

To: SAB@EPA
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Subject: Hydraulic Fracturing

I should begin by saying that, as far as economics are concerned, I am somewhat excited by the prospect of the Marcellus Shale; 1 trillion dollars worth of natural gas is almost certainly too good of an opportunity to pass up. That said, I find it profoundly disturbing that there seems to be no practical way to dispose of the flowback waste, and that there seems to be little concern about the consequences of allowing it to seep into people's drinking water. I could discuss the lethality of the chemicals, some radioactive, that are present in this wastewater, or about how disposal seems to be an exercise in choosing one's poison, but those are only symptoms that bely a greater problem here: environmental regulators, and the EPA in particular, seem to be more concerned with the effect their work could have on corporate bottom lines than on the safety of the American people. Although this should seem obvious, I think it worthwhile to point out that protecting American citizens from the dangerous effects of pollution is more important than protecting corporations from a poor quarterly report. The natural gas companies have no shortage of defenders; the EPA need not join them, and to do so can only be described as dereliction of duty. It seems to me that the EPA and other regulators have lost sight of their true mission, and I can only hope that you manage to find your way again. Thank you.