



Keith Curley
Director of Government Affairs

March 29, 2010

Paul Anastas, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue,
NW., Washington, DC 20460

RE: Scoping for Initial Design of EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Research Study

Dear Assistant Administrator Anastas,

I am writing on behalf of Trout Unlimited's 140,000 members nationwide regarding the EPA's Hydraulic Fracturing Research Study. Trout Unlimited is concerned about the impacts of natural gas development on water quality and aquatic habitat. We appreciate the EPA's efforts to initiate this comprehensive study, and we encourage you to complete the study in a way that examines the full range of potential impacts, from water withdrawal to well pad siting and construction to wastewater disposal and site closure.

The potential research questions contained in the scoping materials for the initial study design identify well the issues that must be examined. By studying the potential impacts to habitat and water resources of each phase of the hydraulic fracturing lifecycle, as well as potential cumulative impacts, the EPA study can help inform management decisions that avoid and minimize such impacts.

Thank you for your efforts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Keith Curley