

To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 04/06/2010 09:07 AM

Subject: SAB Environmental Engineer Committee Hydraulic Fracturing Research Plan Review

Dear Sir

I have received notice of the above meeting and would like to provide commentary. I live in the Marcellus Shale region of Pennsylvania, and am fully informed of the natural gas drilling boom. Several wells are going in around me, and it is for this reason that I am writing.

The company doing the drilling is East Resources, which has bought leases for the major portion of Tioga County, where I live. East states in their leases that gas pad units will be 640 acres, and one would think that a 640 acre plot is a lot of distance. However, East has the opportunity to change the boundaries of these units as it sees fit, and a well can go in next to another, even though both wells are on different pieces of property. This is what concerns me.

While I understand the meeting that is taking place is for hydraulic fracturing, if this practice of East continues, there will be more problems with fracturing, as well as leaking of the chemicals used in the process, and a greater loss to wildlife, water and air.

Also, I am an asthmatic and cannot take prescribed inhalers because of the side effects. The flaring of gas wells, especially with East's restructuring of its pads, also concerns me. I would like to direct you to the following link:

http://creativemethods.com/airquality/sources/pennsylvania/tioga_a.htm I came across this link in 2005, when checking the air quality so I could go outside. If you will scroll down the sheet under the POLLUTANT column, and look at HAP, you will note that the Tennessee Gas Pipeline was the highest contributor of HAPs, and this was from just the transmission of natural gas--not the flaring of any well--and this figure was from 2005--long before the boom started.

With the boom of natural gas, as well as the flaring required in the process of a well, I am sure you can get a picture of the amount of HAPs as well as CO2 that will be distributed in the air as a result of flaring if this boom continues. (East has stated that in 2009 they drilled 42 wells and another 200 will be drilled this year.) This will not only aggravate asthmatic conditions such as mine, but will also cause the HAPs to settle on farmland, water and trees; all of which are needed in the environment in order for us to live.

I ask and appeal to you that you also take into consideration the harm to the air and eventually the soil and water if this accelerated process of gas drilling continues without regulations or studies.

Thank you very much,
Beth Pierce