

From: Harold Smith
To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/28/2011 04:13 PM
Subject: hydraulic fracturing

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

I am writing to you in hopes that you will seriously consider the concerns of an ordinary citizen. I have read a great deal about horizontal hydrofracturing, and as I read on I do not find any comfort. I live near the southern tier border of New York state. Many farmers, but by no means the majority of the landowning population, are looking at this as a way out of the constant financial bind they find themselves to be in. As I study this issue I see that their solution may indeed put the rest of our properties and lives in danger.

First I am hoping that the EPA will come up with substantive numbers as to what radiation amounts are safe and at what point it becomes harmful. The constant bickering over data, what is safe, what is harmful is counterproductive. Certainly by now the AOC can give you charts that identify the risk levels. We need to hold the industry to honoring that information.

The problem areas talked about are spills, leaks, cement failures, pit compromises, explosions, chemicals. But little is made of what seems to me to be a large issue, natural faults in the bedrock itself. Mr. Alstadt, former Executive Vice President of Mobile, has explained to us that the companies should do seismic testing before each fracture to be sure that they are not forcing the drilling solution up into existing faults, and thus into our wells and aquifers. Those of us that have grown up in New York state are well aware of the nature of the bedrock in New York which may be different than the geology in the prairie states. We know it is highly fractured and those very fractures can become a conduit for the chemical solution used in the fracturing process. I ask the EPA to study this issue and be ready to address this issue.

It would be premature for New York state to allow this industry before these and many other questions have been answered.

Thank you for your consideration,

Janet Smith