

To: Edward Hanlon/DC/USEPA/US@EPA  
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Subject: Hydraulic Fracturing and Water Quality

I have been studying and reading material about high volume hydrofracturing for about 18 months. I applaud the EPA's proposed study of the impact on drinking water which to me means the impact on any and all water. I am sure you are receiving all kinds of documentation from industry proponents of the process, BUT please beware that, despite their claims, the news from Pennsylvania is making it very clear that the drilling efforts in PA have resulted in many adverse impacts to water.

News stories from Dimock and other areas indicate spills impacting streams and groundwater, broken casings impacting wells of homeowners, and the discharge of highly saline flowback killing fish and causing scaling of intake pipes in the Pittsburgh area. It is clear that waste treatment plants designed to process biological waste cannot handle any of the components of flowback which include the additive chemicals as well as heavy metals, radioactivity, and most of all salt from deep in the earth. These plants are being harmed in their intended purpose by trying to process the flowback, and they are exceeding their discharge permits for salt and probably other elements.

New York State's DEC suggested two solutions for the flowback: waste treatment plants in New York, which now realize they can't handle it and do not want it, and trucking the flowback to plants in Pennsylvania which is a non-starter since that state is now looking at an abandoned well near Keuka Lake in New York State and at locations in Ohio to take their own flowback to. It seems clear that until the problem of disposition of flowback can be resolved, no water is safe anywhere as the volumes of flowback will overwhelm any of the currently proposed solutions.

I hope that the panels studying this entire issue for EPA will get beyond the industry propaganda and study what has been happening in Pennsylvania. As a resident of New York I do not want to see our state trading its great quantity and quality of water for gas. EPA's comment letter on NYSDEC's proposed SGEIS makes it very clear that EPA has the knowledge and scientific ability to do this drinking water/hydrofracking study. I can only hope that preliminary results of the study will come out soon enough to alert the public and prevent NYS from making the same kind of mistake Pennsylvania has made. Thank you.

Hugh Kimball