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EPA Science Advisory Board
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
Review of Draft Assessment Report on Hydraulic Fracturing
Public Meeting October 28 – 30, 2015

Testimony of Jeff Zimmerman on behalf of
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, NYH2O, and Citizens for Water

Good morning. My name is Jeff Zimmerman. I am speaking today on behalf of three grassroots environmental organizations – Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, NYH2O and Citizens for Water – concerned about the public health and environmental impacts of unconventional oil & gas development using slick water, high volume hydraulic fracturing (aka “HVHF” or “fracking”). We have participated and testified at every public meeting of this advisory panel since the beginning of the scoping process for this study. We appreciate this opportunity to share our comments and perspectives on the external review draft report now being reviewed by this advisory panel.

In written comments submitted to EPA on August 28, 2015, on the external review draft, we took issue with the conclusion expressed in the executive summary that the study team did not find widespread systemic impacts of hydraulic fracturing mechanisms on drinking water resources. This draft report did find instances of drinking water resource contamination from fracking, but concluded that the number of impact cases was small compared to the number of hydraulically fractured wells nationwide. We cited numerous references throughout the body of the draft report that are directly contrary to the executive summary conclusive statement about widespread systemic impacts. We also pointed out that the draft report repeatedly noted that there is a lack of data to support conclusions such as that stated in the executive summary.

Since we submitted these comments, new information has been published regarding direct linkage between fracking and drinking water and groundwater resources, as well as adverse health and environmental impacts. On October 14, 2015, Concerned Health Professionals of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility released the Third Edition of its *Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking (Unconventional Gas and Oil Extraction)*. We urge each member of this Advisory Panel to review in detail the studies and reports presented in this Compendium, paying special attention to first seven pages that include the Forward, Introduction and About This Report portions of the Compendium. Without dwelling on any one of the cited studies or reports, the documents referenced in the Compendium more than amply demonstrate that the impacts of fracking are widespread across the entire nation and so similar and repeated to be systemic. Moreover, as more and more information is reported, the body of evidence of adverse drinking water resource impacts continues to mount up at an accelerating rate.

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But this Advisory Panel needs to review more than a collection for scientific articles and reports. This Panel also needs to learn first-hand from some of the individual citizens and families who have had their lives destroyed by fracking. On several occasions at prior meetings of this Advisory Panel we and others have urged EPA to include in its investigation and report information from three well known and extensively documented fracking impact cases. These are Dimock, Pennsylvania, Pavillion, Wyoming, and Parker County, Texas. We are very fortunate today to have individuals from each of these (dare we say) notorious cases here to share their personal stories about the impact of fracking on them and their families. As you listen to them, we ask you to try put yourselves in their shoes and consider how you would cope if it were you that was so impacted.

Thank you for this opportunity to address remarks to this Panel.

Jeff Zimmerman, for DCS, NYH2O and Citizens for Water

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