

Comment to SAB June 2016

I am speaking only from my Pennsylvania vantage point. You don't usually find what you're not looking for. Our Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection openly admits to being severely understaffed. PA's Auditor General Eugene DePasquale after an audit of the agency, found the agency went too easy on the oil and gas industry and lacked the resources it needs to do its job. He stated, "It is underfunded, understaffed, and does not have the infrastructure in place to meet the continuing demands placed upon the agency by expanded shale gas development." The 14 month long investigation ending in May 2014 concluded "DEP's documentation was, and continues to be, egregiously poor , ...the growth of the industry outpaced DEP's ability to oversee and protect water quality." <http://www.paauditor.gov/press-releases/auditor-general-depasquale-says-rapid-shale-gas-development-outpaced-dep%E2%80%99s-ability-to-oversee-industry-protect-water-quality>

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060003292>

Some PA wells have not been inspected at all some very infrequently and consider that the investigative team 'the Public Herald "in doing file reviews of 17 of the 30 fracked counties in PA found that the PA DEP had cooked the books on thousands of water quality complaints related to oil and gas operations in PA and that the DEP through various means either hid and took documents off the record. These complaints ARE not in the records the EPA looked at. <http://publicherald.org/public-herald-30-month-report-finds-dep-fracking-complaint-investigations-are-cooked/>

There have been numerous violations for discharge of pollutional or industrial wastes into the waters of the commonwealth from an understaffed agency, 150 for just 3 counties of the 30 fracked counties in PA over a few years of the 11 years of fracking in PA. Was remediation, if any was done, effective?

The list of the harmed is a snapshot of what Pennsylvanians and others have been suffering thru from fracking and related activities and although well over 21,000 it's only a very partial list. So much of what goes on is not public, unreported, and uncaught.

<https://pennsylvaniaallianceforcleanwaterandair.wordpress.com/the-list/>

My own water was contaminated after the first marcellus well in my township was drilled. Despite the fact that there was no other activity for miles around and the fact that nothing has affected this water before in the 30 years we lived here, DEP claimed that the gas well was not the cause but refused to share their research and was un able to offer up any other explanation.

Just in my neighborhood because of the watchful eye of residents two companies were caught disposing of their hazardous waste. One of those companies was illegally spreading produced water on our dirt roads in voluminous amounts not only in our township but in several others as well. The Fish and Boat Commission investigated this and charged the gas company. Another company was trucking it into a reclaimed strip mine, DEP investigated this. How much is going on uncaught.

Several of our Pennsylvania waterways had to be remediated because of excessive radioactivity. Hundreds of disposal sites for wastewater could be affected but haven't been checked. More than 1.3

billion gallons of wastewater was sent to Pennsylvania treatment plants not equipped to remove many of the toxic material. A produced water treatment facility in PA has had violations for leaking tanks, leaking impoundments and leachate out of its bounds. Who is consistently checking water that had been impacted by spills, violations, and who is checking for radioactivity?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/27/us/27gas.html?pagewanted=all>

There is a preponderance of the evidence for widespread water contamination or direct threat of contamination due to fracking no matter how cleverly or criminally it is hidden. This nontechnological evidence is pertinent to the conclusion. Much of it may not be found in the scientific literature and government data but it must not be dismissed, it's no longer a matter of potential impacts but more the ongoing impacts to drinking water resources from hydraulic fracturing. I am rather doubtful that's the EPA's initial method of assessing impacts was comprehensive when it appears to be mainly relying on state governmental agencies reporting that are under staffed, underfunded, audited and found inferior and often influenced heavily by industry and special interests. So if that is what the Science Advisory Board means in recommending that the EPA discuss the significant data limitations and uncertainties, when presenting the major findings I agree. It should be clear and stressed that there are too many risks to our water resources for the process to continue at all, the environmental costs far outweigh the benefits. No harm should be permitted, any one case of water contamination is one too many.

The EPA should disallow the continued rape of our resources at the expense of our true treasures – clean water and air and healthy citizens especially in light that we are now forced to contemplate the unthinkable - the apocalyptic fate of the planet from the continued use, extraction and promotion of natural gas and other fossil fuels, obliterating our hopes of any of us anywhere having futures on a habitable planet.

You are one of the agency's we are at the mercy of, I feel it must be hard to take a look at the real costs when you are bound by certain agency parameters and guidelines discussed in offices that are so many light years away from having to actually live and feel threatened by a toxic industry at your doorstep. Please help us to end this insanity.

Please let me know if any more documentation is warranted about what I have related.

Thank you, Jenny Lisak