Ronald J. Gulla comments to Chartered SAB Board

I would like to stress in these short few minutes of oral comments that the impacts of hydraulic fractured drilling and associated processes have harmed water supplies in every area I have visited impacted people and communities over the 10 years I have been speaking out about the subject. I have personally visited hundreds of homes and businesses, most of them in Pennsylvania, but also in West Virginia and Ohio and spoken with people in Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Arkansas, North Dakota and in Canada about their water and health problems. All live near drilling, infrastructure or waste sites, and have water quality and or quantity issues in addition to health impacts since drilling started in their areas. And this includes my own family and farm which was in Hickory, PA, my story is with my written comments.

I have also talked to or visited with many thousands more over the 10 years, who have turned away from leasing or slowed their communities' acceptance of the activities because they learned what the true impacts are where it has taken place. Only those who have money for testing or lawsuits and-or are strikingly effective communicators making the public aware of their situation are able to salvage their family’s largest investment and get out. Many of the impacted people have been silenced by being forced to sign non-disclosure gag agreements in order to be able to move out of harm’s way. The harm has still been done and still remains as hidden public health perils. The public having knowledge of what has occurred is vital so all data available for the EPA study, Dimock PA, Parker County Texas and Pavilion - Garfield County Wyoming have to be included in the study as the SAB panel recommends.

“Water is more important than gas — no farms, no food” is what my friend, Terry Greenwood, who lived and farmed in Daisytown, PA, often said as he lived his years-long nightmare from nearby drilling that killed his cattle, destroyed his farm’s water supply and destroyed his health. His story is with my written comments.

These ‘local’ impacts to water supplies are actually not just local, because water flows! For instance Greene County, PA contaminated water from gas well connectivity to aquifers and to streams, from spills, from deliberate dumping, from gas well leaks, from flood events all led to the Monongahela River. The Mon River supplies almost 400,000 people including the city of Pittsburgh with their drinking water and several times the recipients of that water supply were urged to not drink it. What is still in the Mon River mud, chemicals? radioactivity? Drinking water supplies in PA are tested for radioactivity, but only once every nine years - and only one grab sample.

All the upriver dumping, spills, etc. go into the next municipality’s drinking water. I know managers of drinking water facilities, for example, Beaver Falls municipal Authority, that cannot supply their customers with sufficiently clean water because of upriver legal frac water plants dumping frac waste that is basically un-treated into their river - Beaver Falls details are my written comment.

Mitigation - meaning how are these situations to be corrected? how and when ever could these injured places get back clean water? I must ask, can they ever? I don’t think so... These are permanent changes with regional impacts.
Everywhere there is drilling there are impacts - different names, different faces, different towns, different states, same pattern. There ARE widespread impacts.

Once happening in so many instances, the impacts on people’s water quality is hardly ‘temporary’ — ‘there are lots of examples that have gone on for years!!!!

There’s way too many to mention, but here’s a few besides my farm:
Angel and Wayne Smith and their farm, Clearville, PA
Mrs. Smitsky in Hickory, PA
Terry Greenwood and family’ farm in Daisytown, PA
Chris and Steph Hallowich and family in Hickory, PA
Jeane Moten home and her mother’s home in Avella, PA
Shirley and Jesse Eakins, in Avella, PA
Jim Sheehan, Avella, PA
George Watson and his farm, Waynesburg, PA
John and Beth Voyles, Amwell, PA
Stacey Haney, Amwell, PA
Kiskaden family, Amwell, PA
Carol French, Ulster, Bradford County, PA
Michael Bastion, Bradford County, PA
over 40 families who were residents in Dimock, PA
Jeremiah Gee and his family, Potter County, PA
Gary and Emma Puskarich, Scenery Hill, PA
Ellen and Carl Donahoo, Scenery Hill, PA
over 50 families in the Woodlands area, Connequessing, PA
6 families Pulaski, Lawrence County, PA
Marilyn and Robert Hunt, Wetzel County, WV
Bonnie Hall, Wetzel County, WV
Rick Roles, Garfield County, Colorado
Steve Mobaldi and his deceased wife Chris, Rifle, Colorado
Thomas Tompson, Garfield County, Colorado
...and there’s so many more...

Please see other INCLUSIONS submitted with this statement
Ronald J. Gulla’s drilling story
Terry Greenwood’s story and his widow’s lawsuit
Beaver Falls Water treatment plant documents