

The EPA Study on the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources

Comments for Public Meeting of the EPA Science Advisory Board Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel - Arlington, VA May 7, 2013

By Susan Carty, speaking as a citizen of Pennsylvania

I am Susan Carty from Pennsylvania speaking for myself. While many of us in Pennsylvania have serious concerns about the impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water, human health, feedstock animals and crops in our state, I will focus my remarks today on Pavillion, Wyoming. Tens if not hundreds of thousands of people in our country and around the world are waiting for the final report on this site where hydraulic fracturing has been done for almost a decade and I hereby request that this Panel of Experts, the Science Advisory Board and the EPA Study leadership include this site and its critical findings in your Final Report that is due next year. Much work has been done by another EPA branch in Pavillion, verified by additional testing by USGS and the public is entitled to know these significant study results.

*The Summary of the EPA Draft Report of Groundwater Contamination near Paillion, Wyoming: Main Findings and Stakeholder Responses* published January 25, 2012 states, "Although the final report may contain revised or more specific conclusions, the draft report indicated that EPA had identified certain constituents in groundwater above the production zone of the Pavillion natural gas wells that are consistent with some of the constituents used in natural gas well operations, including the process of hydraulic fracturing. In its report, EPA claimed that its approach to the investigation best supports the explanation that inorganic and organic compounds associated with hydraulic fracturing have contaminated the aquifer at or below the depths used for domestic water supply in the Pavillion area. EPA also stated that its approach indicates that gas production activities have likely enhanced the migration of natural gas in the aquifer and the migration of gas to domestic wells in the area. EPA did not appear to conclude that there was a definitive link to a release from the

production wells, nor to the constituents found in domestic wells in shallow parts of the aquifer.”

In a *ProPublica* article dated November 10, 2011, Abraham Lustgarten wrote, “As the country awaits results from a nationwide safety study on the natural gas drilling process of fracking, a separate government investigation into contamination in a place where residents have long complained (1) that drilling fouled their water has turned up alarming levels of underground pollution. A pair of environmental monitoring wells drilled deep into an aquifer in Pavillion, Wyo., contain high levels of cancer-causing compounds and at least one chemical commonly used in hydraulic fracturing according to new water test results (2) released yesterday by the Environmental Protection Agency. The findings are consistent with water samples the EPA has collected from at least 42 homes in the area since 2008, when ProPublica began reporting (3) on foul water and health concerns in Pavillion and the agency started investigating reports of contamination there.” The article lists chemical like benzene, found at 50 times the level considered safe for people and other chemical compounds like phenol, a human carcinogen.

*Scientific Method/Science & Exploration's* October 11, 2012 article, [EPA fracking investigation in Wyoming revisited after objections Validity of initial water sampling results confirmed](#) describes the objections to the study results by Encana, the Canadian Oil and Gas Company that performs hydraulic fracturing operations in the Pavillion area and others. A rigorous follow-up study by the US Geological Survey with test samples sent to different labs with different techniques showed, “...the results looked no different than the original samples presented in EPA’s report last December”

Please include the Pavillion study and findings in your final report. Thank you!