

Written Summary of Testimony by Ray Kemble, impacted landowner and former gas industry employee

from Dimock, Pennsylvania for the Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel

Regarding the Hearing: Review of EPA draft Assessment Report on Hydraulic Fracturing

To whom it may concern,

The EPA's recent draft report on the impacts of the fracking process of water quality does a very poor job of actually assessing known cases of water contamination. In fact every known case of water contamination that has been proven to have occurred related to fracked gas extraction was left out of the study. How can you study fracking's impact on water if you don't study cases where water has been contaminated? In my neighborhood a 9 mile moratorium on drilling fracking was put in place by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection after Cabot Gas and Oil was proven to have contaminated the aquifer under my neighborhood. At least 20 families lost the use of their water wells.

The Pennsylvania DEP has also confirmed two hundred and forty three cases of water contamination related to the rise in the use of the stimulation process known as hydraulic fracturing. Other states have also suffered many cases of contamination. There has been a huge nation cover-up of these facts as industry and the politicians they support constantly still claim there has never been one case of water contamination from fracking. They are playing word games that threaten our air and water. And they are out and out lying to the American people.

When Cabot polluted the aquifer under my home in Dimock Pennsylvania in 2009, they also fought taking responsibility and they dragged me and all of my impacted neighbors through the mud, trying to demean our character and prove we had polluted our own water. DEP was somewhat helpful in getting a settlement and restitution in our case. But the EPA's action in Dimock was just another part of Cabot's cover-up. While the EPA told the public my water was safe to drink and use, they did not release test results showing contamination to the public and they sent me a letter saying NOT to use or drink my water.

Since EPA threw us all under the bus, my life has been a living hell. I live 500 feet from one of the gas wells believed to have contaminated our aquifer. It has been under repair for three years. There has been a drill rig on the pad for months at a time clanking so loud it can be heard all through my house all day long, every day. For more than a year Cabot had three sets of huge stadium lights shining directly on my home, not on the well pad, just to intimidate me. They ran all day and night every day, and were so bright you could read a book in my front yard in the middle of the night.

Losing my home's water source after years of enjoying good, clean water from it, has been a disaster for me. I have had to struggle to pay for water, yet I have still helped my neighbors who also had their water contaminated to get clean water. I donated a truck to haul water for myself and for my neighbors. We have to work to bring water in to be able to still live in our houses. The industry has done such a good job at convincing many in our area that all contamination victims are lying, that Montrose police once threatened to arrest me for simply getting water for people who had none and who had paid for it.

You can't imagine what a hell it is to live like we do unless you come and see it for yourself. I invite anyone to contact me and come have a tour of my neighborhood and see how we are living in the fracklands. All of the other water contamination victims in my neighborhood can not talk about their water contamination and what happened to them. They all signed silence agreements and can't speak of the troubles they've faced. I was lucky, I re-wrote my silence agreement so that I am able to speak out.

I want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage the EPA to include all known cases of water contamination due to the fracking process into the report on the effects of fracking on water contamination. How could you have an accurate study if you do not? Especially the cases that EPA has already done so much work on in Dimock, Pavilion and Parker County. I realize that is a bold move as industry has fought tooth and nail to deny responsibility in all of these cases. But if the EPA does not stand up and make public the truth about fracking related water contamination, you are simply part of the nation cover-up that is a shame on this nation and her people.