

From: Becca Harber

To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/24/2011 07:55 PM

Subject: public comment on EPA draft study on high-pressure slickwater hydrofracking

Dear Edward Hanlon,

I live in the southern region of NYS where the gas industry hopes to put in tens of thousands of wells using the newer high-pressure hydrofracking (HPhF) process. I am scared of what will happen to our quality of living here if this development takes place, because of the variety of dramatic changes that are, so far, inherent to HPhF, based on consistent experiences wherever it's happening, including water, dangerous air pollution, the end of any quiet or auditory peacefulness in the countryside, traffic dangers, the bringing up of dangerous radioactive materials which is typical, and others.

From what I've read in articles, the EPA health-related study will cover various water related issues regarding pollution, poisoning and others. I haven't seen any mention of the inclusion of the effects of HPhF on air quality and air pollution-related illnesses. If this subject is not already going to be covered, I urge the EPA to include air, since it is essential to life and quality of life. I also hope you will include the effects of radiation and salt brine that are brought to the surface from deep in the earth.

Over the past two years, I've learned about the consistent polluting of air from HPhF activity from talks, documentaries and articles. The two main results so far seem to be ground ozone and air dispersal of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). High ground ozone has resulted in an enormous increase in asthma among residents in HPhF areas. I read that the governor of Wyoming, who had supported the coming of the HPhF industry into Wyoming, ended up requesting federal aid to deal with the numerous disabling cases of asthma that resulted from the HPhF ground ozone. Ground ozone also seriously affects health of trees and forests, of which my region has many.

I've also seen and listened to various residents in HPhF areas describe and show visually some of the chronic debilitating and sometimes life-threatening illnesses and disabilities that have occurred in conjunction with HPhF nearby. The symptoms are those associated with the various VOCs that are emitted by these wells and the numerous diesel-burning machines associated with each well and each frack. The thought of living with our fresh air poisoned and/or water ruined or depleted is abhorrent to me and all my friends here.

So, I hope the EPA will also include the effects of HPhF on air and health effects on all of us who are affected by air in the study.

I also hope the study will seriously include the cumulative effects of HPHF on water, air and human health (ideally on the health of domestic and wild animals and forests/vegetation, too).

This study may have an important impact on what happens to our area and others' and to the quality of life for millions of people for generations to come. For example, the Chemung, NY landfill now accepts radioactive waste from HPHF in Pennsylvania. This landfill sits on top of an aquifer and just uphill a short ways from the Chemung River, which flows into the Susquehanna River. It's only a matter of time before the radiation and other toxics filter down into the water and then travel downstream. The Susquehanna happens to be the drinking water source for 7 million people downstream.

Sincerely,
Becca Harber
Newfield, NY 14867

P.S. Please refrain from putting my email address on any email lists. Thanks