

**EPA Science Advisory Board
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
Public Meeting October 28, 2015
Oral Statement by Craig Stevens**

Good Afternoon,

I would like to begin by reminding you all of the US EPA Mission Statement: The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. All Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work. National efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best scientific information Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively. FAIL, FAIL, FAIL AND FAIL.

My name is Craig Stevens and I am a 6th Generation Landowner in Silver Lake Township, Pa. and I am here to discuss the EPA Study on Hydro Fracking that has been five years coming. I cannot convey how disappointed I was that the EPA chose to tell the world in your release, “ While hydraulic fracturing activities in the U.S. are carried out in a way that have not lead to widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water resources “.

I would ask this body of science professionals, What is your definition of widespread or systemic ? The population of Susquehanna county is around 45,000 people and to put it in context an epidemic is 1 in 1000 or 45 cases out of 45,000 and a pandemic is 1 in 100 or 450 cases out of 45,000, In Dimock, Pa. 33 water wells were contaminated in one day.

I have documentation from our own PA DEP that shows hundreds of cases of water contamination determined after full investigation that states quite clearly the cause. “Your private water well has been found to be contaminated by natural gas drilling in your area “, these documents represent all 33 drilling counties in the Commonwealth.

When the EPA spent six months in Dimock from January 2012 to June 2012 testing water they had a chance to tell the world the truth but sadly it was politics as usual. The EPA’S own agents made it clear that the water was poisoned and the investigation was started because the ATSDR found some alarming water test results data there.
<http://www.ernstversusencana.ca/sunday-times-review-of-pennsylvania-dep-drilling-records-reveals-significant-well-water-damages-murky-testing-methods>

I have reviewed the EPA budget history for the past 46 years and from 2008 to 2015 your budget was 8 to 10 Billion a year and the workforce was 15 to 17,000 employees. The American public looks at this kind of investment in the largest regulatory agency on earth as a huge financial drain that is only worthwhile if you do your jobs and protect Us.

We the people are considering your oversight of this practice a failure and the practice of leaving us at the mercy of the individual state governments has been an abject failure. I am the son of a 63 year emergency first responder and my father had a saying “ When you mix politics with health and safety, Nobody survives “, Stop playing politics with us.

We don't need another study, We need action from the EPA, What we need is teams of agents in the field which is where the drilling is causing water and air contamination.

A study, " If you put a clear plastic bag over your head and tie it off at your neck and ask for a study of oxygen deprivation and carbon monoxide poisoning on the human body". You will not be around to read the scientific peer review, We are declaring an Emergency in our communities as we are suffering horribly because of you refusing to do your jobs.

My water began tasting like metal in March of 2013 and after two weeks I started having spontaneous nosebleeds, eight over two weeks, They stopped when I ceased drinking it. I called PA DEP and they had me call PA DOH who took my name and number five times over two weeks but failed to ever return a call as promised, This is unacceptable.
<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/tag/department-of-health/>

When EPA refuses to get involved, Our DEP turns a blind eye and our Department of Health refuses to log the health complaint calls from it's citizens, We are all doomed. " Facts Do Not Cease To Exist Because They Are Ignored " Aldous Huxley, " We Can Evade Reality, But Cannot Evade The Consequences Of Evading Reality " Ayn Rand.

In Pennsylvania they started with a 1000' presumed liability then in 2012 they increased it to 2500' but when asked to show the scientific basis for these distances there is none. We have seen many cases of contamination beyond the 2500' foot arbitrary line so we Are not interested in being a part of this " Human Experiment We Should Not Run "

I ask this body to " Come And See It, Come And Drink It, Come And Breath It " as we have had thousands come over six years from all over the world to evaluate it themselves. The response is always the same " Where is the EPA, DEP or Elected Officials, We tell them we are the " Necessary Sacrifice " but we aren't going to stay quiet it any longer.

I ask you to look at the Oil & Gas Industries financial situation, they are in massive debt And are on the verge of collapse, Who do you think is going to be stuck with this mess ? " It Is Health That Is Real Wealth And Not Pieces Of Gold and Silver ", Gandhi The Only Thing Necessary For The Triumph Of Evil Is For Good Men To Do Nothing

Stop this madness and protect Citizens from this Man Made Disaster, Thank You !