



THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 16 2013

David A. Dzombak, Ph.D.
Chairman
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
Science Advisory Board
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Dr. Dzombak:

Please accept my appreciation for the Science Advisory Board Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel's recent consultation meeting. We value the comments you and your colleagues provided on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking-Water Resources: Progress Report*.

Indeed, the individual panel members' expert comments are being considered as we begin to develop products from the research projects and frame the study's draft report. Expected to be provided to the panel for peer review in late 2014, the draft report will integrate the results from the EPA's research projects with a critical review of the relevant scientific literature.

I also wish to let you know that the EPA's Office of Research and Development expects to further engage the advisory panelists periodically before their review of the draft report. The EPA anticipates occasionally briefing the panel as research results become available during the next year. The briefings would enable the panelists to become more familiar with key pieces of EPA research that will be included in the draft report.

Thank you very much for your time and dedication, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina McCarthy".

Gina McCarthy