

**EPA Science Advisory Board
Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Panel
Public Meeting October 29, 2015**

Testimony of Elizabeth Tatham, Stakeholder from PA

Thank you. It has been impressive to see how hard everyone is working on this study.

It has been great to see the cross-fertilization of disciplines here, but I also learned how little you know about individual states. As far as violations dropping between 2009 and 2011 in PA – that was almost certainly due to a large budget cut to DEP and a great reduction in number of inspectors available to give citations for violations. Whether practices improved or not, had nothing to do with it.

The families from Dimock, Pavillion, and Parker County, Texas pleaded with you yesterday to help them get their 3 site studies re-instated. EPA can and should do that because it is the best way to demonstrate that you care about public input. And I know that you care about the children who have been harmed by fracking. I saw how much you cared about the little boy in the film yesterday – I also had tears in my eyes .

No oil or gas company wants to contaminate a water well, let alone several dozen wells in Dimock and Pavillion and probably as many in Texas, where the study was also shut down in 2012. No waste hauling company wants to have a spill that contaminates a stream or river, and no one wants a catastrophic blowout that risks lives, water and crops, as happened in Bradford County, PA in 2011 when it took 13 hours to get the gas well under control, (a Texas crew had to be flown in to do that). It leaked for another 11 days, according to the CDC Consultation and there was massive contamination of water that ended up in a stream and then in the Susquehanna River and finally Chesapeake Bay. Maryland threatened to sue PA for a million dollars. Most Pennsylvanians had no clue that this had happened. The state's largest fine to that date was assessed.

All of these were just accidents. How many accidents can we tolerate and how many earthquakes? Please listen to those who were harmed. Voluntary compliance doesn't work. We need a driver's license and we need to regulate gas and oil drilling as much as driving.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

E. Tatham, Holland, PA