

**EPA Science Advisory Board  
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel  
Public Teleconference February 1, 2016  
Oral Statement of Marigrace Butela**

From: Marigrace Butela  
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:10 PM  
To: Hanlon, Edward <Hanlon.Edward@epa.gov>  
Subject: Public Comment - EPA Science Advisory Board

Good Afternoon Mr. Hanlon,

Please accept this letter as my public comment before the board. I can be reached at my office if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to comment on this serious matter.

Marigrace Butela, PQMC  
Dunbar Township Tax Collector  
Resident of Fayette County, Pennsylvania

Marigrace Butela, Public Comment

SAB Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel regarding the panels's draft report dated January 7, 2016 scheduled for February 1, 2016 as listed in the Federal Register Notice

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. Ed Hanlon, Federal Officer  
EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office  
[Hanlon.edward@epa.gov](mailto:Hanlon.edward@epa.gov)

I wish to thank the Science Advisory Board Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel for giving me the opportunity today to hear my public comment in regard to the Science Advisory Board Panel's draft report regarding the review of the EPA's draft Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources.

I strongly disagree with the conclusion in the report which states that there was no evidence of widespread, systemic impacts of drinking water in the United States. As a elected local official (tax collector of real estate for Dunbar Township, Fayette County, PA), I can tell you that in one particular case, a farmer came to me for help when his well water became contaminated with fracking chemicals and he was not able to drink it. I can tell you that this individual received a water buffalo for several months. The company then threatened to remove it and only provide him with a filtration system to help with the contamination. I referred this property owner to an attorney. Several months later the farmer came into my office to thank me and to let me know his problem was resolved. The company agreed to pay for public water to replace the contaminated water their drilling caused. Unfortunately, he was forced to sign a disclosure. He told me that he could never discuss his water contamination with me or anyone else again. This farmer is not alone. I believe this type of corrupt bargaining is happening all over the country where hydraulic fracturing is taking place and contaminating private water supplies.

The same contamination is now affecting our public water. The EPA's SDWIS (Safe Drinking Water Information System) Violation Reports from our local water authorities such as , Albert Gallatin, Point Marian, Farichance, Ohioople and others show the violations of TTHM, Acids, Toluene, Benzene, Xylenes even GAMMA and many other chemicals related and used in the hydraulic fracturing process. In 2011, the PA Department of Environmental protection sent a letter to the Carmichaels Municipal Authority of Greene County, PA requesting them to issue a boil water advisory to their customers. Mr. Dan Bailey, chairman for the Carmichaels Municipal Authority stated in a local newspaper article (see attached) that bromide in the Monongahela River was the cause of their water problem. He said that the mixture of bromide and algae in the river water with chlorine at the plant produced TTHM. The boil water advisory started after the DEP and chemical company chemists told them not to pre-treat the water with chlorine. I personally met with Mr. Dan Bailey concerning this matter. **He told me that that it was stated to him that he was never to mention that Marcellus shale fracturing had caused their water problem and that if he ever spoke about it again publically, his family was going to find him dead, faced down in a so called frac pit.** Several months later, Mr. Bailey resigned from his position as chairman.

This type of thing is happening all over. People are being threatened, forced to sign disclosures, and are told they can never speak of the contamination caused by the hydraulic fracturing again. The contamination from this activity has made its way into our rivers and streams. Our public water is now contaminated.

I believe in order to gather the evidence needed to assess this widespread water contamination due to hydraulic fracturing, a full investigation is needed into each and every water contamination case. This can be done by gaining access to the local fresh water haulers logs and manifests to find out who is receiving water. From there, it can be narrowed down to the well sites and the people who have lost their water due to contamination of hydraulic fracturing. Next, all oil & gas industry records should be seized along with all the signed disclosures. This information along with the SDWIS Violation Reports will reveal how widespread the problem really is.

Senator Whitehouse, of Rhode Island once stated that Big Oil seems to be acting like big Tobacco. The oil and gas industry needs to be thoroughly investigated. We need to peel back the layers of deceit and denial and see what the industry really knows about the contamination of water due to the hydraulic fracturing process and what information they are hiding from the public. I also believe that now is the time for our Justice Department to take a serious look at this industry with its authority under the RICO act (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act). Only then, will the real truth be known.

Thank you,

~~Mari grace Butela, Resident of Fayette County~~  
~~Dunbar Township Tax Collector~~

## Carmichaels water contaminated again

By Steve Ferris, for the Greene County Messenger

| Posted: Friday, June 17, 2011 2:00 am

CARMICHAELS — Carmichaels Municipal Authority officials on Monday tried to assure a group of residents, who were upset over a recent notification that their water didn't meet state standards, that the water is safe to drink.

The authority sent a letter to its customers on June 3 notifying them that the water system violated a state maximum containment level (MCL) for drinking water standards.

Quarterly tests taken in 2010 showed the water system had a running annual average of .09 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of total trihalomethanes (TTHM), which is slightly higher than the .08 standard, according to the letter. The highest level detected was .143 mg/l and the lowest level was .028 mg/l.

The elevated TTHM levels do not pose an immediate risk and residents do not have to use bottled water, but some people who drink water containing levels above the MCL over many years may experience liver, kidney or central nervous system problems and may have an increased risk of cancer, according to the letter.

The letter came about a month after a month-long boil water advisory, which the state Department of Environmental Protection issued because algae might have seeped through the plant's filters and into the water supply, was lifted.



### Meeting over clean water

Dan Bailey, chairman for the Carmichaels Municipal Authority, answers questions from area residents who gathered Monday to raise concerns over their drinking water. Recently the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection mailed a letter through the Authority asking Carmichaels area residents to boil their drinking water due to elevated levels of contaminants.

Authority officials explained that the boil water advisory notification and June 3 letter were written by the DEP and the authority was required to send them to customers, but they said they drink the water and that it is safe.

The officials agreed to attend a public meeting that Terri Donaldson of Cumberland Township said she is trying to organize concerning the water. She said DEP officials agreed to attend and would ask the township supervisors to attend.

Donaldson said she hopes having officials from all three entities in the same room to explain the water problems and treatment details would help residents understand the cause of the recent problems and how they are being resolved.

A date for the meeting hasn't been set, but the Carmichaels Area School District agreed to host the meeting in the high school auditorium, Donaldson said.

"I really feel we need answers," Donaldson said. "We've been drinking this water. We've been bathing in this water."

The letter says TTHM is a byproduct of the reaction between water disinfectants, organic matter and inorganic matter in the water, and TTHM is in every public water system that uses disinfectants.

Authority Chairman Dan Bailey and plant manager Lloyd Richard said chlorine and other chemicals are used to treat water and the DEP tells the authority what chemicals to use.

Richard said the DEP tells the authority where to take water samples for testing and most samples are taken far from the treatment plant.

Chemists from two chemical companies that the authority buys treatment chemicals from and a DEP chemist were at the plant during the boil water advisory to help direct the plant cleaning, Richard said.

Donaldson said she underwent breast cancer surgery five years ago and doesn't want to get the disease a second time due to the water. She said people with medical conditions and senior citizens with weak immune systems could contract a disease from unsafe water.

"We want clean water," Donaldson said.

"I resent you coming in here saying the water is not clean," Bailey said.

He stressed that the boil advisory letter clearly states that organisms may have entered the water supply. He said none was ever found.