to present
11 is a handful of years ago - I think the - one of the
12 gentlemen referenced, we felt an earthquake here in
13 Western Pennsylvania. That earthquake originated in -
14 correct me if I'm wrong.

15 I think Roanoke, Virginia area it
16 originated. That - what they determined - what they -
17 what was deemed by the U.S. Geological Society a low
18 tremor was felt at least 400 miles away and it was
19 readily felt here in Western Pennsylvania. My house
20 shook, where I work stuff got knocked off the walls.
21 My point being that earthquake traveled from Central
22 Virginia to Western Pennsylvania with profound
23 effects.

24 The smallest seismic activity in
25 Western Pennsylvania can have a profound disastrous

1 effects. This is a community - this is - Western
2 Pennsylvania is very old, obviously. It's one of the
3 oldest regions in the country. Infrastructure is
4 poor, buildings are old, everything's old. Slight
5 seismic activity could have disastrous effects on
6 building, bridges, people's homes.

7 I called my insurance agent today as a
8 matter of fact. I'm not covered from seismic
9 activity. That's not part of my homeowners insurance.

10 I asked him what it would take to get some coverage
11 for seismic activity. I'm serious when I say this.
12 He laughed. He said I'll have to call you back.
13 Called me back about two hours later. He goes,
14 basically triple the cost of your homeowners
15 insurance.

16 It was a - he was going on. I didn't
17 want to spend too much time on this, but he was
18 telling me this is a function of homeowners costs with
19 enormous deductibles. So if there were seismic
20 activity associated with this well -

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We've got no
22 coverage.

23 MR. BRENNER: - a lot of people are
24 going to be in trouble. Is this worth - is this worth
25 the risk? This is a risk don't think is worth taking

1 when there are options viable yet more pricey options
2 to dispose and treat existing waste - hazardous and
3 waste disposal facilities. That's all I have.

4 CHAIR: Thank you. Barbara last name
5 starts with an S. It's in cursive. I can't read it.
6 Can't read the writing. She's not here?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, she's not
8 here.

9 MS. SIMS: Barbara Sims,
10 S-I-M-S, from Murrysville Watch.

11 CHAIR: Use the microphone, please.

12 MS. SIMS: Is this it?

13 CHAIR: Yes.

14 MS. SIMS: All - everything has been
15 addressed beautifully today. I really admire - I
16 admire all of your passion because that is what it is.
17 It's passion. And I didn't know there was so many in
18 this area - around this area. It's heartwarming. And
19 what I did want to say was are you aware of some of
20 the horrible chemicals that are actually put forth in
21 the injection wells? They are scary.

22 Benzene, Tylenol. They are things
23 that you do not want to happen and that's what's going
24 in this. The people that are putting this stuff in
25 our ground are not saying that that's what it is.

1 They are having a very odd amount of chemicals that
2 are very, very easily that we can accept.

3 So these are some of the things that
4 are going through our water system, so I - I really
5 hope that this is something that we are - that you're
6 aware of. And you do not have that on your website
7 some of these at all.

8 And the other thing is I'm really
9 upset for the fact that there has been so little
10 communication between Plum, between the EPA, the DEP
11 about this meeting.

12 We did not know - Murrysville did not
13 know the council meeting on Wednesday, last Wednesday,
14 that there was even anything going on. I had to tell
15 them this and I think that is a crime. We should have
16 an e-mail and Facebook. We should be able to
17 communicate better. Thank you.

18 CHAIR: Thank you. Bob Teorsky.

19 MR. TEORSKY: I'm Bob Teorsky. I live
20 at the bottom of Old Bridgeberg Road in Route 66
21 directly below the well.

22 CHAIR: Could you spell your name,
23 please?

24 MR. TEORSKY: T-E-O-R-S-K-Y. I live
25 directly below the well site. I don't - you know, I

1 know we can't mention the 2,268,000 gallons, 542
2 trucks a month coming up and down our hill, but I do
3 want to mention about I'm in the gasoline industry and
4 there is an indemnification fund for any type of
5 leakage in the gas and oil industry that pays you all.

6 Is there any type of fund that would -
7 would cover the disaster from the chemicals that
8 they're throwing in the ground? And also is there -
9 is there any way that we could put a charge on that to
10 cover when my foundation crack or my well may be
11 contaminated? I'm going to leave it up to you guys.

12 You guys are the people who supposedly
13 are supposed to be taking a look at - taking a look
14 out or keep a look out for us. But as you can see,
15 we're - there's people here in this room that are
16 having trouble getting ahold of people that are listed
17 right on this page. And, you know, I know in the past
18 that I've had problems the same way. Thanks.

19 CHAIR: Thank you. Lois Drumheller.

20 MS. DRUMHELLER: Testing. My name is
21 Lois Drumheller, D-R-U-M-H-E-L-L-E-R. I am residing
22 in Monroeville, Pennsylvania and we enjoy Boyce Park,
23 my husband and I. We enjoy being here in. I ask you
24 to pose the application before permitting the Sedat 3A
25 production well to become an injection well.

1 My concern is over the suitability of
2 the existing well, it's been expressed by other
3 people, to preserve pressurized injected radioactive
4 material in the safe drinking water. The idea of
5 repurposing a vertical well to an injection well
6 requires best practice of the industry. To the public
7 who depend on water who are in close proximity to this
8 I see no evidence of this practices.

9 Just today I was given via e-mail the
10 draft and so I do have something here that talks about
11 well construction. In this little paragraph this
12 draft says the Sedat 3A well is a nine and five-
13 eighths inch of groundwater protected surface, casing
14 rain from 643 feet to the surface. This well
15 construction exceeds - and here are the recent ones,
16 the technical and generally accepted criteria of
17 surface casing placement at no less than 50 feet below
18 the lowermost unit. The result is stuff that leeches
19 into safe clean water from the existing well casing
20 should concern everyone. It does.

21 I've heard it. Casing, cement
22 impairment due to the days of the original well's
23 construction, I think it was 1989, demonstrates a
24 little protection against groundwater contamination
25 according to that generally accepted practice

1 constructing well construction. And there is good
2 evidence when examining the literature of
3 unconventional injection wells that there are some
4 problems with this.

5 So what I - I also submitted to you is
6 the excessive risk analysis of encasing cement for oil
7 and gas wells in Pennsylvania from the year 2000,
8 2012. In fact, they mention the significance here.
9 Previous research has demonstrated that approximately
10 unconventional gas development is associated with
11 elevated concentrations of methane and groundwater
12 aquifers in Pennsylvania.

13 To date, the mechanism of migration is
14 poorly understood. Our study which looks at more than
15 41,000 conventional and unconventional oil and gas
16 wells helps to explain one possible mechanism of
17 methane migration. Compromised structural integrity
18 of casing and cement in oil and gas wells.

19 I'm also a respiratory therapist who
20 performs lung function testing for all types of people
21 with suspected lung disease I have heard from
22 neighbors in Southwest Pennsylvania who wish drilling
23 had never occurred on the land where they and their
24 neighbors went to take the clean water and breathe
25 fresh air. And as it was stated by another

1 Monroeville-ite, those two essential rights breathing
2 clean air and having safe water, are constitutionally
3 guaranteed under Article 1, Section 27 of the
4 Pennsylvania Constitution.

5 So these neighbors and I are concerned
6 about injection well contamination below our
7 groundwater drinking. This drinking water is a matter
8 of record. This should be separated as part of the
9 drilling process by proper use of casing and cement,
10 so then surface casing is essential in well
11 construction prevent - to prevent this in - into
12 drinking water. Yet we have poor, if any, evidence
13 that the once conventional well being permitted here
14 has any evidence of having proper casing and cement.

15 We get a vague description according
16 to best practices, generally accepted practices. The
17 age of this well correlates with no safeguarding for
18 this by its design. I think people learn that after
19 what happened in Emitt? Yeah, there were two
20 standards. Therefore the flow back and the produced
21 water will infiltrate into what should be preserved
22 safe water.

23 This so called overland flow
24 infiltrates to nearby surface water. It contaminates
25 the population. The population seek medical care.

1 The future for the land and the people on it are in
2 danger, so please reject this application. Thank you.

3 CHAIR: Thank you. Rebecca Finnegan.

4 MS. FINNEGAN: Hi. My name is Becky
5 Finnegan. I'm Frank's daughter. I actually drove
6 five hours for this meeting today. I'm a geologist.
7 I work in environmental consulting. I understand the
8 geology, I understand the hydrogeology, I also
9 understand the risks if a parent has a private spring
10 actually where they get their drinking water.

11 I was reviewing the permit and the
12 statement of basis for this well and I had some
13 questions about the single monitoring well that was
14 selected to show fluid migration. It's a thousand
15 feet southwest up the well. Why is one monitoring
16 well suffice in this situation? Rock in the
17 Pennsylvania typically do not lay flat and are not
18 laterally continuous. There's channels, there's cuts
19 and there's fill. This is not a homogeneous layer of
20 rock.

21 We don't know what direction the
22 injection fluids are actually going to travel once
23 they're injected. They're going to follow the path of
24 least resistance, which could be up through several of
25 the gas wells that dot this landscape. Not all

1 probably are even on record.

2 There's also been discussions about
3 the fact that this flow is much more shallow than
4 injection wells typically are and that's supposed to
5 alleviate our concerns of earthquakes. But expert
6 opinion does not outweigh scientific evidence and
7 there is no scientific evidence to uphold that claim.
8 The instability of this area, as my dad had mentioned,
9 he was living there in 1989 when this well was
10 installed.

11 I actually looked at the area myself
12 today. There is a lot of evidence of pollutants. The
13 bedrock in this area is within 20 feet of the ground
14 surface and it's all shale in the upper roughly 50 to
15 100 feet. Shale is prone to slippage if the bedding
16 plane are lying properly to help those and they
17 aren't.

18 I have concerns about contaminate
19 migration through both the bore hole itself. I'm
20 concerned about surface leakage.

21 The records show that these injection
22 wells have been leaking for months before your agency
23 is able to identify the leak and stop the injection.
24 That's two months of hazardous waste seeping into the
25 ground into my parents drinking water, and it's not

1 being monitored.

2 I had my mom on the phone with me two
3 days ago when I talked to her about me coming home for
4 this meeting. She was nearly in tears telling me how
5 she has to sell her house because she can't trust her
6 drinking water. So look her in the eyes to tell her
7 that you will drink her water.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's drinking out
9 of a bottle.

10 MR. FINNEGAN: I'll bottle it for you
11 and send it to Philadelphia. That's all.

12 CHAIR: Carri Armstrong. Spell your
13 first and last name for the stenographer.

14 MS. ARMSTRONG: Sure. Cari Armstrong,
15 C-A-R-I. Armstrong like the astronaut. First off,
16 thank you for holding this hearing. I appreciate your
17 willingness to kind of throw yourselves to the lions
18 so you can hear us and I don't envy the seats that
19 you're in tonight. So thank you.

20 While I share many, many of your
21 concerns to the air and water pollution as well as the
22 concerns about seismic activity, I'll reserve those
23 issues for individuals who already spoke. I didn't
24 know they more versed on the subject than I am.
25 Tonight I want to address the fact that putting this

1 proposed injection well in the Plum Borough will
2 directly negatively impact my quality of life for my
3 family and I.

4 My husband and I chose to move to
5 Southwestern Pennsylvania when we found out we were
6 expecting our first child. After years of living in
7 Chicago and Las Vegas, we were craving a quieter,
8 friendlier community to raise our family. We chose to
9 move to Westmoreland County as it was relatively free
10 of fracking development compared to a lot of the areas
11 surrounding Greater Pittsburgh.

12 We value the quiet, the windy roads,
13 the beautiful views while still having access to a
14 vibrant city center. We dreamed of buying a house in
15 the rural area for many years and we found our perfect
16 home for our newly expanded family in Upper Burrell
17 Township. Living on Upper Canyon Road, which is just
18 right up the hill from the proposed well site, near
19 daily me my son and I drive down into Greensburg Road
20 to get various businesses, parks and libraries.

21 We travel Greensburg and Old Leechburg
22 Roads regularly to take advantage of the opportunities
23 of commerce within this community. Driving around in
24 this area has become a real source of joy in my life,
25 particularly after living in Chicago for so many

1 years. The roads aren't crowded, it's quiet, it's
2 relatively safe, drivers are cautious and extremely
3 courteous.

4 For those of us that experience our
5 daily lives here, this proposed well will have a
6 tremendous impact on our quality of life. Increased
7 construction traffic, truck traffic to the well,
8 flaggers, road closures, road construction and noise
9 pollution are all seemingly minor things that will
10 slowly erode the ambience and the experience of living
11 in this area. I want to raise my family in this
12 community.

13 We chose this community specifically
14 because we are trying to escape the peril and pitfalls
15 of living near and industry and development. Putting
16 in an injection well in will deny us that dream and
17 that opportunity.

18 I'm not naïve to the realities of
19 fracking. I understand that there's a real need and a
20 real demand to dispose of wastewater from
21 unconventional drilling, however, the need for a place
22 to put a well should not supersede the needs, dreams,
23 desires of those of us who choose to live here, to
24 love here and to raise our families here.

25 This proposed well will change the

1 ambience and the face of our community forever, so
2 please, please do not allow this well to come into our
3 community and rob so many of us of the peaceful
4 environment that we dreamed of and pursued to have.
5 Thank you so much for your consideration.

6 CHAIR: Jan Kiefer. If you could
7 spell your name for the stenographer.

8 MR. KIEFER: My name is Jan Kiefer, K-
9 I-E-F-E-R. My hats off always to the people who come
10 out. The people come out year in and year out.

11 Thirty-eight (38) years ago I come out and since then
12 I've refused to address agencies like the DEP or EPA.

13 I've seen that that's never been the
14 solution and just sort of give you the structure of
15 what you're looking at here from my experience. We're
16 talking about regulations here tonight. Regulations
17 are based on fake science that's put in there by the
18 industry. Look at the tobacco industry, for instance.

19 We knew tobacco is causing cancer for years. These
20 guys let it slide.

21 Those agencies, they're put in the
22 revolving door with the industry. These agency guys
23 are placed by their elected officials, our the elected
24 officials are placed by the agency, the gas industry
25 in this case who's putting their money into the

1 elections. It's almost impossible to sustain a seat
2 or to get a seat if you oppose the gas industry in
3 this part of the country.

4 So I'm - I'm no democrat and I'm not
5 for Republican. If anything, I'm anti-Democrat, anti-
6 Republican. In my 38 years, I haven't seen any
7 progress in the environmental movement, I haven't seen
8 any of these environmental groups come through.
9 There's been some great saves, you know. My
10 backyard's safe here, safe there. That's great, but
11 then it just comes to the backyard and it gets pushed
12 down - pushed down the line.

13 So my final point here is then that
14 what I am for is for a radical change in your
15 thinking. You know, we need to change the way eat,
16 the way we look at pharmaceuticals, the way we look at
17 our health, the way we look at the environment and the
18 - and the agriculture issue, runoff issues, you know.
19 The gas industry is just one small part of the problem
20 that we face that could bring calamity to it. So
21 that's my point then.

22 It's not enough to come out to one
23 meeting and fight for your backyard. My hats off to
24 you. I love it. I do it all the time, but, you know,
25 you need to sustain that, you need to expand that and

1 you need to take critical thinking and say, where else
2 am I going if not going environmental besides this one
3 issue? Because we're going nowhere with these people.
4 Thanks.

5 CHAIR: If you could leave your
6 mailing address or e-mail so we could send the
7 response to comments, the document you just handed to
8 us? And Lois Bjornson. Please spell your name for
9 the stenographer.

10 MS. BJORNSON: Sure. It's Lois and
11 the last name is Bjornson, B-J-O-R-N-S-O-N. So I am
12 not from the area. I live south of Pittsburgh in
13 Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. I grew up on the
14 Monongahela River, so I'm no stranger to industry.
15 And if anything, I'm here to let everyone know if you
16 let the industry, in they never leave. We moved to
17 Scenery Hill 13 years ago from the City of Pittsburgh.

18 We are completely encompassed by oil
19 and gas and we have in the valley. We have a
20 transmission line 5 feet from our property. To date
21 there are 33 wells from a one to three mile radius
22 from my home and that's an injection well. If this
23 injection well comes to pass with these people, that
24 means more injection wells for us in our area also.

25 So I beseech you to not allow this to

1 happen for numerous reasons that other people talked
2 about as far as what's going into the water table. The
3 possible collapsing of cement. There's no sure fire,
4 deliberate, positive proof that this is safe. You
5 must not allow this to happen because once there is
6 one there are many. Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Ann Lecuyer. Ann, if you
8 could spell your last name for the stenographer.

9 MS. LECUYER: Ann Lecuyer, L-E,
10 capital C-U-Y-E-R. I'm here as a concerned citizen -
11 you'd think I'd know better. Outreach coordinator for
12 Protect PT as many of the people that are here. Most
13 of my points have been expressed as far as water
14 pollution and the traveling of the water. Even though
15 they say it can't travel, it will travel, it's been
16 proven to travel. Mainly I'd like to say that once
17 the - the gas industry is only in this area. In Penn
18 Township we had two wells - two wells two years ago
19 and now we have ten proposed wells in Plum right now,
20 this is proposed fracking wells and now the injection
21 well. And I just want everyone to be aware of that.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR: Matt Kelso.

24 MR. KELSO: I'm Matt Kelso. I work
25 with a -.

1 CHAIR: Can you spell your last name?

2 MR. KELSO: Yeah. K-E-L-S-O. And
3 here in front of you is a map. I'll show it around.
4 It's been on the back table for a little while and
5 it's a map of the general area where the Sedat 3A map
6 - Sedat 3A well is located. And as you can see, it's
7 really close to the border with Upper Burrell, also
8 close to Murrysville. I don't know the population of
9 Upper Burrell, but Murrysville has about 20,000
10 people. How many?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 23,000 people.

12 MR. KELSO: 23,000 Pennsylvania.

13 Okay.

14 Murrysville has about 20,000 people,
15 Plum has 27,000 people. There's quite a few people
16 here. The dark areas on this map represent where the
17 coal mines are located and that is most of the area,
18 so, you know, the - you know, the well goes right
19 through a coal mine.

20 So those are the type of things to
21 consider and, you know, I know that you have
22 seismicity isn't in your purview as you explained
23 earlier, and, you know, I think that's a shame. I
24 think that it should be. And I hope that you read
25 through those comments that everybody has about

1 earthquake considerations.

2 One of the other things that I think
3 you should think about though is that there are a lot
4 of other oil and gas wells that have been drilled in
5 this area. You know, Pennsylvania, the DEP estimates
6 there have been between 500,000 and 750,000 wells
7 drilled since before the Civil War. A lot of these
8 wells were drilled at a time when there was no
9 regulation.

10 Some of these wells are not capped at
11 all. Some of them that are capped are capped with
12 wood, which has long since rotted away. There are a
13 lot of possible routes for the transmission of fluid
14 from - from deep layers to shallower layers. The coal
15 mines are part of that. You have a situation where
16 there's already abandoned mine drainage in a lot of
17 different locations.

18 If you have to wait for the fluids to
19 get from the injection well to the coal mine, that can
20 leak out into the surface through existing routes. So
21 that's another thing for you to think about. So if
22 you get a chance to look at this map at the back, all
23 these black little dots are wells that are known
24 about. Again, DEP only knows about 175,000 wells,
25 where they are.

1 The other 325,000 to 500,000 wells,
2 they don't even know where they are. So something
3 else to think about. Thank you.

4 CHAIR: Thank you. Valerie Yockey.

5 MS. YOCKEY: Hi. My name's Valerie
6 Yockey, Y-O-C-K-E-Y. First thing I wanted to say is
7 first of all, thank you for coming here and I hope you
8 have a job in a few months because we know how this is
9 all leaning. As it was stated, the new head of the
10 EPA is certainly a lover of fracking. And as you can
11 tell by the - the climate in this room many here in
12 Western Pennsylvania are not. To give you a little
13 history on myself, I've been born in - I was born and
14 raised here in this community.

15 I'm 60 years old. In the '90s I was
16 President of Council here. And I was a community
17 activist since 1989. In that time frame that I was on
18 Council from 1992 to 1996, we certainly had our share
19 of issues here. We had two houses that exploded from
20 gas. Mine subsidence was suspect. One home, the
21 garage door blew across the street and an elderly
22 woman was killed.

23 We had a house from mine subsidence go
24 down over a hillside in Regency Park. We had - we had
25 mine subsidence in Regency Park and we had the Bureau

1 of Mines at our borough building with large maps. And
2 we were all supposed to go and look and see and look
3 at the mining maps to see if any of our homes in the
4 areas were undermined. In the back of the room were a
5 number of ex coal miners who also lived in Plum.

6 And they laughed and said, Val, when
7 we were down underground and we saw a vein of coal, we
8 didn't follow the map. We went and got it. well,
9 guess what? The home in Regency Park that was told
10 that under their home the mine was 1,300 feet below,
11 it was 13 feet under their driveway. I was there when
12 they came and pumped cement under two homes to keep
13 them from falling into the earth. We also had two
14 major mine fires in our community, one that's still
15 raging.

16 In the '90s we also had a wonderful
17 resource recovery facility that was going to come here
18 and be the environmental mecca that we all needed to
19 dispose of waste. Everyone was for it.

20 Well, I put on my boxing gloves? I
21 was called and asked to come to dinner by people that
22 turned out to be known felons and I got a phone call
23 from State Representative in Harrisburg that told me,
24 Val, whatever you do, keep your name out of the paper
25 because the people that are involved in this proposed

1 resource recovery facility, you don't want to have
2 lunch with.

3 We were able to stop it. They were
4 going to be bringing garbage here into Plum Borough
5 from the State of New York and New York City. And we
6 were going to deal with those trucks. We've also had
7 a mine --- a major mine reclamation project going on
8 in this community for decades. I was with Governor
9 Rendell on a hillside not far from my home where there
10 was an old bony dump in Renton and anyone that's
11 familiar with Renton knows. I used to ride my horse
12 across the bony dump.

13 Well, let me tell you, I stood with
14 the Governor on a hillside and looked at giant earth
15 movers that from my standpoint looked like matchbox
16 cars. Of course they bonded our streets. The people
17 in that area for almost 20 years had to deal with the
18 truck traffic.

19 Oh, sure, we paid street sweepers to
20 come and move the debris, but we dealt with it. We
21 dealt with plenty. And this is something that I don't
22 believe we should be dealing with again.

23 Now, the other thing I would like to
24 say is the manner in which this proposed site permit
25 and the information that was given was suspect at

1 best. It was not handled appropriately.

2 I received a phone call from our
3 Mayor. He and I were running mates back in the '90s.
4 From one of the most respected families in this
5 community, he knew nothing of this meeting. He knew
6 nothing of the July 20th deadline to get e-mails in to
7 the gentleman that would accumulate them. This room
8 is full of community activists. This room is full of
9 environmental organizations.

10 Why? Because the word went out by
11 people like Doug Shields and these other environmental
12 organizations that fill this room. I ride the Port
13 Authority bus every day to work with hundreds of
14 people. No one on my Port Authority bus from
15 Murrysville, Plum Borough, knew anything about this.

16 The other thing that I would like to
17 say is the elected officials in this room - and I
18 don't really care who you voted for, because whoever
19 you did, you know. And if you voted for number 45
20 that sits at the helm of this mess, then shame on you.

21 The elected officials that came in this room and the
22 gentleman who spoke so eloquently, they're all
23 Democrats. There wasn't a single Republican elected
24 official that walked through this door, at least from
25 Plum Borough.

1 Now, yeah, I'm a Democrat. Oftentimes
2 not a proud one, but everyone better take a damn close
3 look. Apathy, voter apathy, is rampant. You don't
4 wait until an injection well is next door to you to
5 open your eyes.

6 The other problem I wanted to mention
7 that I dealt with is right across from this Sedat
8 property, the 68.8 acre parcel that Sedat owns, I'd
9 like to know who's going to benefit?

10 Okay?

11 Whoever leased the oil and gas rights
12 - and I know who that person is. I did my research.

13 Okay.

14 That well's been capped and there's
15 1,900 feet for us to pump into a hole in the ground
16 all these chemicals that we've discussed. So who's
17 going to benefit on that property? Directly across
18 from that property is Drenan Road.

19 In the '90s I worked with our borough
20 engineer and our borough solicitor in a vain attempt
21 to get public water to the people of Drenan Road to
22 residents who were dying of cancer. Wells were
23 contaminated. This was directly across the street
24 from this proposed site.

25 Again, I can't speak intelligently the

1 way a geologist, the way Mr. Shields, and many others
2 in this room have spoken, but I can speak with
3 compassion as someone who loves her community and has
4 fought since 1989 to protect it. And I'll be go to
5 hell if this is going to happen without a fight.

6 CHAIR: Michelle Chapkis. Michelle,
7 if you can spell your name, please.

8 MS. MACCARATI CHAPKIS: Michelle
9 Maccarati Chapkis, M-A-C-C-A-R-A-T-I, C-H-A-P-K-I-S.
10 Good evening. I am the Executive Director of Women
11 for Healthy Environment, a non-profit organization
12 here in Pittsburgh with a mission to address through
13 education the environmental exposures that impact
14 health. I am also a resident of Plum Borough. I am
15 here to urge EPA to deny their permit.

16 I am concerned with the short term and
17 long term impacts of this proposed development. There
18 will be immediate impacts, as we've heard, such as
19 increased noise and air pollution from truck traffic
20 and other associated risks with potential spillover,
21 well failure or leakage. Diesel traffic will place a
22 significant health burden on the community.

23 Particulate matter is released from
24 emissions relate to heart disease, stroke and
25 respiratory disease. The analysis conducted to the

1 site has been done by the Penneco Environmental
2 Solutions and their contractors. I would request that
3 such an analysis for development as significant as
4 this be conducted by an independent third party. What
5 will the structural integrity of the well be?

6 That well was capped as we know and
7 understand under old standards and regulations and
8 never inspected by the EPA. How does the fact that
9 this borough has been mined and residents carry mine
10 subsidence insurance factor into the decision making
11 process for this location? According to the EPA, this
12 site may be at lesser risk for seismic activity, mini
13 earthquakes as we've heard.

14 However, we know that greater risks
15 for water contamination. It is near Puketa Creek,
16 which drains into the Allegheny River. Downstream
17 80,000 residents depend on the quality of that
18 Allegheny River for their drinking water. There have
19 been documented cases of well leaking and water
20 becoming polluted as a result of this type of
21 development as more and more injection wells are
22 approved and long term research is lacking.

23 Where will the fluids flow and what if
24 it contaminates groundwater supply over time? Mario
25 Salizar, an engineer who worked for 25 years as a

1 technical expert with the EPA's underground injection
2 program stated in 10 to 100 years we are going to find
3 out that most of our groundwater is polluted. What is
4 the composition of the fluid being disposed? Will
5 this be transparent and made publicly available?

6 As residents we have a right to know
7 and oppose what is being deposited and what we may
8 potentially be exposed to. A study of the Journal of
9 Environmental Science and Technology indicates that
10 much of this wastewater composition in addition to
11 brine consists of ammonium, iodide and bromide, each
12 of which can be toxic, as well as radium and barium.

13 Models and theory vary widely, but the
14 fact of the matter is geology in underground systems
15 can behave unpredictably. Can the safety of the site
16 be scientifically ascertained? The nature of this
17 geology which has been referenced, Nathan Weiser who
18 is an underground injection expert working for the EPA
19 had said in an interview in 2010 it's a natural
20 system. And if you go in and start punching holes
21 through it and changing pressure systems around, it's
22 no longer natural.

23 It's difficult to know how it would
24 behave in those circumstances. Some well integrities
25 are compromised by injections, which occur more

1 frequently and cause higher pressures than allowed.
2 Most injection wells permits strictly limit the
3 maximum pressure allowed, but well operators rushing
4 to dispose of more waste in less time sometimes break
5 the rules and state regulatory inspections show this.

6 History tells us there is no oversight
7 of waste mitigation movement. In a 2008 interview
8 with Propublica, one EPA scientist acknowledged the
9 shortcomings in the way that the agency oversees this
10 injection program, stating it is assumed that the
11 monitoring rules and requirements are placed and are
12 protected.

13 You're not going to know what's going
14 on until someone's well is contaminated and they are
15 complaining about it. Further a Propublica review of
16 well records, case histories and government summaries
17 of more than 220,000 well inspections found that
18 structural failures inside injection wells are
19 routine. From late 2000 to 2010, one well integrity
20 violation was issued for every six deep injection
21 wells examined.

22 More than 17,000 violations
23 nationally, more than 7,000 wells showed signs that
24 their walls were leaking. Records also show wells are
25 frequently operated in violation of safety regulations

1 and other conditions that greatly increase the risks
2 of fluid leakage and the threat of water
3 contamination. I urge the EPA not to approve this
4 permit at this time.

5 The health and wellness of all our
6 residents is at stake and we deserve to be better.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR: Chris Oskin. Chris Oskin?
9 Martha Robins. Martha Robins? James Rosenberg.

10 MR. ROSENBERG: My name is James
11 Rosenberg. That's R-O-S-E-N-B-E-R-G. People call me
12 Jim. And I have both written testimony and oral
13 testimony, so my oral testimony I only have time for
14 the tip of the iceberg. Thank you for the opportunity
15 to come in on EPA's draft permit PASD701BALL permit
16 and EPA's basis document for conversion of Penneco's
17 Sedat 3A well, API number 003-21223 to an injection
18 well for disposal - disposal of oil and gas
19 wastewater.

20 I object to the issuance of this
21 permit on several grounds. My oral comment is only a
22 summary of my written comments, which gives more
23 detail which I am submitting both here and by e-mail.

24 One, baseless geological and seismic
25 review, page four, shows no evidence of any evaluation

1 of the presence in the area of review AOR of any
2 intervening coal mines undocumented by - including
3 undocumented mines that might interfere with the
4 intended operation or integrity of the injection well
5 or the effectiveness of AOR confining zones. In fact,
6 basis doesn't even mention the word coal. That's
7 pretty bad.

8 Sedat 3A and the entire AOR are
9 located inside a recognized mine subsidence insurance
10 risk area. I have that map in my written testimony
11 and it's basically the same map that Matt Kelso
12 showed.

13 The coal indicator field for the well
14 Sedat 3A in DEP's oil and gas mapping metadata table
15 reads coal, so you guys know that this is a coal
16 associated well.

17 It is nothing less than outrageous
18 that this has not been analyzed. If there is any
19 tangible risk, whatever, of mine subsidence this
20 should in and of itself completely disqualify this
21 location from hosting an injection well. The EPA
22 should deny outright any application for a UIC
23 disposal well in any mine subsidence insurance risk
24 area.

25 Two, there are two additional wells

1 just outside the 0.25 mile buffer around Sedat 3A,
2 which were apparently not evaluated and are close
3 enough to the proposed area of review to make the
4 definition of the AOR as published arbitrary and
5 unreasonable.

6 So my written testimony - my written
7 testimony includes a map with this orange bull's eye,
8 which is the AOR. Now, the people here have to
9 understand what AOR means. AOR means EPA ignores
10 everything outside of this bull's eye. That's what it
11 means. So the definition in the state of AOR matter.

12 EPA - five wells inside the AOR which by the way you
13 didn't identify. There are two additional wells just
14 outside the AOR including API 00321438 consolidation
15 coal 8, which is only 0.26 miles from Sedat 3A.

16 A difference of both 0.01 miles is
17 geologically insignificant, showing that this well
18 should be considered also. The AOR has been drawn
19 arbitrarily and unreasonably. EPA must deny this
20 application as drafted and demand that Penneco reapply
21 under an amended AOR who's definition is geologically
22 reasonable and takes into account all nearby impacts.

23 I should also mention we had Mr.
24 Smolenski - is that -? Another one of the wells that
25 is just outside the AOR is called Smolenski 1 and the

1 complaint inspections for that well show that the
2 landowner complained that water had been contaminated.
3 Is that you?

4 MR. SMOLENSKI: No, I never complained
5 about that.

6 MR. ROSENBERG: Okay.

7 Three, EPI - EPA has failed to
8 properly evaluate the zone of endangering influence by
9 failing to analyze cementing, particularly cementing
10 outside the casing for wells inside the AOR. Now, my
11 written testimony has a table that shows the spot date
12 for all these five wells that are supposedly going to
13 be in the AOR and only Sedat 5H was since the new
14 rules came into play in 2010.

15 So four out of these five wells were
16 spotted under very old rules that basically, of
17 course, nothing. A cement failure that penetrates the
18 injection zone - a cement failure of a well that
19 penetrates the injection zone can allow contaminates -
20 contaminates to escape the confining layer. Only
21 Sedat 5H was subject to courtesy of any rules, the
22 other rules are too old.

23 There are no inspection reports
24 showing cementing to the surface was ever inspected.
25 Let me repeat that. There are no DEP inspection

1 reports for a single well inside the AOR that shows
2 that cementing to the surface for a single one of
3 those wells was ever inspected.

4 Four, basis geologic and seismic
5 review, page four, is incomplete and inadequate and
6 does not take account of the recent history including
7 Marcellus and Utica shale incidents of unanticipated
8 faults and induced seismicity and actually induced
9 seismicity events in Ohio and Oklahoma. A series of
10 low-magnitude fracking related earthquakes occurred on
11 April 25th, 2016 not far from a geologic feature
12 called the Blairsville Broadtop Lineament, also known
13 as the Mahoning Lineament. Sedat 3A is also not far
14 from this feature showing that the area may be more
15 prone to earthquakes and basis estimates.

16 Injection wells have been known to be
17 associated with earthquakes since the 1960s, so the
18 online version is in color. This is hard to read, but
19 this is a map of the whole state of Pennsylvania and
20 this is this feature. It goes diagonally like this
21 (indicating).

22 This is - this is in my written
23 testimony. This map is figure four for the DEP's
24 analysis of the earthquakes that happened in Lawrence
25 County. The earthquakes that happened in Lawrence

1 County are right here and Sedat 3A is about - we're in
2 the middle, the top here. Everybody all comfy that
3 that's nice and far away?

4 Five, there are numerous defects in
5 the permit which must be remedied.

6 All nearby wells must be re-cemented
7 outside the casing to the surface. Cement blocks must
8 be submitted in all cases and must be public records
9 that are not subject to confidentiality. There must
10 be some form of - of containment against the threat of
11 surface spills when trucks are connected and
12 disconnected. I got lots more stuff in my written
13 permit, but that's - I mean, my written testimony, but
14 that's enough for oral here.

15 CHAIR: So that was everybody that
16 checked yes. There were a couple of people that left
17 it blank. Was there anybody that wanted to give
18 testimony at this time before we do the closing
19 remarks? Can you state your name?

20 MS. SHEEHAN: My name is Katie
21 Sheehan, S-H-E-E-H-A-N. I'm Frank Marshall's daughter
22 and I am a nurse. So let's play hypothetical for a
23 minute and none of the water leaks into my parent's
24 drinking water. Just the amount of truck traffic
25 alone exposes them to carcinogens from the exhaust

1 from the trucks that they're hauling radioactive
2 waste.

3 So now they're at risk for cancer. And
4 I'd like to say hello to all my future potential
5 patients that I might have. If you people were to
6 vote any type of cancer, the treatment for that cancer
7 is more chemicals, chemo, radiation. You may not feel
8 the effects right away from potential hazardous
9 drinking water or the pollutants from the air from the
10 traffic that is going to be huge. Because I remember
11 when they were just taking coal from Renton, the
12 amount of traffic that was on that road.

13 And a truck that almost took out my
14 parent's farm that he hit a telephone pole that my dad
15 had cattle on. So not only do you have all that - I
16 don't know. I just - I just think it's not your
17 families and I get that, but it's mine. It's my ex-
18 community.

19 Chemo and radiation treatment is
20 awful. I don't want to see anybody in this room go
21 through it.

22 It's terrible. Nausea, vomiting,
23 anorexia. We have nothing to help those people that
24 have to get that potential treatment other than here's
25 some marrow because you can't eat and here's some

1 morphine for your pain because we have nothing else to
2 do for you and it's terrible. I don't want any of
3 these people to go through it.

4 I don't want my parents to have to
5 give up their livelihood where I grew up, where my dad
6 grew up. He grew up across the street from where
7 their current house is. It's terrible and I didn't
8 want to get up here and speak because I knew this was
9 going to happen, but obviously I'm passionate about
10 it.

11 And not just because it's my family,
12 it's these people and it's terrible. And I - I guess
13 that it has to go somewhere. You can't just pretend
14 that this radiation waste is inexistent, but there has
15 to be somewhere else to dump it. There has to be
16 regulations out there that are - you know. It has to
17 be disposed of.

18 There's no cure for this. I've seen
19 plenty of people die from various cancers, dialysis
20 treatments. Once you have kidney, any type of cancer,
21 bladder cancer, I hope you like to live on a dialysis
22 machine because that's the only thing keeping you
23 alive. If my parents get this potential toxic water
24 pumping through their house - I don't want my future
25 children have to drink it, them and myself.

1 I would rather drink my own urine
2 because my kidneys are doing a better job of filtering
3 out the toxin than was ever dilute that Penneco or
4 whoever comes up with suggest that you put on your
5 filtering your well water, your house. I mean, it's
6 terrible.

7 And my sister is a geologist. She
8 stated before and she can get way more scientific on
9 this than I can. I know the medical treatment side of
10 all of this and it's terrible. Thank you.

11 CHAIR: Last call. Anybody else that
12 didn't check yes?

13 MS. COPELAND: I didn't check yes.

14 CHAIR: Come on up. Sure.

15 MS. COPELAND: Good evening. My name
16 is Jennifer Copeland, and that's C-O-P-E-L-A-N-D. And
17 I'm a resident in Murrysville, which is the
18 neighboring community here. I apologize. I didn't
19 formally plan to speak this evening, but I just
20 couldn't go home tonight and go to bed and wake up in
21 the morning and look into the eyes of my five children
22 knowing that I had your ear this evening and I didn't
23 voice my opinion.

24 I am here to support the residents in
25 Plum and their opposition of this well. And I'm also

1 here out of concern for my neighboring community and
2 the five children that I moved there. Like a few
3 before me and I'm sure the many more who will be
4 tucking in their children tonight, they don't even
5 realize the potential hazards that could - that could
6 come along with these processes.

7 In addition, they do know that the
8 things that we do today will affect our children and
9 their children's children. Most of us did not move
10 here and did not move our children into this rural
11 area to be surrounded by large industrial activities
12 that are now proven hazardous to human and
13 environmental health. The hazardous base created by
14 the oil and gas industry is the problem of the oil and
15 gas industry and should not be our problem or the
16 problem of our children.

17 Burying this waste will only create
18 more - more problems on top of those that we already
19 had to endure from the fracking process itself. If
20 these oil and gas industries can't and won't find
21 safer ways to deal with their waste, perhaps you all
22 should take a hard look as to why we're catering to
23 this hydraulic fracturing in our state in the first
24 place.

25 This is not a sustainable resource.

1 This is not the energy source of our future. Please
2 protect our health and our environmental rights of all
3 Pennsylvanians, especially those of our children who
4 are going to have to clean up this mess and start by
5 rejecting this and other well applications across
6 Pennsylvania. Thank you.

7 CHAIR: Anybody else? One last call
8 if you want to come up and give public opinions? And
9 then we're going to close - close the -.

10 MR. UHLER: Yeah, this really bothers
11 me. I live in the community of Upper Burrell concern
12 being so close, but I'd like to ask every one of you.
13 Would you have this in your backyard?

14 CHAIR: When we close the hearing
15 we'll -.

16 MR. UHLER: Oh, you're going to close
17 it?

18 CHAIR: No, I said when we close we'll
19 answer questions.

20 MR. UHLER: Okay.

21 You know, we're still cleaning up the
22 reclamation of - for the strip mining and all that.
23 Now, who's going to be funding this if there's impacts
24 of all this waste? You know, we're - we're losing our
25 agencies, we're downsizing. Now, how - who's going to

1 have oversight to this?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nobody.

3 MR. UHLER: We are, not you guys. But
4 it's a shame, you know, like we keep on emphasizing
5 everybody better stick together because I know in
6 Upper Burrell, they're not. One thing I'll say we can
7 never recover our land once it's gone. So thanks very
8 much for letting me speak.

9 CHAIR: Sir, what was your name again?
10 Repeat your name.

11 MR. BOWERSOX: My name is Mike
12 Bowersox. I came up here a little bit earlier with my
13 son and didn't really anticipate being that emotional
14 as it was. One of the things that I wanted to - to
15 mention here is for those interested, you can go on
16 the EPA's website.

17 And they did a retro - retrospective
18 case study down in Washington County. In looking at,
19 and one of the key findings they found fluoride
20 contamination that was attributable to impoundment
21 sites. I - I assume impoundment means what we're
22 talking about here. I'm not as smart as many people
23 in this room, but so even through your - your own
24 looking at what has been done before.

25 Through this process you found some

1 contamination. And there wasn't any mention of the
2 potential for the mitigation of benzene contamination,
3 but it's been proven and shown to be part of the water
4 - waste water that happens in this process. So
5 thanks. I just kind of forgot to say that, so -.

6 CHAIR: Okay.

7 Thank you.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is there anyone here
9 from Penneco who wants to make a statement to the
10 public?

11 CHAIR: Sir, sir, let's close the
12 hearing because this part of the hearing is for the
13 comments towards us and then we can have discussion.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If someone from the
15 company wants to do this.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Let him make a
17 comment.

18 CHAIR: Sir, sir, sir. We're closing
19 the hearing at this time. On behalf of the
20 Environmental Protection Agency, I would like to thank
21 you all for your participation. I can assure you that
22 we will take all your comments serious attention.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh, yeah.

24 CHAIR: I would also like to remind
25 you that we've agreed to keep the comment period open

1 until August 2nd. Because of the number of
2 commenters, I've decided to keep it open for two weeks
3 until August 9th. We will accept comments until
4 August 9th so we can thoroughly evaluate any comments
5 you didn't get to express tonight.

6 You can send it to us. We have an
7 address an an e-mail. You can send it to James
8 Bennett, which is me, at 1650 Arch Street,
9 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. You need to put a
10 mail code. The mail code is 3WP, P as in Paul, 22.
11 My e-mail address is Bennett.James@EPA.gov, B-E-N-N-E-
12 T-T, J-A-M-E-S at EPA.gov.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you please
14 repeat that because we were just getting our cell
15 phones out?

16 CHAIR: Bennett, B-E-N-N-E-T-T,
17 .James, J-A-M-E-S, at EPA.gov.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And will you answer
19 the questions that are posed to you?

20 CHAIR: Every comment that has been
21 asked for tonight will be responded in a response to
22 comments document in either e-mail or direct mail to
23 everybody who signed up on this list whether you spoke
24 or not.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

1 CHAIR: You're welcome.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Question back here.

3 CHAIR: Well, let me finish this
4 statement and then we take questions at the end.

5 Okay?

6 Again, thank you for your interest in
7 this proposal. This concludes the formal part of the
8 hearing. As I said before, you can close the hearing.

9 My staff and I will remain up here for you to come up
10 and ask us questions one on one.

11 Okay?

12 Thank you.

13

14 * * * * *

15 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:18 P.M.

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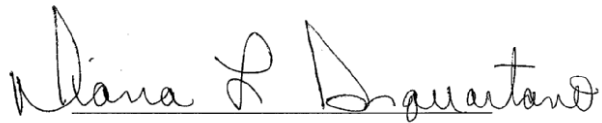
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter,
that the foregoing proceedings were taken
stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to
typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this
transcript is a true and accurate record to the best
of my ability.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diana L. Inquartano". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Court Reporter

Diana L. Inquartano