

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

From: VICTORIA SWITZER
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 7:56 AM
To: Hanlon, Edward <Hanlon.Edward@epa.gov>
Subject: written testimony etc

Thank you for the opportunity to speak-I am horrible at timed responses so I have sent my written words. I find it harder and harder to not be angry with EPA/DEP. We watch events transpire, daily, spills, leaks, water lost, water delivery. Your discussion was interesting-we know about the traveling

Oral Statement by Victoria Switzer

I am Victoria Switzer, resident of the Dimock Gasfield. My proximity to the events surrounding the Dimock case should allow me to speak to nearly all of the areas of concern presented in the EPA Science Advisory Board Peer Review. However, the time limitations of this conference prohibit an in depth response. Further more I would hope future participation with impacted citizens, without restrictive gag orders, are under serious consideration.

The 9 square mile area of Dimock that was determined by PA DEP to be impacted by Cabot Oil and Gas remains under a ban. New drilling is prohibited until the gas company can comply with the consent order agreed to by the gas company and DEP. High levels of methane remain uncorrected. Unfortunately, without serious scientific investigation fracturing in the impacted area was allowed and in 2013 another family lost their drinking water. Clear running water turned into the all too familiar coffee brown stew. The home next to and below this latest water impact continues to have very high levels of methane. My own water supply has been afflicted by periodic burst of blackish or foamy water. Our most recent test shows high levels of manganese and turbidity. We have not had a drink of our well water since 2009 and already participate in the water replacement program of buy your own water. The other homes receive water deliveries for their use and that of their livestock. Rule number one-play nice with the gas company and you shall receive water. Rock the rig and you are on your own.

Why is there not an urgent investigation into these impacts?

“Naturally occurring” “no drinking water source has ever been contaminated by fracking” have become the mantra of the oil and gas industry. This sham is faithfully, blindly upheld by both DEP and EPA. How can we require the industry to improve their methods of madness if we do not have full investigative action?

How many families, citizens, water sources must be affected before the golden rig tips towards a pause or cessation of new drilling and fracturing? Is there a number? How many are considered necessary sacrifice

or collateral damage before EPA seriously attempts to learn the truth? Does EPA want the truth? Does the directive to drill to “get us off that there foreign oil man “ or “let’s make America energy independent” supercede the quality and availability of potable water for our citizens? The truth is here to be uncovered-literally. Dig it up!

Lastly, I must ask for what purpose are we here today? Again we offer information, data, experiences and for what? Will this information simply become a tool to negate the concerns of those radical environmentalists? Will we see the glossy new ad or tv commercial reference our issues with a smirk and a smile and a toss of the hair?

Please, EPA come back to Dimock. I will personally make you a cup of coffee.

Thank you, Victoria Switzer-Dimock PA