

To: SAB@EPA  
Date: 03/08/2011 07:20 PM  
Subject: Hydraulic Fracturing Research Plan

To whom it may concern:

While I applaud the EPA's initiative in thoroughly studying the effects of hydraulic fracturing on water used for commercial consumption, it worries me that the EPA plans to work so closely with the stakeholders during the research period. Stakeholders are just that: Stake Holders. They are too invested in the profit of their corporations to provide unbiased discussion and decisions regarding the direction of the research. I fear that working so closely with the stakeholders will not produce accurate results. We are unaware of which chemicals are produced during the hydraulic fracturing process because the stakeholders have not tested the emissions or reported any findings to the EPA; they are clearly afraid of what the results will mean for the corporations. It is likely that the same will be true of the studies of drinking water. Rather than involving the stakeholders during the research process, the EPA should involve the stakeholders only after the results of the studies have been reported; only then should the corporations decide what to make of the findings. The EPA would do well to separate itself from the stakeholders during the crucial research period. Water intended for consumption is too important a resource, and cannot be compromised in the corporations' favor.

Sincerest regards,

Louise Newman