

From: Sandy Worden
To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/28/2011 07:11 PM
Subject:

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

My name is Sandra Worden and I am a landowner in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. This month, our local newspapers have been writing about how the EPA is planning to come to neighboring Bradford County in the next two years to investigate natural gas drilling. Given the importance of this issue to my community, I'm very interested in how EPA will be approaching this study.

I'm not a scientist but from what I have read, the EPA's plan to study natural gas seems to be focused on a predetermined outcome. I am concerned that as written, your researchers will be coming here not to evaluate the safety record of fracking, but instead to seek out "doomsday" scenarios and examine the "what-if's" of drilling that have already caused so much irrational fear around the region. This approach is starkly at odds with your own 2004 study that confirmed fracking was safe and found there to be a low risk of future danger. Unless the fracking process has significantly changed since 2004, it seems to me that any new study should continue to rely on the same proven methodology used then.

I'm also deeply concerned that this latest study could undermine the public's understanding of this complicated process if not done carefully. Media and other reports are already filled with hyperbole and scare stories that have unfairly criticized our natural gas industry. As a landowner on the front line in the public debate over natural gas development – I just don't understand how the approach you've laid out will help communities make good decisions.

Commissioning a research panel to carry out a study with such preordained intentions is irresponsible. Here in Pennsylvania we are proud supporters of the natural gas industry and all the benefits it brings to our community because we know the facts. Thousands of natural gas wells across the state are safely and productively generating jobs and revenue for local landowners and residents.

Thank you for reading this letter and allowing my voice to be heard. I hope that you will work to rectify this research plan so that it can be an accurate assessment of drilling.

Sincerely,

Sandra Worden