

**EPA Science Advisory Board
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
Public Teleconference December 3, 2015
Oral Statement by Ann Bristow**

From: Ann Bristow
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Hanlon, Edward <Hanlon.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA-HQ-OA-2015-0245

12/3/15 oral comments for:

EPA-HQ-OA-2015-0245

In addition to written comments previously submitted, I would like to go on record with a request for the EPA Science Advisory Board Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel:

Please employ your expertise and knowledge of research design to issue a statement to the general public about why there are so many significant data gaps about hydraulic fracturing and water contamination.

You have seen first hand how industry used the June press release about EPA's draft report to try to convince the public that water contamination is negligible. If we could employ the fairness doctrine used in tobacco advertising and develop public service announcements about hydraulic fracturing research, we would first need to explain why data gaps continue to persist.

First, please explain how industry participated in the design of prospective EPA studies and then did not provide access to drilling sites where such studies would have occurred.

Second, please give a clear explanation of why the Pavilion, WY wells' data was confounded. Explain how this study was compromised and whether the state of well casing and cementing technology could ever render reliable data?

Third, please give a brief history of industry suppression of data, in collusion with the PA-DEP, including discounting of baseline residential well water chemistry, and the 250+ cases of documented water well contamination from unconventional natural gas development. The general public does not understand that no one knows how many cases of such contamination actually may have occurred because citizens, understandably, settled with industry and signed non-disclosure clauses. Please explain how these non-disclosure clauses are making data accessibility impossible for researchers.

In summary, please use your knowledge of science to explain how science has been obstructed, by both EPA and by industry. Matt Damon portrayed a biologist in the film, "The Martian," and when confronted with providing his own food supply in a very limited habitat, said "I'm going to science the shit" out of this problem. People living in harms' way from hydraulic fracturing

deserve to know what it would look like to "science the shit" out of the research question of water contamination and hydraulic fracturing.

We shouldn't have to endure 50 years of industry suppression of research as occurred in investigation of tobacco's health effects. If nothing else, the EPA draft report shows what close to a decade of suppression of water contamination research looks like. At a minimum, the public deserves to get some science education out of this report.

Sincerely,
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