

**EPA Science Advisory Board
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
Public Teleconference December 3, 2015
Oral Statement by Sharon Wilson, representing Earthworks**

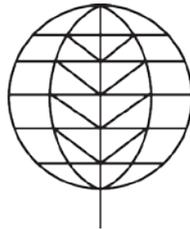
From: Sharon Wilson
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 5:13 PM
To: Hanlon, Edward <Hanlon.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Update re: this Thursday's EPA SAB Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel teleconference-public oral comment session now scheduled to begin at 3:45 pm Eastern Time

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

Thank you for allowing me to comment today. My comments are attached. I hope you can submit them but if there is another way, please let me know.

It is irritating that people can't seem to mute their phones. In the future, maybe EPA could mute and unmute the callers.

Thank you,
Sharon Wilson



EARTHWORKS

Oral comments presented to the
Science Advisory Board Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
December 3, 2015

<http://bit.ly/Fracking-SAB-20151203>

I'm Sharon Wilson representing Earthworks, a nonprofit organization that helps people impacted by resource extraction.

Any fair reading of this report leads to the conclusion that **hydraulic fracturing pollutes drinking water**. And, despite EPA's media efforts to suggest otherwise, the report also shows that pollution is both widespread and systemic.

My purpose is to address the problem of data gaps mentioned in the “charge” questions.

Industry obstruction, and aggressive use of non-disclosure agreements to gag impacted families and keep their proof of pollution hidden, both result in data gaps.

My comments today speak for some of those who cannot because of these NDAs.

During the initial scoping for this study, EPA solicited the public for locations to investigate.

Two Texas cases nominated included the [Ruggiero property in Wise County](#) and another in Argyle Bartonville .

1) Before drilling started on the Ruggiero’s property in Wise County, they obtained a [baseline water test](#) that showed their water was clean and safe. Six weeks after fracking, [follow-up water testing found](#) very high levels of MTBE, and BTEX chemicals. The lab said their water was unsafe to use.

The operator subsequently purchased the property and offered a settlement that required a non-disclosure agreement.

The rumor is the operator refused EPA access to the property for the purposes of this study.

The Argyle Bartonville area was also nominated for study.

2) Susan Sullivan’s water foamed like dishwater. Using her garden hose, she wrote HELP in foam, a YouTube video plea to the EPA. A lighter held to the water’s surface produced waxy plastic bits she could pick up.

The operator admitted using [soap in their fracking solution](#) for a well near her house. [A letter to royalty owners](#) explains why production at the well had fallen off: They used 300 barrels of water to flush the well and only recovered 10. The rest lost into the formation.

Testing found MBAS, a surfactant, in Susan’s water.

She is gagged under a non-disclosure agreement.

How many non-disclosure agreements exist or how much data they hide from the public is unknown.

This board should formally remark that a major source of data gaps results directly from industry obstruction, interference, and attempts to silence people who live with the pollution EPA intended to study.

In sum, the SAB should conclude that - in addition to water pollution - industry intimidation tactics are also widespread and systemic. Thank you for accepting my comments.